

# PETER GIBSON MP



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2021

*Dear Constituents.*

Thank you for your email about HS2 and for bringing the Parliamentary debate to my attention.

On the recommendation of the independent Oakervee review commissioned last year, the Prime Minister gave the go ahead to HS2, alongside major improvements to local transport networks up and down the country. I welcome that, at a time when the construction sector faces uncertainty during the coronavirus outbreak, the Government's subsequent decision to authorise 'Notice to Proceed' for Phase One has provided certainty for construction companies, communities along the route, and the wider UK supply chain supporting this transformational project.

HS2 will play an important role in the UK's transition to a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. I understand that HS2 will offer some of the lowest carbon emissions per passenger km, seven times less than passenger cars and 17 times less than domestic air travel in 2030. Indeed, HS2 is expected to help reduce the number of cars and lorries on the road and cut demand for domestic flights.

It is estimated that the total carbon emissions produced by both constructing and operating Phase One for 120 years would be the same as just one month of the UK's road network. I am also pleased that a green corridor will be created alongside the railway. This will involve the planting of seven million new trees and shrubs, including over 40 native species, along the Phase One route from London to the West Midlands.

It is welcome too that an overall £70 million funding package has also been made available to enhance community facilities, improve access to the countryside, and help improve road and cycle safety in towns and villages along the HS2 Phase One route.

***Member of Parliament for Darlington***

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The Eastern Leg of HS2 will provide much needed additional capacity on our train network. Locally, with £105m committed to the expansion, restoration and redevelopment of our iconic Bank Top station with funds from Central Government and Tees Valley Combined Authority. The plans will provide for additional platforms, enabling additional services through to Stockton, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and ready the station for HS2.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours Sincerely  
Peter Gibson

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