



House of Commons
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Press Release – For immediate release

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
25th April 2013

Press Release

MP raises concerns over safety for M1 Motorway plans.

In parliament today Rotherham MP Sarah Champion asked the Secretary of state if he shared her concerns over the Highway Agencies plans to expand the M1 by permanently using the hard shoulder as it passes through South Yorkshire. This issue had previously been raised in Parliament by fellow South Yorkshire MP, Meg Munn. Letters have been sent to Government by the regions MP's as the emergency services and South Yorkshire safer roads campaign have all expressed grave concerns about the scheme.

Sarah Champion commented; "In other areas of the country the hard shoulder is used at peak congestion times, but that is not what is being proposed here. Instead, we will be using the hard shoulder 24/7. How are the emergency services meant to reach an accident? What happens if you break down? This feels like a cheap solution that is being rushed through and better consultation needs to take place before the plans progress."

END

Notes to Editors:

Hansard, 25.4.13

Sarah Champion (Rotherham) (Lab):

The Highways Agency proposes to expand its managed motorways programme so that the hard shoulder between junctions 32 and 35A of the M1 will be used as a permanent traffic lane, with the scheme running 24 hours rather than at peak congestion times, as other schemes do. Does the Minister share my concern, and that of local authorities, South Yorkshire safer roads campaign, and South Yorkshire police, that that proposal, especially at 80 miles per hour, will create a real safety issue?

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Patrick McLoughlin):

I am obviously willing to hear any representations about the managed motorway scheme that we are progressing. We have found that where we have managed motorways, we have a better flow of traffic and safer statistics overall for the use of that particular road. These are important matters and I am more than happy to

discuss the issue with the hon. Lady. I assure her that we are trying to increase capacity for her constituents and other people who use that very important motorway.