

# Transport Scotland submission of 30 October 2023

## PE1992/J: Dual the A9 and improve road safety

### Inquiry into A9 Dualling Project

In advance of the next evidence session regarding the above petition we provide an update to our previous response of 13 June 2023 to the committee to assist in its considerations.

Road safety remains of paramount importance to the Scottish Government, and we are continuing ongoing work with our partners, including Police Scotland and local authorities, to examine what more can be done to make our roads safer and to ensure that more people drive their vehicles safely.

In our previous response we outlined the updated position regarding ongoing engineering short term measures consisting of enhanced lane markings and signage as well as two specific road safety campaigns. An update was also provided on the design and procurement status of the remaining single carriageway sections.

At the session on 14 June 2023, the Committee heard evidence regarding the petitioner's request that a memorial to those who have lost their lives in incidents on the A9 be erected. Transport Scotland previously responded to the Committee on the consideration of such a memorial at the roadside, however, at the session on 14 June the petitioner clarified that this request in fact related to the creation of a memorial which would be very much off the road.

We recognise that this is a highly emotive subject and that family, friends and loved ones left behind will be affected differently. Whilst some may be in favour of a memorial, each death is an individual person, and the circumstances of individual accidents can vary greatly. Family members and others affected by such a loss are likely to have varying views about such a proposal.

It is also worth bearing in mind that whilst this petition relates specifically to the A9, regrettably the tragedy of people losing their lives on Scotland's roads is not restricted to the A9 alone and therefore it may be

perceived to single out that route above others causing a negative reaction.

As a Road Authority, Transport Scotland has certain statutory powers and obligations and its annual budget is used to discharge those responsibilities. These are limited to the trunk road network and do not provide for the purchase or acquisition of land other than in discharging the responsibilities as road authority. As such Transport Scotland would have no statutory role to play in the creation of such a memorial away from the trunk road network. Campaigners are free to progress a memorial in a non-roadside location without Transport Scotland input, subject to the necessary consents being in place.

We hope you find the above information helpful.