



Jesse Norman MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
Westminster
London SW1P 4DR

29th June 2018

Dear Mr Norman

QUEENSBURY TUNNEL

I am writing on behalf of stakeholders who are looking at the viability of reopening the 1.4-mile long Queensbury Tunnel in West Yorkshire as part of a strategically valuable cycle route connecting Bradford/Airedale to Calderdale. This work is currently threatened with being overtaken by a £3.2M abandonment scheme proposed by Highways England's Historical Railways Estate (HRE) which manages the tunnel on behalf of the DfT.

It is the view of the signatories to this letter that -

- the abandonment scheme should not proceed until the possibility of a useful future for the tunnel has been ruled out
- the DfT should actively cooperate with Bradford Council, Calderdale Council and Sustrans to ensure the greatest possible benefit is derived from this public asset and any money invested in it
- some of Highways England's £101M budget to develop cycle links between city centres should be allocated to the proposed route.

Analysis by Sustrans has estimated that the cycle route offers a Benefit:Cost Ratio of around 2.5:1, representing high value for money. Building on the legacy of the Tour de France, we have a 'now or never' opportunity to create a landmark resource serving future generations - improving connectivity, helping to meet our health and environmental obligations, attracting tourists, hosting events, revitalising local communities and giving new life to a remarkable engineering feat. The alternative is a very considerable waste of taxpayers' money.

We are advised by engineers with deep tunnelling expertise that the short-term risks associated with the tunnel are small. We are therefore asking you to intervene by placing a temporary halt on the abandonment scheme until stakeholders have had the opportunity to complete their assessment of the challenges and benefits of reopening the tunnel.



We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Norah McWilliam

Leader, Queensbury Tunnel Society

on behalf of

Naz Shah MP - Bradford West

Holly Lynch MP - Halifax

Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP - Chingford and Woodford Green

Chris Boardman MBE - Cycling & Walking Commissioner, Greater Manchester

Cllr Andrew Senior - Queensbury Ward, Bradford

Cllr Lynda Cromie - Queensbury Ward, Bradford

Cllr Robert Hargreaves - Queensbury Ward, Bradford

Cllr Dot Foster - Sowerby Bridge Ward, Calderdale/Calderdale Cycling Champion

Cllr Daniel Sutherland - Illingworth & Mixenden Ward, Calderdale

Cllr Barry Collins - Illingworth & Mixenden Ward, Calderdale

Cllr Lisa Lambert - Illingworth & Mixenden Ward, Calderdale

Jeff McQuillan - Chair, Great Northern Railway Trail Development Group

Sir Gary Verity - Chief Executive, Welcome to Yorkshire - has written separately (attached).

Judith Cummins MP - Bradford South - has asked us to refer you to the letter she wrote recently to the Secretary of State regarding Queensbury Tunnel.

Information about the tunnel:

<http://www.queensburytunnel.org.uk/>

Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-12-billion-plan-to-increase-cycling-and-walking>

Sustrans' Economic Impact Study:

<http://www.queensburytunnel.org.uk/reports/SustransEconomicImpactStudy.pdf>

Jesse Norman MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
Westminster
London SW1P 4DR

29th June 2018

Dear Mr Norman

QUEENSBURY TUNNEL

Norah McWilliam has briefed Welcome to Yorkshire about the viability of reopening the 1.4-mile long Queensbury Tunnel in West Yorkshire as part of a strategically valuable cycle route connecting Bradford/Airedale to Calderdale.

Building on the legacy of the Tour de France, there is an opportunity to create a landmark resource serving future generations - improving connectivity, helping to meet our health and environmental obligations, attracting tourists, hosting events, revitalising local communities and giving new life to a remarkable engineering feat.

Welcome to Yorkshire has the responsibility to market the county's tourism industry for the sole purpose of economic wellbeing and depends on high quality tourism products such as this proposal to aid its success. For this reason, we are delighted to offer this proposal our support.

Yours sincerely



Sir Gary Verity DL
Chief Executive

