

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot

11 March 2024

Dear Convener,

A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass)

I would like to advise you that the Made Orders for the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme will be published on **12 March 2024**. This is a major step forward in delivering around 31 km of new dual carriageway between Inverness and Nairn, including a bypass of Nairn, a sign of the Scottish Government's commitment to improving the A96.

Subject to there being no challenge to the Made Orders this would complete the statutory process for the scheme and allow the Scottish Government to acquire the land required to build it. It will also allow Transport Scotland to take forward work to determine the most suitable procurement option for delivering the scheme and thereafter a timetable for further progress can then be set.

When completed the dualling scheme will bring many benefits to local communities, businesses, visitors and road users living in the north and north east of Scotland, including reduced journey times, improved journey time reliability and improved road safety. The scheme will also provide significant benefits for active travel and includes approximately 30 km of new shared-use path with various links and accesses being provided to facilitate movement along and across the scheme.

As you will be aware, the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme is separate from the wider A96 Corridor Review process currently being undertaken. I can advise that it is expected that the draft outcomes from the Review will be consulted on in the coming months, before a final decision can be reached.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

I intend to hold a wider meeting with interested MSPs once the draft outcomes from the Review have been published. This meeting will be similar to the roundtable meeting held last year which followed publication of the initial appraisal report and will be to discuss outcomes from the A96 Corridor Review detailed appraisal work.

Yours sincerely,

FIONA HYSLOP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

