



All Assembly Members

18 June 2018

Dear Member

I am writing regarding plans to dual the A40 in Pembrokeshire, after this issue was raised in the Senedd on 6 June.

Dualling of the A40 was investigated in the 2015 study which considered the wider economic impacts to the region of dualling the A40 and included consultation with businesses in the area. The study concluded that dualling of the A40 could provide positive returns in the long term.

The study also found that there was a case for bringing forward in the short and medium term a package of measures on the A40 to improve traffic conditions between St Clears and Haverfordwest. As a result, we are looking to invest over £50m to upgrade the A40 between St Clears and Haverfordwest to improve safety, journey times and reliability.

The measures would involve using the 2+1 layout currently working well on the previously completed A40 Robeston Wathen Bypass and the A477 at Llanddowror. The improvements are being developed to facilitate any upgrading to dualling in the future.

We have secured £22 million of EU funding to support delivery of the £35m A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin scheme. Carillion was appointed as ECI Contractor in March 2017 but went into liquidation in January 2018. We are now in the process of directly appointing Arup, Carillion's designer, to continue with the scheme development. The outline design and detailed environmental impact assessment for the scheme is nearly complete and will very much form the basis of the project taken forward. Draft Orders are due to be published towards the end of this year with construction commencing around summer 2019, subject to the statutory process.

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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 overtaking opportunities along the length of the A40 including Redstone Cross which was the site of a fatal traffic collision in March. We are currently looking at when these 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 faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', written in a cursive style.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

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