

15 March 2024

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

A720 Sheriffhall

On behalf of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee, I am writing to seek an update on the ministerial decision for the A720 Sheriffhall Scheme. The Joint Committee comprises the political leader (or their representative) for each of the six local authority members (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian Councils), the Chair of the regional Higher and Further Education Consortium and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Regional Enterprise Council.

The Scheme is the largest project within the Scottish Governments £300m contribution to the ESES City Region Deal, with the commitment in the [Deal Document](#) from Scottish Government for “up to £120m to support improvements to the A720 City Bypass for the grade separation of Sheriffhall Roundabout.”

We are aware the Public Local Inquiry was completed on 8 February 2023, and that DPEA Reporter issued their report to the Scottish Ministers’ advisors on 10 October 2023, with subsequent decision from the Scottish Ministers regarding the scheme to be published “in due course”.

We recognise that delivery of the proposed Scheme can only commence if the proposed Scheme is approved under the statutory procedures, and that only following completion of statutory consents can a programme be set for delivery of the proposed Scheme.

The Public Local Inquiry has delayed the Scheme. Further delays in decision-making are directly impacting on the costs and confidence about delivery of the Scheme and is also having knock-on effects on the attractiveness to investors and the productivity of our workforce.

We should therefore welcome reassurance about the timeframe for Scottish Ministers responding to the Reporter’s recommendations and a reaffirmation of the Scottish Government’s commitment to deliver the grade separation of the Sheriffhall Roundabout at the earliest opportunity.

Your sincerely,

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Convener - Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

CC:
Nicola Blaney, Transport Scotland
Lawrence Shackman, Transport Scotland
Adam Priestley, Transport Scotland
Kimberley Daly, Scottish Government
Anne Ashton, Scottish Government
Jacqueline Marsland, Scottish Government
David Robertson, Chair of ESESCRD Transport Appraisal Board