

Statement for the Public Inquiry: Government Announcement – 08 July 2025

On the 8 July 2025, the Government made a public announcement regarding the allocation of funding to vital transport infrastructure projects across the Midlands, reaffirming its commitment to regional economic growth through investment in road and rail.

The announcement confirmed funding for several major schemes, including the A46 Newark Bypass, which is of strategic significance and located in close proximity to the North Hykeham Relief Road project. In total, the Government outlined support for fifty infrastructure schemes, with the Secretary of State for Transport stating that: *"Transport is the backbone of our economy, which is why we are giving them the record funding boost they need, putting taxpayers' money where it matters most and making everyday journeys easier"*

Of particular note, within the announcement, the North Hykeham Relief Road is explicitly named as one of the local road schemes in the East Midlands that continues to be supported and is progressing favourably toward the submission of the Final Business Case. This inclusion signals continued recognition of the scheme's strategic value and its alignment with regional and national transport objectives.

It is acknowledged that this announcement does not constitute formal confirmation of funding. As is standard process, such confirmation is dependent on the submission and subsequent approval of the Final Business Case, which can only take place following the confirmation of the CPO's and SRO's currently under consideration. Nevertheless, the Government's statement represents a clear and significant reaffirmation of support for the North Hykeham Relief Road scheme.

Furthermore, this announcement reinforces the position previously set out in the evidence of Mr. Edwards, which included the Department for Transport's willingness to fund the £110.045M contribution identified. It also underscores the absence of substantive objection to the scheme and the strength of the strategic and economic case for its delivery.

This development is respectfully brought to the attention of the Inquiry as a material and timely update, evidencing both continued policy alignment and political support for the North Hykeham Relief Road project.