



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

9th July 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

A421 and A1 Improvements

Following the announcement on 8th July 2025 regarding the “green light” for 50 road and rail upgrades, I thought I would use this opportunity to highlight my concerns about the status of the A421 and the A1 in Bedfordshire.

Highways England is currently engaged in the reconstruction of Black Cat roundabout and the completion of dualling of the A421/A428 to Cambridge. You may be aware of the flooding of the A421 in Bedfordshire last year and the considerable impact this had on road traffic for an extended period. You may also be aware that south of the Black Cat roundabout the A1 has three further roundabouts within a short distance between Sandy and Biggleswade.

Universal Destinations and Resorts has recently submitted a planning application for an entertainment resort complex in Bedfordshire which, if approved, will have a significant impact on traffic volumes on the A421 and the A1.

I appreciate that you will not be able to comment ahead of a final determination of the planning application by Universal Destinations and Resorts, but should it be approved, I would be grateful for a meeting with you, or the Roads Minister, to discuss:

- i) Plans by the Department for Transport and Highways England for upgrades to the A421 and for mitigation of the flooding issues recently encountered; and
- ii) Plans by the Department for Transport and Highways England for the A1 south of Black Cat Roundabout and specifically for consideration of improvements in RIS3

Consideration of these issues will become even more important should there be a decision to site a new town at the village of Tempsford, a decision on which is also anticipated this year, and which will heighten local interest in the future of these two roads.

Sincerely,

Richard Fuller CBE MP

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