



Federation of Small Businesses
The UK's Leading Business Organisation



Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing on behalf of the business community of Norfolk to urge you to give the go ahead for the dualling of the A11 between Fiveways and Thetford.

This scheme is more than just a road project – it is a project which will unlock the economic potential of our county.

We welcome the Coalition's pledge to ensure that the UK is open for business and for its commitment to invest in infrastructure that will support private sector growth.

For the business community of Norfolk, the dualling of the A11 is the single most important infrastructure project we would like to see delivered, and a failure to deliver this road scheme would leave the Government's commitments seriously damaged. It was identified as a key priority by the business community within Norfolk's recent Local Economic Partnership proposal.

By the Department of Transport's own calculations, the Benefit to Cost ratio of the scheme is phenomenal – 20 to 1. This, as you know, is significantly higher than the DfT hurdle rate, which is just 2 to 1, and, we believe significantly higher than any other road scheme being proposed.

In addition between 2006 and 2009 the accident rate along that stretch of the A11 was 50% higher than the national average.

Before all major projects were placed on hold the A11 dualling scheme appeared to be going ahead and we believe has emerged favourably from a public inquiry.

Furthermore a study by Atkins on behalf of EEDA showed the scheme will deliver more than £600m in overall economic benefits for the estimated cost of just £136m.

We are not asking for a new road – we are simply asking for the completion of one of the original pieces of the UK road network.

Norfolk's economy has great potential to grow. We have world leading companies in many sectors, including food, environmental sciences, financial services, energy and advanced manufacturing.

But the county is hamstrung by poor connectivity, with inadequate roads, rail and broadband.

This makes it harder to do business from Norfolk, makes it harder to attract staff and new investment, start up and support new start up businesses and is stifling growth. We know that dualling the A11 would make a significant difference to this.

Signatories to this letter include national retail and manufacturing businesses based in Norfolk, for whom the A11 is a daily problem.

It is signed by representatives of the tourism sector who have to warn guests that their first view of tranquil Norfolk will be a nine mile tailback.

And it is signed by representatives of smaller businesses for whom the unreliability of this section of road restricts them developing work outside of the county.

This scheme has very strong support from all key stakeholders, including all MPs in Norfolk and Suffolk, local authorities in the two counties and the general public, with 16,000 signing a petition supporting the dualling.

We are aware of the very difficult decisions that need to be made as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

However we believe the substantial benefits generated by completing the road will directly contribute to the economic recovery of Eastern England and deliver significant private sector jobs growth.

We trust that you will be able to allocate the funds necessary to implement this project, which is of crucial importance to our economy and delivers outstanding value for money.

Yours sincerely



Mark Hodges
Chairman Shaping Norfolk's Future
Chief Executive Aviva UK



Barry Dennis
President
Norfolk Chamber of Commerce

List of supporting signatories:

Robin Twigge, Chairman - Federation of Small Businesses
Richard Powell, Chairman - Institute of Directors
Peter Mottershead, Chief Executive - Anglian Group
Stephan Phillips, Managing Director - Archant, Norfolk
Noel Bartram, Chief Executive - Bernard Matthews
Richard Tunnicliffe, Regional Director - CBI
Dany Bahar, Chief Executive - Group Lotus
Nicholas Goodwin, Finance Director - Jeyes Group Ltd
Gordon Chetwood, Site Manager - Kinnerton Confectionery
Steve Davidson, Managing Director - Marsh
Philip Fellowes-Pryne, Chief Executive - May Gurney Integrated Services
Mark Jeffries, Senior Partner - Mills and Reeve
Peter Mallinson, Chief Executive - Multiyork Furniture
Chris Maw, Partner - PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Norwich
Jayne-Anne Gadhia, Chief Executive - Virgin Money
Julia Howard, Vice Principal - Great Yarmouth College
Dick Palmer, Principal - City College Norwich
David Pomfret, Principal - College of West Anglia Norwich
John Last, Principal - University College of the Arts
Edward Acton, Vice Chancellor - University of East Anglia
Peter Barry, Chairman - Shaping Norfolk's Future Transport Forum,
Managing Director - Pasta Foods
Caroline Williams, Chief Executive - Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Mike Burrows, Deputy Chairman - Shaping Norfolk's Future
Mark Goodall, Area Manager - Aker Solutions
Clarke Willis, CEO - Anglian Farmers Ltd
Guy Gowing, Managing Partner - Arnolds Chartered Surveyors
Mark Bartram, CEO - Bartram Mowers Lt
Paul Clarke, Regional Office Partner - Bidwells
Stephen Basey-Fisher, Managing Director - Century Logistics
Davina Tanner, General Manager - Chapelfield GP Ltd
Keith Chapman, Director - Chapman Entertainment
Gordon Duffy, Business Partner - Clydesdale Bank
Jonathan Cage, Managing Director - Create Consulting Engineers Ltd
Euan Macpherson, Managing Director - Crisp Malting Group Limited
Michael Timewell, Chairman - Norfolk Tourism, Chairman - Bluesky Leisure
Ltd
Ian Hacon, Managing Director - Blue Sky Leisure

Andrew Turner, Executive Chairman - Central Trust PLC
Peter Davies, Chairman - Breakwater IT Ltd
Nick Saffell, Chartered Surveyor - Brown & Co.
Eddie Freeman, Chief Executive Officer - EastPort UK
Robert Todd, Partner - Feilden & Mawson
Robin Hall, CEO - The Forum Trust
Marguerite Russell, Associate - Fosters Solicitors
Richard Proctor, Managing Partner - Grant Thornton East Anglia, UK LLP
Hugh Lansdell, Partner - Hansells
Neil Thompson, Managing Director - ITV Anglia
John Buckman, Chairman - Jark Plc
David Hill, Chairman - Jarrold & Sons Ltd
Sue Lockhart, Managing Director - J S Hay Ltd
Graham Dacre, Chairman and Founder - Lind Automotive Group
Russel Leggett, Partner - Lovewell Blake
Jodie Guttrich, General Manager - Marriott Sprowston Manor
John Woods, Executive Chairman - Moneyfacts Group PLC
Peter Hawes, Managing Director - Norfolk County Services Ltd
Andrew Bell, Managing Director - Norwich International Airport
David McNally, Chief Executive - Norwich City Football Club
Bruno Delacave, Bursar and Development Officer - Norwich School
Peter Wilson, Chief Executive - Norwich Theatre Royal
Mike Britch, Managing Director - NPS Property Consultants Ltd.
Jo Pearson, Managing Director - Pearsons
John Sewell, Operations Manager - Perenco
Matt Howard, Partner - PKF UK Ltd
Michael Gurney, Director - The Point Advertising
Brian Potter, Chairman - Potters Leisure
Sir Nicholas Bacon - Raveningham Estate
David Merrick, Director - Savills (L&P) Ltd, Norwich
Chris Mace, Managing Director - SaxonAir Charter Ltd - A KLYNE Company
Peter Lambie, Chairman - Joint Managing Director, Start-rite
Stephen Drake, Managing Partner - Steeles Law LLP
David Parish, Managing Director - System Three Business Solutions Ltd
Ian Fox, Managing Director - Targetfollow
Simon Goodman, Chairman - VanDal Shoes Ltd
Richard Bridgman, Chairman - Shaping Norfolk's Future Engineering Group,
Chairman - Warren Services

