



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Mark Harper
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

6 October 2023

Dear The Rt Hon Mark Harper
Old Oak Station and Hammersmith Bridge

Thank you for your 'Dear Colleague' letter of 4 October confirming the scrapping of Phase 2 of HS2 and the reduction of the Euston terminus to six platforms.

In your letter you wrote that projects funded from scrapping the completion of HS2 'will benefit every single region' of our country, but I searched in vain through your list of projects to see what benefit there is for London.

What is on offer for London is a significantly reduced Euston terminus that will not come into operation until the 2040s. In the meantime, once the Old Oak to Birmingham section is open, trains will terminate at Old Oak Common Station. Both during this interim phase and even after the reduced Euston link becomes the terminus, the current design of Old Oak presents many logistical difficulties.

Access to Old Oak Common Station has not been well thought out. There is no motor vehicle access from the east, only a belated plan for a long and unwelcoming cycle and footpath from Scrubs Lane. There are no easy local connections to Overground, tube or bus. The one narrow access road from Old Oak Common Lane is several hundred metres from the station entrance. In the event of fire or terrorist incident, this entrance would be the only route in and out of the station site, which shows a poor attitude to resilience.

Within the station interchange there is no easy transition for disabled passengers from HS2 to the Elizabeth Line, which will be the main route for dispersal (and which may itself become overcrowded).

There has been little attempt by HS2 to integrate the station into the wider Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation area, which fails to take advantage of the regeneration opportunities presented by such a major transport interchange. Given Old Oak's prominence in the revised HS2 this is even more significant.

Commercial and residential developments at North Acton, Old Oak Common Lane and Scrubs Lane are advertised as having good connectivity because of HS2 but this is far from being the case. The proposed new 'town centre' at Atlas Road is 1km from the station, and there is uncertainty as to when HS2 will hand over their construction sites in Old Oak West for redevelopment.

Now HS2 is applying for planning consent to build a facilities building behind the station for the period it will act as the terminus, but this building itself blocks the route of any future eastern access.

I hope these examples are enough to convince you to order a review of the design and layout of the station and surrounding area so it can be fit for purpose in its new role and act as a catalyst to development of the OPDC. I would be happy to discuss this with you further.

I also note that your list of alternative projects includes 'strategic road projects' and 'the delivery of 70 road schemes across the country'. May I ask that you include Hammersmith Bridge in these? You will be aware of the delay in reopening the Bridge because your department has hitherto limited its offered contribution to no more than one third of the repair costs. Given the restricted resources of the GLA and the LB Hammersmith & Fulham, this makes it impractical for work to go ahead. If your Government's intention is to invest in strategic and local transport projects that will benefit communities, I can think of no better place to start than Hammersmith Bridge.

Again I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you, alongside my neighbouring

west London MPs. We approached the roads minister with the same request almost a year ago and have sent several reminders but as yet have not had the courtesy of a reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Slaughter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Andy Slaughter, MP for Hammersmith

Cc Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
Stephen Cowan, Leader, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
Gareth Roberts, Leader, LB Richmond-upon-Thames
Rupa Huq MP
Ruth Cadbury MP
Fleur Anderson MP
Sarah Olney MP