

From: Communications [<mailto:communications@wales.gsi.gov.uk>]

Sent: 17 March 2016 16:54

To: Brian Greaves

Subject: Contact regarding M4 corridor around newport

Page used to

send this </topics/transport/roads/schemes/forms/m4-newport-contact-form/>

email:

Title: Mr

First name: Steve

Last name: Howard

Email:

Telephone:

Ask a
question:

Good afternoon. Ive read the document regarding the improvements and new M4 relief road to the South of Newport. The plans look great. However, Im curious to know and have some questions and points to raise. All of which Im sure have been looked into, but may reduce my frustrations in having to regularly use the M4 through Newport. Im a resident of Cardiff, but work in the South of Bristol, with an hours commute to work. The costs of commuting, including Bridge Tolls and additional time due to traffic meant that it was more viable for me to move to Bristol on a Mon-Fri basis and come back to Cardiff on weekends. Far from ideal for my personal life, but much better for my work life. On average my commute is around an hour on a good day. During peak times this is anywhere between 1hr15-1hr30, on occasions 2 hours! Although not all related to the M4, during my 2 years of commuting to Bristol and being an observant person Ive noticed some of the following: Travelling Eastbound during the AM peak, there are often tailbacks from the M4 junction at St Mellons back as far as the Pontprennau junction on A48. Firstly there is a lot of traffic that seems to come off the M4 at Cardiff Gate, join the A48 at Pontprennau then leave again at the St Mellons junction, causing big tailbacks on the A48. Would it be viable to create a 3rd lane dedicated to the St Mellons junction resulting in less "lane hopping" between these 2 junctions? Similarly on finally reaching the M4 the congestion at Castleton where the A48M meets the M4 is cause by a bottleneck of traffic on motorway joining traffic and traffic already coming from the West on the M4, again a lot of traffic coming on at this junction to only get straight off again at Tredgar Park. So again, another suggestion of the viability of a 4th lane between these 2 junctions, similarly to that between Junction 34 (Llantrisant) and Junction 33 (Cardiff West). This would clearly result in less of a bottle neck, on a similar stretch of road to that of junc 34-33. I generally find that the traffic issues Eastbound are at this point, once traffic is in the correct lane on approach to Tredgar Park the traffic keeps moving. Likewise the traffic continues to flow along the Malpas straight before the tunnels in a completely different way to the westbound traffic on approach to the tunnels at Caerleon. The Westbound traffic congestion is the biggest issue for me. Stop start traffic for several miles, especially on a Friday evening. Traffic queues can sometimes go passed Magor, but Ive noticed its in 2 sections. The queues from the Coldra to Magor seem to be caused by the Coldra junction where the motorway drops to 2 lanes going over the Coldra roundabout and then increases back to 3 lanes. After this point traffic starts moving again until closer to the Brynglas tunnels near St Julians. I guess the points Ive raised

have already been looked into, but I'm curious to know if these plan to be looked into and resolved as a short term measure, as 6 years is a long time to wait for a new M4 when traffic volumes and continuing to grow on this stretch of road. I don't want to have to live in Bristol, spend my money in Bristol and change my lifestyle to only be in my home city on weekends. Your comments are much appreciated and may help me understand the reasons and what can be done in the short term. Thank you for your time.

On leaving the Government Secure Intranet this email was certified virus free. Communications via the GSI may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

Wrth adael Mewnrwyd Ddiogel y Llywodraeth nid oedd unrhyw feirws yn gysylltiedig â'r neges hon. Mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r GSI yn cael ei logio, ei monitro a/neu ei chofnodi yn awtomatig am resymau cyfreithiol.