



Department for
Transport

From Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

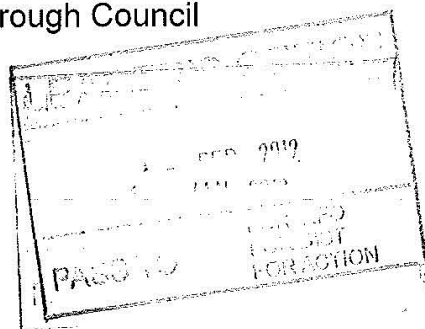
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31 JAN 2012

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 25 November about the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury dualling scheme.

I note the Borough Council's wholehearted support for the A21 scheme and desire for it to progress through a Public Inquiry as soon as possible.

Following the announcement of schemes in the Autumn Statement the Department is currently considering the allocation of development funds for those remaining improvement proposals identified for future delivery. This would see investment in a small number of proposals, to progress their pre-construction work and maintain a pipeline of major investment in the strategic road network.

In the Secretary of State's statement on 14 December 2011 on Local Major Transport Schemes she indicated that she wanted to consider further which transport schemes might best support regenerating the Bexhill and Hastings area and this includes looking at the A21, the proposed Bexhill to Hastings Link road and other options such as the A259 and local rail. A decision on this additional consideration is expected in spring 2012.

*Regards
MP*

MIKE PENNING