



**Richard Bacon M.P.**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTH NORFOLK

The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
LONDON SW1P 4DR

7 July 2006

Dear Secretary of State

**A140 LONG STRATTON BYPASS**

I was most disappointed by the omission of the A140 Long Stratton Bypass from the list of approved transport schemes in the East of England announced yesterday.

At peak times on weekdays there are often tailbacks of 2-3 miles on the A140 resulting from an extraordinary bottleneck at Long Stratton, a large village in my constituency.

You will be aware that the transport schemes put forward by the East of England Regional Assembly were ranked in terms of their “regional” significance. The A140 Long Stratton bypass is not of *regional* significance and no-one who is informed on the matter says that it is, but it is enormously important *locally*. This is precisely the point which I made to Karen Buck at the Department for Transport together with local constituents.

It appears that the Government has constructed a set of criteria, based on “regional” importance, which would exclude roads such as the A140 bypass at Long Stratton from being constructed ever. If this is incorrect, please could you tell me: what are the criteria under which a scheme such as the A140 Long Stratton bypass, which is of huge local significance, ever be funded?

I look forward to hearing from you.

**RICHARD BACON MP**

Member of Parliament for South Norfolk