

PE2132/C: Publish a timeline for the dualling of the A96 between Inverness and Nairn by Easter 2025

Edward Mountain MSP written submission, 25 November 2025

The A96 dualling project received the green light in February 2021. However, nearly 5 years later, we are no further forward, with huge amounts of money being spent on consultations which do not help the people of the Highlands at all. In November 2022 I ascertained by FOI that nearly £30 million had been spent on the project to date in less than 2 years when no construction had even started, and that a further £2.1 million had been spent on the SNP and Green Government's Corridor Review. I am sure these figures are now much higher, and we are no further forward.

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport wrote to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee in June 2025, following the closure of the A96 Corridor Review, to say that the report and its findings were to be considered before a final decision is made by the Scottish Government. The consultation received 1,441 responses which were overwhelmingly in support of the original plans to dual the A96. Five months on from this correspondence being published, we still know nothing of the Scottish Government's plans to dual the A96.

It is vital that Highlanders are able to use the infrastructure they were promised. The Scottish Government have been stalling the upgrade for too long, despite the funding being ready and waiting in the budget. There have been over 160 collisions resulting in injury on the A96 since 2021. I implore the Cabinet Secretary to listen to the findings of the consultation and the wishes of Highlanders, and publish a timeline for the dualling of the A96 as soon as possible.