



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8 March 2022

Kate Green MP

TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992: APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED RIXTON AND
WARBUTON BRIDGE ORDER 2021

Statement of case – Kate Green Member of parliament for Stretford and Urmston

Although the bridge is not in my constituency, it is close to its southern edge, and is used daily by my constituents for work and social journeys, especially by residents of Partington and Carrington.

Partington is one of the most deprived parts of my constituency. It is also one of the most geographically isolated, with poor public transport links. Partington residents will therefore be particularly adversely affected by any increase in the toll, or the need to make long diversions during periods of closure.

Carrington is a significant and growing business and industrial centre, home to Carrington Business Park and a number of important businesses. Over the coming years, the area will benefit from substantial regeneration, with plans underway for new industrial space and in excess of 5000 new homes as part of the Greater Manchester Places for Everyone proposals. This will generate high volumes of additional road traffic.

The lack of a resident discount for my constituents, or a proposed maximum daily toll (as exists now) is unacceptable, particularly in view of the impact on the most deprived communities such as Partington. In relation to the proposal that future toll increases are set annually at CPI minus 1%, I note that the MSCC have suggested that non indexation of tolls is only appropriate where there is high traffic growth. This claim is disputed given the absence of reasonable transport alternatives, but I also point out that likely growth in traffic as a result of the regeneration of Carrington adds weight to the argument that annual indexation of tolls is not necessary.

The primary purpose of the tolls collected, including any penalty charges, must be for the maintenance of the bridge. In addition, tolls should be waived during heavy periods of congestion or road closures.

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Labour Member of Parliament for Stretford and Urmston

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