

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP

Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Date: 26 June 2013

Dear Patrick,

Progressing Road Safety Improvements

At our meeting on 14 February, we discussed a number of road safety improvements that I would be keen to introduce in the capital. Many of these measures require either policy or regulatory change and, as you know, I am keen that our officers continue to work together to determine how we might usefully take forward this agenda, specifically to protect our most vulnerable road users.

The Department's publication of "Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Main Results 2012" due in late June, will provide detailed road safety data about personal injury road accidents in 2012. This and TfL's "Casualties in Greater London during 2012" factsheet, which is due to be released around the same time, will show that despite our continued and successful efforts to deliver reductions in fatalities between 2011 and 2012, we continue to face considerable challenges in addressing serious casualties among pedestrians, cyclists and those using powered two-wheelers.

On 6 June, I launched my new Road Safety Action Plan 'Safe Streets for London', which builds on solid progress already made by TfL, the London boroughs and the police over the last decade to improve the safety of London's roads. It identifies 56 key measures to help drive forward change and improve road safety, and sets out my commitment to achieve a 40 per cent drop in KSIs in Greater London by 2020.

Ensuring substantial long-term investment on schemes to radically improve the safety of London's main roads is vital; as is the need to focus our attention on challenging and improving existing practices and driving innovation. The need for regulatory change is key to much of this. I therefore attach a draft paper, prepared by Transport for London, which highlights many of the areas in which I am sure we would agree there is merit in delivering change. This includes amendments to regulations that would, for example:

- Provide cyclists with safer access to, and enable more effective enforcement of, advance stop line reservoirs and cycle lanes;
- Permit the use of Low Level Cycle Signals and cyclist red light aspects;
- Make it easier to trial and use new signage aimed at cyclists;

- Improve the safety of commercial and construction vehicles (requiring close proximity sensors, visual aids, side guards, etc to be fitted);
- Improve driver training standards to help reduce risks to vulnerable road users;
- Require that engineering plant (eg volumetric mixers) designed for the public highway (and their drivers) are regulated in the same way as other construction industry heavy goods vehicles.

I know you are committed to delivering improvements in this area and I shall look forward to discussing this further with you at our meeting in July. In the meantime, I think it would be useful for our officials to get together to thrash out more of the details.

Yours sincerely,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Enc.