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Dear all,

I wanted to write to you following our meeting on 16 June to update you on discussions I have been having with Highways England regarding the proposals for safety enhancements on the A21.

First, let me assure you that I fully recognise the case that you have put forward for action to improve safety on this road at the earliest opportunity. Highways England has been undertaking interventions along the route in recent years to improve safety, and will continue to do so in the future including through further maintenance and renewal work this financial year as well as improved lining and signage at Kippings Cross and Scotney Castle.

I asked Highways England to explore options to speed up the development of the safety package of more significant interventions that was announced in RIS2 as being developed for delivery after 2025. This work is envisaged to create consistent and standardised conditions along the single carriageway section together with improved pedestrian and cycling facilities. I can confirm that HE has now identified a delivery path so that the interventions will be completed by 2025.

As I outlined when we met, decisions on further upgrades to the A21 will be informed by the work of Highways England as it updates its route strategies and by Transport for the South East as the sub-national transport body. I understand that Highways England will commence its route strategy process in the autumn and will involve you in its work to ensure your understanding of local priorities is properly taken into account.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON