



Department
for Transport

Maria Caulfield MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

D. Maria

19 April

Thank you for your letter of 13th March, on the case for improvements to the A27 between Lewes and Polegate.

The government is committed to rebalancing our national economy, and making sure that all communities across the country benefit from economic growth. As Transport Secretary, I recognise that poor roads can be one of the biggest barriers to that rebalancing. I also know that the gaps in our transport network are present across the country – including in East Sussex.

You are aware that the current road investment strategy allocated £75m to smaller-scale improvements on the A27 between Lewes and Polegate. Some of the specific proposals here offer benefits for the community far in excess of their costs, and I am keen that they go ahead. However, I also recognise that planning for the long-term is also an important consideration. In light of your suggestion I will ask Highways England to provide £3m from the £75m for development of a larger scheme.

I must be clear that I have not yet taken any decisions about which projects will form part of the next road investment strategy, and intend to base my choice on a fair comparison of the full range of proposals. Improvements to this section of the A27 will need to offer public benefits of a similar or greater scale to other proposals. However early development should ensure that the evidence base for the scheme is strong, and that it is well-placed to move ahead into construction in RIS2 if it is adopted.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Executive of Highways England.

W. H. Best

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT