



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Louise Ellman MP  
Chair  
Transport Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: BR15673/AP

19 January 2015

Dear Louise,

**Nottingham Express Transit: Phase Two Project**

Thank you so much for spending time with me to discuss the extension of the Nottingham tram network into my constituency. This is a formal request for the Transport Select Committee to inquire into Phase 2 of the NET tram system.

I have no doubt that your committee could enquire as to why this project is being delivered so late and with so much disruption to the lives of ordinary residents, small businesses and commuters. I am also very keen to ensure that we learn from this extension to the benefit of all future infrastructure projects.

I would respectfully request that the committee address the following:

- The need to make sure local people are properly consulted and support a project before works commence.
- Ensure that arrangements are in place to guarantee there is full accountability to residents and businesses along with lines of communication between authorities, contractors, residents and businesses, particularly when a project is commissioned by one local authority but will mainly impact on another.
- Ensure that the right route is achieved by identifying the primary functions of an infrastructure project; objectives should not be contradictory. For example it is undoubtedly right to take passengers out of cars and off public roads, but an overly long route can defeat this objective.
- Making sure businesses and residents are properly compensated for any disruption. This may need central government compensation guidelines to be altered.

*Anna Soubry, Member of Parliament for Broxtowe*

Constituency Office: 61 High Road, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AJ

Tel: 0115 943 6507 E-mail: [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk) Website: [www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk)

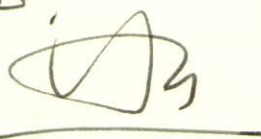
- Ensuring there is proper management of a project which includes thorough communication with everyone affected.
- There must be comprehensive surveying of utilities and proper consultation with utility companies so that construction can be expedited with maximum efficiency.

In principle, I am in favour of the further extension of the Nottingham tram network (although I appreciate that there are strong arguments as to whether trams represent good value for tax payer's money) however lessons must be learnt from the current project before any future scheme is considered.

I have no doubt any inquiry by your committee would add considerable value to future infrastructure projects which should not suffer the delay and disruption that has blighted Beeston, Chilwell and Toton.

The tram line is due to open after the General Election; I suggest your enquiry should start once the tram is running towards the end of this year.

Yours ever,



**Anna Soubry MP**

Cc. Members of Transport Select Committee;  
Secretary of State for Transport, Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP

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Constituency Office: 61 High Road, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AJ

Tel: 0115 943 6507 E-mail: [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk) Website: [www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk)