



Department
for Transport

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Dear Naomi & Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 28 December 2023 to Mark Harper in support of rail capacity improvements at Ely junction. I am replying as the Minister for Rail.

As you are aware the Prime Minister's October announcement confirmed government's support for the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement Programme (EACE) and the related Haughley Junction upgrade and the substantial benefits this will bring, including a doubling of passenger services on the Ely to Kings Lynn and Ipswich to Peterborough routes together with additional freight paths into the Port of Felixstowe.

Network Rail have developed the EACE and Haughley Junction schemes to Outline Business Case stage, and as such immediate next steps will involve the development of a Full Business Case (FBC) and beginning the process for securing delivery powers (a Transport and Works Act Order). As with all schemes this will undergo all formal approvals and governance, in line with relevant fiscal and legal duties.

We are engaging with HM Treasury to understand when funding will be made available for progressing the EACE and Haughley Junction schemes and I will ensure my officials update you and other key stakeholders as soon as we have this clarity.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

HUW MERRIMAN MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT