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**Leader of the County Council**

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Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London  
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Dear Mr Hammond

## **A453 & economic prosperity for Nottinghamshire**

As the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, I am writing in the hope that you are able to respond positively to our proposal to support the improvement to the A453 that I and many of our businesses and residents believe is the key to unlocking the huge economic potential of our vibrant county.

The County Council is fully committed to creating the necessary conditions that will allow businesses in Nottinghamshire to flourish. To this end, our Local Enterprise Partnership, named D2N2, has got off to a very positive start with strong relationships built between business and public sector leaders. In addition, the recent announcement regarding the creation of an Enterprise Zone on the Boots site is most welcome and will help get the economy back on the road to recovery.

However, while these positive developments will no doubt help boost employment, investment and business confidence, the potential for economic recovery will be considerably limited unless the congestion and safety of the A453 is tackled.

For many years, local authorities and businesses have rallied around the call for the A453 to be upgraded to a dual carriageway. As the main arterial route into Nottinghamshire from the South, the county is ill-served by one of the most congested and unsafe roads in the country.

In the five years up to October 2010, for example, 185 accidents involving personal injury occurred on just the Nottinghamshire part of the A453. And residents living in villages abutting the road also have to live with the misery of additional motorists using their otherwise quiet streets as a rat run.

This is the opportunity to release the shackles on Nottinghamshire businesses so we can create the right conditions to show our true potential. Widening of the A453 will also improve access to East Midlands Parkway Railway Station, which is located along the route and lies on the main line from Nottingham to London.

I understand that you and your department acknowledge the importance of the A453 and the long history of promised investment. I also understand the financial constraints the country faces as we address the legacy of inherited debt.

My cabinet and I are firmly committed to leading the lobby for the long-awaited improvement to the A453. We are not alone and have the support of a significant number of businesses, universities and local people who suffer the misery of the A453 on a daily basis.

We believe so fervently that this is the key to our economic well-being that we are prepared to commit £20 million of County Council capital funding to support the A453 scheme. We believe that this commitment symbolises and reflects the true strength of feeling of local business people.

The A453 is of critical strategic importance. It is a key priority and it is long overdue. I hope that you welcome our proposed contribution and are able to give your and your department's approval to what is, in our opinion, one of the most necessary transport improvements in the country.

The County Council will raise £20m as promised, subject to approval at meetings of its Cabinet and Full Council next month.

I know many local businesses, including all the local business bodies, sister councils and the Chamber of Commerce share our ambition to see the A453 improved.

Please do not underestimate the significance of our investment at a time of much needed capital support for our schools, libraries, youth centres and older people's facilities.

We are also actively pursuing a bid to the Regional Growth Fund.

I have attached a map to illustrate the link to the Enterprise Zone and will be pleased to provide further information and letters of support from all our partners if you would find them useful.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Mrs K Cutts**  
**Leader of the County Council**