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Date: 26 March 2010
Your Ref:
Our Ref: CJS/kt
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Dear Julian,

GBBN six monthly update.

You will recall when we met at the beginning of December, I left you with a copy of the progress report on GBBN, based on the report to the Joint Transport Executive Committee in October. A copy was e-mailed to Fozia on 10th December, 2009, just prior to our meeting. This report set out a number of changes which had been approved either by the project board or the Executive Committee and identified those which required Departmental approval under the rules set out in the programme hand book. I was grateful to receive your approval for those at that time. I would however draw to your attention that change request 4-005 removed a section of bus lane from GBBN which has now been identified as necessary for the North Fringe to Hengrove Package scheme following public consultation on this latest scheme. As you are aware the project is being submitted for programme entry at the end of this month.

We also agreed that we would discuss progress again in the new financial year following the next report to the Joint Transport Executive and I would like to meet you again in early April. In the meantime, I draw your attention to a change request approved by the Joint Transport Executive on 18th March, which subject to the Department's approval reduces the length of one of the proposed bus lanes. It was originally proposed to provide a bus lane on the M32/Newfoundland Way from the Junction 3 off-slip to Houlton Street. Bristol City Council constructed the non-motorway section in the summer of 2008. The Highways Agency (HA) subsequently prepared a cost for providing the motorway section. This cost was significantly more than budgeted. The scheme was therefore reviewed. The review concluded that the level of benefits from the motorway section would not justify the increased cost. Deletion of the motorway section was agreed by the Joint Transport Executive Committee on 18th March 2010.

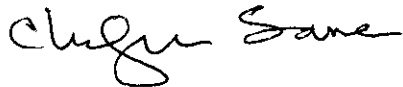
The M32 section will however be required as part of the North Fringe to Hengrove Major Scheme as part of the proposed rapid transit route, and has now been included as part of that project which will be submitted to the Department for Programme Entry at the end of March.

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I am currently reviewing the GBBN programme in light of these and other changes agreed either by the board, the Joint Transport Executive, or the Department and hope to brief you when we meet.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Sane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Sane (SRO for the GBBN Scheme)
Strategic Head of Transport & Deputy Director