

MAYOR OF LONDON

Laura Blake

By email

Date: 28 October 2020

Dear Ms Blake,

Thank you for writing to the Mayor on 4 October about the proposed Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) scheme being promoted by Highways England and for highlighting your concerns, particularly in relation to the potential environmental and highway impacts. I am responding on behalf of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy.

Though the LTC scheme, for the most part, lies outside London, it has important implications for roads within London, including potential impacts on traffic flows. Transport for London (TfL) is carefully scrutinising the LTC scheme and has responded to all three public consultations to date. It has been made clear that Highways England needs to demonstrate that any highway and associated air quality impacts are fully addressed. TfL will continue to carefully review the evidence as and when it becomes available. TfL intends to be a full participant in the Development Consent Order process, including the public examination for the scheme, to ensure due consideration is given to the environmental issues and that the interests of Londoners are safeguarded.

As you recognise, twelve months ago, the Mayor pledged to reduce fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) by 2030 in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. For this reason, TfL has asked Highways England to set out why it deems assessment of PM_{2.5} unnecessary, based on the impacts of the LTC scheme, and is awaiting a response on this matter.

Thank you again for writing to the Mayor about these important issues. Please be assured that TfL will continue to scrutinise the scheme and ensure the interests of Londoners are protected.

Yours sincerely,



Heidi Alexander

Deputy Mayor for Transport