



262 Torrisholme Road
Lancaster
LA1 2TU

23 November 2007

TO:
Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Transport Solutions for Lancaster & Morecambe (TSLM) (1) welcomes this week's pledge to cut carbon emissions by 60%, even up to 80%, by 2050.

This follows the plea from UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon that the world must take immediate action - "All humanity must now assume responsibility for climate change." We would be pleased to see Britain as a leader in the fight against climate change.

However, we would like to draw your attention to a scheme in Lancashire which would have the opposite effect - it would increase CO₂ by 23,500 tonnes per annum.

This is the unpopular Heysham M6 Link Northern Route. Lancaster City Council has recently withdrawn its support from the scheme; our local MP, Geraldine Smith, opposes the scheme, and her recent survey of her constituents showed that over 90% opposed it too.

They see that it will not solve congestion in the district, will not bring regeneration, but will damage communities and the environment. They see that the proposer has failed to investigate sufficiently the many sustainable alternatives to this road scheme.

However, Lancashire County Council presses ahead with it, and it is currently with DCLG for planning approval and DfT for funding approval.

Yet it would directly contravene the proposed target of 60% reduction on the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, which must require a reappraisal of the road-building programme, and a renewed emphasis on the Government's policy of "the need to promote more sustainable transport choices and reduce the need to travel, especially by car" (PPG13).

It has been estimated that this one scheme will produce more additional greenhouse gases than all other UK local road schemes in the DfT's LTP Major Schemes programme combined.

The proposer argues that 23,500 tonnes pa is not significant in the grand scheme of things, but we disagree: we believe that any increase is a move down the wrong road, and should be halted, then reversed, if we are to achieve the reductions so urgently required.

When County first proposed this road scheme, climate change was not on the agenda, so it is understandable that it was not taken into account. However, climate change has now been put emphatically on the agenda, not least by the Secretary General of the United Nations and yourself, and we believe the implications should be followed through.

We urge you to advise the Department for Transport not to approve this destructive scheme into their local roads programme, and for DCLG not to approve the scheme after the recent public inquiry.

David Gate
For TSLM

COPIED TO:

Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Department for Communities & Local Government,
Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU
Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 76
Masham Street, London SW1P 4DR
Geraldine Smith MP, House of Commons, London SW1 0AA

(1) Transport Solutions for Lancaster & Morecambe (TSLM) is the local campaign group which opposes the construction of the Heysham M6 Link Road, and favours instead non-damaging sustainable transport solutions for the 21st Century.

See website www.HeyshamM6Link.info