Name of petitioner
Matt Halliday

Petition title
Upgrade the A75

Petition summary
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to upgrade the A75 Euro-route to dual carriageway for its entirety as soon as possible.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition
A previous petition was running on Change.Org and an action group has been set up on social media to fight for this cause. A meeting was arranged with Joan McAlpine MSP who recommended lodging a petition with the Scottish Parliament.

Petition background information
The A75 is not only the road to Stranraer and the ferry ports of Cairnryan but, as such, is also the road to Belfast, one of the UK’s capital cities.

Due to the current design of the road and previous fact, it is a road where many differing vehicle types are thrown together often at highly differential speeds. The volume of HGV’s in convoy travelling east when the ferries dock combined with the 40mph limit for those vehicles causes very high level of congestion upon the A75, a volume of traffic that was never envisioned when the current road was designed.

Throw in even slower moving agricultural vehicles, faster moving traffic, such as cars and motorcycles, and a large amount of tourist traffic unfamiliar with the vagaries of the A75, and it is easy to see how frustration can brew carelessness on the road. A change to dual carriageway would help negate the causes of this while also preventing a conflict between vehicles travelling east with those travelling west.

For the same reasons, the local economy would benefit by being more accessible to tourists, commerce and improved links with Northern Ireland and England. This is not to mention the benefits to the local populace in improved safety and reduced journey times, especially when there is more centralisation of health services to Dumfries resulting in journeys of up to 90 miles for some in the west of Dumfries & Galloway.

I have come to these conclusions as a regular user of the A75 and I know for a fact that I am not alone in holding these opinions.
unique web address

http://ww3.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/A75RoadUpgrade

related information for petition

We have a social media campaign here https://www.facebook.com/A75RoadUpgrade/?ref=bookmarks and have been in contact with relevant MSPs and Scottish Parliament election candidates.

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament’s website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

13 / 07 / 2016

Comments to stimulate online discussion

The A75 is no longer fit for purpose. As the main road linking Belfast/Northern Ireland with the rest of the UK through the Lochryan ferry ports it is one of the few roads in Europe linking a capital city and servicing ferry ports which has yet to be made dual carriageway.

The volume and type of traffic using the A75 was never envisioned when the current road was designed and due to this travel upon the road has become a nightmare and at times downright dangerous as anyone who has travelled the road around times of ferry docking will attest.

It is long overdue that the A75 be made dual carriageway as the A9 is currently being as it shares a lot in common like accident statistics and the intermittent changes in the numbers of lanes/carriageways prompting confusion from those travelling west off of the motorway network or frustration for those stuck in convoys travelling west when the ferries have unloaded.

There would be financial benefits not only for the economy and tourism possibilities in Dumfries &Galloway but also a chance for an increase in commerce between Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

The time to act is long overdue.