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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

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13 December 2024

Dear Edward,

A83 Rest and Be Thankful

I write to provide an update to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver an infrastructure solution to address the landslip risks at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful.

Delivery of a permanent and resilient solution to the landslip risks is a priority and we continue to seek ways to achieve that as quickly as possible. I am pleased to confirm that Transport Scotland has published the draft Orders, Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, for both the medium and long term solutions today, 13 December 2024.

This announcement marks the beginning of the statutory authorisation process, and the period for representations will last eight weeks, ending on 7 February 2025.

Transport Scotland will hold public exhibition events to provide local communities and road users the opportunity to view the draft Orders and EIA for the proposed scheme, covering both the medium and long term solutions. Details of the public exhibitions are as follows:

- Wednesday 15 January, 1:00pm to 7:00pm –
Victoria Hall, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6JG
- Thursday 16 January, 1:00pm to 7:00pm –
Lochgilphead Bowling Club, Bank Park, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NX

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- Friday 17 January, 1:00pm to 6:00pm -
Lochgoilhead Village Hall, 8 Hall Road, Lochgoilhead, PA24 8AA
- Monday 20 January, 1:00pm to 7:00pm -
Queen's Hall, 9 Argyll Street, Dunoon, PA23 7HH
- Tuesday 21 January, 1:00pm to 7:00pm -
Three Villages Hall, Shore Road, Arrochar, G83 7AB

An online virtual exhibition is also now live at the following website:

www.pinpointcloud.co.uk.A83restandbethankful

A copy of the draft Orders and EIA Report along with further details on the A83 Rest and Be Thankful project is available from the Transport Scotland website at:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/access-to-argyll-and-bute-a83/project-details/>

Progress following publication of draft Orders will depend on the level and nature of any representations, including objections, to the published draft Orders.

As with all infrastructure projects, delivery of the scheme can only commence if approved under the relevant statutory authorisation procedures and thereafter a timetable for construction can be set.

We continue to progress design work at pace and the publication of draft Orders, CPO and EIA for the preferred route option through the Glen Croe valley is a very important milestone in finding a solution to this long-standing problem. The proposed new debris flow shelter will help protect the road and road users from potential future landslides.

I hope you find the above information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



FIONA HYSLOP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport

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