

Department for  
**Transport**

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Our Ref: 06/028196/09

27 April 2011

Dear Mark Worrall OBE,

**A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Scheme**

Thank you for your letter dated 14 March 2011 about the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Scheme. As you state in your letter Kent County Council (KCC) is currently working with the Highways Agency (HA) to examine ways of reducing the cost of the scheme including the delivery of the scheme by KCC rather than by the HA.

At present the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury scheme is one of 14 schemes identified for potential construction in future spending review periods, subject to its successful completion of the statutory process. The statutory process I currently refer to is the Public Inquiry, the Inspector's report, Secretaries of State's Decision Letter and the making of orders.

Once the discussions with KCC are completed consideration will be given to the most efficient delivery timetable for the scheme to complete the statutory process. As you observed, some of the evidence produced for the previously scheduled Public Inquiry is time-bound and will need refreshing for any new programmed start date. However it would not be appropriate to hold a Public Inquiry without a programmed start of works date and confirmation that the scheme would be funded.

Yours sincerely,

  
Paul Williams

