

Elena Whitham MSP submission of 5

September 2022

PE1657/HH: A77 Upgrade

I am writing to you in my capacity as the constituency MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley as I regrettably cannot attend the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee session in person on Wednesday 14th September 2022.

As per my appearance before the Committee on 8th September 2021 as the new MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley where I spoke in support of petition “PE1657: A77 upgrade” as the majority of the single-lane section of the route lies within my constituency boundaries; coupled with the real desire for significant improvements to the A77; and with me now having had the benefit of supporting many constituents and community organisations over the last 12 months since the last hearing of this petition; I wish to reinforce my support for this important petition.

As the constituency MSP I have supported concerned residents in Ballantrae, Lendlefoot, Girvan, Kirkoswald and Minishant – all who see their daily lives impacted by the high volumes of HGV traffic en route to the port of Cairnryan; and it is imperative that improvements are delivered on this strategic route that will mean that citizens are protected and communities are nurtured allowing for tourism, trade and commerce to flourish.

We have seen how the opening of the A77 Maybole Bypass has massively improved the local community and that the multi-million pound town centre regeneration projects have commenced now that this huge infrastructure investment has come to fruition. These benefits cannot be underestimated as the town will see a renaissance of town centre vibrancy – as well as enjoying cleaner and fresher air.

It is also the case that I have been continuing lobbying activities with my colleague Emma Harper MSP to see continued investment in my constituency and for the South of Scotland, on the grounds of safety and journey time efficiency for our respective constituents, as well as for all those who use the main arterial routes of the A75 and A77 which connect people from across Scotland and England to Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Whilst we await an update on the timescale for implementing the recommendations from the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2); my hope is we will see a number of improvement recommendations for both routes benefitting both the citizens who live here and the communities that these roads pass through; along with those who journey on these strategic routes – whether that be for tourism, trade or commerce.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my supportive written submission for this petition to the Committee for consideration.