



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Our ref: AB/1805

3/18 May 2018

Dear Chris,

HS2 in Broxtowe

I am writing to you after attending a meeting between Nuthall Parish Council in my constituency and HS2 who provided an update on the route. HS2 officials said it would be possible to have a bored tunnel through Broxtowe and indeed Erewash. Having originally been unaware that this was possible, I would ask you to consider this option as I believe it would bring great benefits to the project.

As you will be aware I am a firm supporter of HS2, especially as my constituency will be home to the East Midlands Hub at Toton Sidings. For this reason, I believe HS2 also has the support of the majority of my constituents and all political parties in the area.

However, you will also be aware that I am deeply concerned by current plans for HS2's route through Broxtowe. As it stands, the plans are to build a 60 foot viaduct over the village of Trowell which will undoubtedly blight the village. There will also be a 40 foot viaduct in Nuthall, necessitating the removal of some houses. Understandably, in both communities there is strong opposition to HS2.

I am also concerned that the economic impact of HS2's construction in Broxtowe would be considerable. HS2 will follow the M1 at Trowell and Nuthall and for this reason, the motorway will need to be moved. This will cause major disruption to the M1 and other trunk roads on the road, such as the A610 which already suffers with congestion. The economic impact on Greater Nottingham and other areas served by the M1 would be substantial. You should also be aware that Highways England have also expressed their concerns to me about this issue.

I would suggest that a tunnel would have several benefits for Broxtowe. These are as follows:

- There would be no need to move the M1 motorway.
 - As I have mentioned, the economic impact of the route as it stands would be considerable and the construction would also cause significant disruption. A tunnel would, I suggest, remove almost all of the economic impact the construction would have on the M1 and other major trunk roads.

- An underground HS2 East Midlands Hub Station at Toton Sidings;
 - The current plans for the station mean it would be raised to a considerable height. An underground station would remove what I envisage to be considerable opposition from nearby residents.
- Better connectivity for other transport links;
 - A high-level station at Toton Sidings would mean proposed transport links (an extension of the NET Tram to Long Eaton and railways between Nottingham, Derby and East Midlands Airport) would also have to bridge the HS2 line at a considerable height. If an underground station were built, it would provide easier connectivity and would also remove any opposition to the height of the proposed transport links.
- Less impact on residents in Trowell, Strelley Village and Nuthall;
 - A tunnel beneath Broxtowe would remove the need for a 60 foot viaduct through Trowell, remove the need to disturb grade listing buildings and protected wildlife at Strelley Village and remove the need to destroy homes by building a 45 foot viaduct in Nuthall. All of these proposals have significant opposition in Broxtowe.
- Impact on Long Eaton;
 - HS2's current route through the town of Long Eaton is a 50 foot viaduct over the town. This is in my colleague Maggie Throup's Erewash constituency who I am copying into this letter; I know she will also be interested to learn about the possibility of a tunnel.

There will undoubtedly be other benefits to tunnelling beneath Broxtowe which are not listed above.

As far as I am aware, the only barrier to amending the route through Broxtowe to a tunnel would be the additional cost, which I am sure would be considerable. However, as I have mentioned above, I believe the benefits of tunnelling would be significant and importantly, would reduce the impact of HS2 on my constituents. As such, I would be grateful if you would confirm that tunnelling beneath Broxtowe is a possibility and if it were taken as an option, how much it would cost. If a tunnel is possible, I would also be grateful for your assurance that it given consideration as a serious alternative to the proposed route.

I am copying in Maggie Throup MP as well as the Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council, Richard Jackson, and the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, Kay Cutts, for their information. I am also copying in Nuthall Parish Council and Trowell Parish Council. I have also copied in Sir David Higgins.

Yours as ever



Rt Hon Anna Soubry MP

Cc. Maggie Throup MP
 Cllr Richard Jackson
 Cllr Kay Cutts
 Nuthall Parish Council
 Trowell Parish Council
 Sir David Higgins