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By email to: DfT.Ministers@dft.gov.uk

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Dear Secretary of State,

Lower Thames Crossing

I am writing to express our support for the Lower Thames Crossing as this project reaches a crucial stage in the planning process. I understand that the Development Consent Order (DCO) is now with you for your review and sign off.

The UK transport network is increasingly constrained adding further cost to the logistics sector and hampering the economy. According to the INRIX 2022 Global Traffic Scorecard, congestion cost the UK economy £9.5 billion in 2022 alone. The Dartford Crossing is one of the most congested parts of the road network. It has become increasingly capacity constrained, making journey planning highly unpredictable and increasing costs on the logistics sector, such as through missed deliveries, unnecessary overtime, increased fuel consumption and inefficient fleet utilisation. When things go wrong at the existing crossing, there are no sustainable alternatives for HGVs. The Blackwall Tunnel is also capacity constrained and has height restrictions and the detour around the M25, via Heathrow, can add up to 115 miles to journeys, or at least two hours.

Logistics UK has been calling for a new river crossing to the east of the capital for many years to provide much needed capacity, to help alleviate the congestion challenges at the Dartford Crossing as well as ensure a more resilient logistics network. This new tunnel is not only important for the South East but will improve connectivity for the whole of the UK by strengthening this key corridor for UK exports and imports.

Extensive resources have already been spent on the scheme – we understand the figure to be £1 billion so far. This makes it even more important to ensure that the Lower Thames Crossing project stays on track. We are aware that approving the DCO does not commit government funding for the scheme but would ensure that work on this much needed project continues and that the significant resources already committed are not wasted. I understand that private finance models are under consideration for the scheme funding, so ensuring it reaches the next stage will be a positive signal that the UK is encouraging inward investment.

I hope you will take the points above into consideration as you make this important decision.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive