

Date: 05 May 2024



North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

ciaran.cronnelly@n-somerset.gov.uk
07564 593 494

National Highways
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

Dear Nick Harris,

Improvements needed to Junction 21, M5 Weston-super-Mare

I'm writing to you in my capacity as councillor for Winterstoke in Weston-super-Mare, which is a mile from junction 21, M5.

Weston-super-Mare is a growing town, with a significant commuter community that each morning drives up the A370 towards the M5 (northbound). However, on frequent occasions the morning demand for the motorway appears to exceed the capacity the junction is able to handle, resulting in hundreds of cars queuing on A370 and Elmham Way.

Residents advise me that this is causing sizeable delays to their journey times - in some cases queuing for 30 minutes+ - and is making it very difficult for local residents living in Weston Village to be able to drive to local amenities and services.

The slipway onto Junction 21 (M5 - northbound) is a single carriageway. It's clear to me that this junction should be dualled to be able to better support the morning capacity leaving Weston-super-Mare.

With the expansion of Weston-super-Mare and the clear capacity challenges the current junction 21 has, I'm sure there is also a business case for a new junction - junction 21a to be built.

In light of these capacity challenges can you confirm:

- What work has been undertaken to identify improvements to this junction to better cater to the demand
- Whether Highways England are committed to dualling junction 21 northbound
- Details of any planned works that will improve capacity
- Whether Highways England is supportive of a new motorway junction in Weston-super-Mare, and whether a business case assessment has been undertaken

I'm more than happy to provide further information and feedback from residents if that would support with securing improvements to this vital infrastructure.

Kind regards

Cllr Ciaran Cronnelly
Councillor for Winterstoke Ward, Weston-super-Mare