

Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State,

We write as the organisations commissioned to deliver the Lower Thames Crossing to congratulate you on your appointment and to urge the Government to make a bold and visionary decision: greenlight the Lower Thames Crossing to secure a legacy of world-class infrastructure for the future.

The Lower Thames Crossing, a new road crossing of the River Thames east of London, will address transportation, economic, and environmental challenges on and around what is currently the worst performing part of the UK's motorway network. It will reduce congestion, lower pollution, and improve connectivity and growth in the southeast. However, its national benefits are equally significant. These include:

- **Spreading growth across the UK:** Our industry, representing 6-7% of GDP¹, relies heavily on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), a vital engine of the economy. The relationship between Tier 1 and 2 contractors and SMEs is symbiotic; our success is mutually dependent. A key focus of the Lower Thames Crossing is to engage businesses across the UK to supply materials and equipment, fostering widespread growth nationwide. For instance, steel sourced from Yorkshire and structural components from the Midlands. The scale of the Lower Thames Crossing scheme will provide essential work certainty over the coming decade for numerous SMEs across the UK ensuring economic stability and generating numerous high-skill, high-wage jobs.
- **Training the next generation of skilled professionals:** Committing to this project will inspire a new generation of engineers and construction professionals. All of the delivery partners are passionate about skills and training and the Lower Thames Crossing will offer unparalleled opportunities through apprenticeships, traineeships, and graduate roles. This will build a skilled and capable workforce ready for future major projects, with skills highly transferable to other major schemes.
- **Transforming the infrastructure industry:** At Lower Thames Crossing, we are pioneering a supplier-integrated delivery model, guided by cutting-edge practices established by the Infrastructure Client Group, government bodies, and industry stakeholders. This innovative approach sets a resilient precedent for UK infrastructure delivery. Lower Thames Crossing will serve as an exemplar project, leading efforts to decarbonise construction processes nationwide, helping the UK advance towards a more sustainable future.

The Lower Thames Crossing is a transformative infrastructure investment that will alleviate congestion, reduce pollution, enhance connectivity, boost economic growth and jobs, and improve safety. It offers significant benefits for both local communities and the wider UK

¹ Construction Statistics, Office for National Statistics, November 2023

economy. We urge you to commit to the delivery of this scheme to secure these benefits as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

	Dragan Maksimovic Region Head, West Europe Aggregate Industries UK Limited		Richard Robinson President, UK & Ireland, AtkinsRéalis
	Stephen Tarr, Balfour Beatty Major Projects Transport, Energy and Power, and Gammon		Niall Fraser Managing Director Blackwell Earthmoving
	Raphael Thevenin Director, Major Projects Europe Bouygues TP		Cathal O'Rourke Group Chief Executive Officer Laing O'Rourke
	Nick Fletcher Managing Director, UK Murphy		Katy Dowding President and CEO Skanska UK
	Bevan Browne Managing Director, UK Materials Tarmac		

[1] Construction Statistics, Office for National Statistics, November 2023