

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

Cabinet Secretary for Transport written submission, 22 December 2025

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 December 2025 regarding petition number PE2132: Publish a timeline for the dualling of the A96 between Inverness and Nairn by Easter 2025.

I would like to reassure the Committee that the Scottish Government remains committed to dualling the Inverness to Nairn section including the Nairn bypass.

Any update on the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme would need to take account of budgetary decisions and the draft Infrastructure Strategy and draft Infrastructure Delivery Pipeline informed by the forthcoming Scottish Government Budget and Spending Review Statement (BSRS) scheduled for 13 January 2026.

Ahead of setting out a delivery timetable the Government needs to look at all possible ways of delivering the road improvement.

Consideration of the most suitable procurement and funding option for the scheme is being undertaken alongside the consideration of the A9 decision on Mutual Investment Model as has previously been intimated to Parliament. When complete, this work will assist in the identification of the preferred approach to procurement and construction and will inform the delivery timeline for the scheme.

Finally, as I advised the Committee earlier this year, we have already secured title to the land necessary to deliver this scheme, a step that illustrates the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver this project.

I hope this is of assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

FIONA HYSLOP

Cabinet Secretary for Transport