

The Rt Hon. Heidi Alexander MP Secretary of State for Transport

Great Minster House 33 Horseferry Road London SW1P 4DR

Department for Transport

Sent via email

28 July 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

As the Mayor and Members of Parliament for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region, we are writing jointly to urge you to help unlock Ely Junction.

The scheme, known formally as the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement (EACE) programme, is long overdue and provides exceptional value for money. In fact, it delivers strategic outcomes that surpass those of any other scheme on the rail network. These outcomes go beyond freight, significant as those benefits are for trade through Felixstowe. Faster and better passenger services will drive economic growth along the whole line between Cambridge, Ely, the Fens and Peterborough. The EACE scheme is transformative.

For that reason, we are disappointed that the recent infrastructure announcements did not include Ely Junction. Our region is not in the north, but it contains significant pockets of deprivation, as well as huge economic potential. National growth also requires and assumes significant growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which cannot be taken for granted.

There is still scope to fund Ely Junction within this Spending Review period, particularly if capital from DfT is matched by a variety of funding sources related to the delivery of new housing and the increased capacity for freight.

We hope that you will work with our Combined Authority and other relevant government agencies and departments to help deliver this vital transport upgrade. All regions matter and we simply want a fair hearing and fair result.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough deserves no less.

Yours sincerely,

2

Paul Bristow

Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Ben Obese-Jecty MP

Member of Parliament for Huntingdon

Rt Hon. Steve Barclay MP

Member of Parliament for North East Cambridgeshire

hadotte Cane

Andrew Pakes MP

Member of Parliament for Peterborough

Charlotte Cane MP

Member of Parliament for Ely and East Cambridgeshire

Ian Sollom MP

Member of Parliament for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Sam Carling MP

Member of Parliament for North West Cambridgeshire

Daniel Zeichner MP

Member of Parliament for Cambridge

Pippa Heylings MP

Member of Parliament for South Cambridgeshire