



A47 Alliance  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR1 2DH

[a47alliance@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:a47alliance@norfolk.gov.uk)  
[www.a47alliance.co.uk](http://www.a47alliance.co.uk)

01603 224225 (David Cumming)

XX September 2022

To be sent to Liz Truss, PM

Copied to DfT Ministerial Team (currently Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP (Secretary of State), Robert Courts MP, Baroness Vere of Norbiton, Kevin Foster MP and Lucy Frazer MP)

Dear Liz

### **Roads Investment Strategy 3: Dualling of sections of the A47 between Peterborough and Lowestoft**

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment to Prime Minister and I look forward to working with you as we seek to achieve full dualling of the A47 with appropriate grade separation.

I write as chair of the A47 Alliance, which is a collaboration of 26 organisations covering business leaders, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Chambers of Commerce, local authority members from Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, and Suffolk who have come together to make the case for a fully dualled A47. We also have widespread local MP and public support. The A47 links Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth in the east with Norwich, King's Lynn and Peterborough in the west. The link with the A1 provides important onward connections to the Midlands and north of England.

The A47 Alliance was pleased to hear your pledge at the Norwich hustings on 25 August 2022 where you stated that your new Transport Secretary will 'look closely' at dualling the whole A47. We also welcomed your statement on the steps of Downing Street, 6 September, where you vouched more investment, to build roads faster, and to transform Britain into an aspiration nation. We believe that fully dualling the A47 can help you achieve your ambitions for growth, and we look forward to working with you to enable the securing of funding for A47 dualling in the Roads Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3).

The business case evidence shows that dualling the A47 would increase the economic performance of the eastern region, as well as reduce congestion, improve safety, and increase journey reliability. We are confident that there is a strong case for the dualling of the A47 and we would like to ask for your continued support in

ensuring this essential piece of infrastructure is upgraded. As a Norfolk resident and a long standing MP, we are sure you understand the importance of the A47, particularly as it runs through your constituency and is a route of great importance to your constituents.

The Alliance has previously agreed its shorter-term priorities to lead to full dualling of the A47 and has strong evidence to show that these projects will contribute to government objectives. The priorities and evidence are captured in the Alliance's summary business case, which I attach, and which was presented to government prior to the 2019 budget when the trunk road programme for 2020 to 2025 was announced.

**Our key priorities for Roads Investment Strategy 3 2025 to 2030 are:**

- **Acle Straight Dualling (near Great Yarmouth)**
- **Tilney to East Winch Dualling (near King's Lynn)**
- **Peterborough to the Walton Highway Dualling.**

These priorities will, amongst other things:

- Unlock the 125,000 houses and 75,000 jobs planned along the A47
- Create over £330m per annum in GVA uplift
- Generate over £200m in benefits from enhanced productivity over 60 years.

As this evidence is dated 2019, it is likely the benefits from delivery of the three priority schemes will have grown significantly due to growth in the region. We are looking to update our evidence base so that we can demonstrate what a fully dualled A47 will deliver in today's values.

The A47 Alliance believes that these schemes are even more important now than ever and will help to rebuild the region's economy. They contribute to government's levelling-up agenda by improving access and connectivity to the coast, providing an opportunity to level-up the economic and social disparity being experienced by many coastal areas in the east. The impacts of Covid-19 have been disproportionate on tourism and hospitality, a key sector in the economy of the area served by the A47. Investment to improve connectivity would signal confidence in economic recovery and encourage more investment in the region. Finally, improvements to the A47 will help accelerate delivery of housing and jobs growth including investment into the nationally important energy sector sited off the eastern energy coast.

You have consistently been a great supporter of A47 dualling and supported the A47 Alliance in securing funding for six A47 improvement schemes in RIS1. We know you want to deliver for the UK and we ask you to deliver A47 dualling in RIS3 to unlock the potential of the East and deliver economic benefits for the country.

**Ministerial visit**

The A47 Alliance would like to invite you and your Transport Secretary, Anne Marie Trevelyan MP, to visit East Anglia and the A47 in 2023 to observe the strategic importance of the A47 and the key industries it supports, and witness first-hand why full dualling of the route is needed now. I would be very pleased if you can accept this invitation and would be grateful if your office can let us know your availability for a visit. The A47 Alliance will accommodate your diaries as required.

### **Business signatures**

We have asked the business community across the East to sign this letter, showing the widespread support for A47 dualling and the impact this will have on enterprise and the economy across the region. The signatures can be seen below.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Martin Wilby  
A47 Alliance Chairperson



LOGOs