



All Assembly Members

10 September 2018

Dear Member,

Following Carillion's liquidation earlier in the year and the termination of their contract on the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin Improvement scheme, I am pleased to confirm that we have appointed Arup, Carillion's designer under the original contract, to continue with the scheme development.

Arup have been appointed to finish the preliminary design and take the scheme through the Statutory Process. The outline design and detailed environmental impact assessment for the scheme developed by Carillion will very much form the basis of the project taken forward.

The improvement scheme is based on the successful 2+1 bypasses at A40 Robeston Wathen Bypass and the A477 at Llanddowror.

The draft Orders for the scheme to seek the powers to build the road will be published in December 2018 and an Orders exhibition will be held around this time. Arup will shortly issue a letter to local residents outlining recent events and the new arrangements. They have also provided a Public Liaison Officer (PLO), who will be available to discuss any concerns or queries with members of the public. The specific details of the Orders Exhibition, together with contact details for the PLO will be available on the Welsh Government website.

A further procurement exercise will be undertaken following completion of the statutory process to appoint a new contractor to build the scheme, with construction anticipated to commence in 2020, subject to the satisfactory completion of the statutory process.

I appreciate that the uncertainty created by Carillion's liquidation has been frustrating for residents, but given that we have secured £22 million of EU funding to support delivery of this £35m scheme, I am delighted that we are now in a position to move forward.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Preliminary investigations have also begun to develop further improvement work along the length of the A40, including around the area of Redstone Cross. We are investigating the feasibility of including the construction of the Redstone Cross improvement as part of the Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin scheme and will provide further details on this in due course. We are also looking at when the other improvements can be delivered alongside other priorities in the National Transport Finance Plan and will develop a programme in due course, although site work is expected to start between 2020 and 2023. EU funding has also been earmarked for these improvements.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping flourish above the name.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport