Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

1st Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday 18 January 2023

PE1980: Adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road

Petitioner	Derek Noble
Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road, connecting this route into the existing trunk road network.
Webpage	https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1980

Introduction

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 6 October 2022.

2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.

3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B.**

4. While not a formal requirement, petitioners have the option to collect signatures on their petition. On this occasion, the petitioner elected not to collect this information.

5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered. A response has been received from the Scottish Government and is included at **Annexe C** of this paper.

Action

The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition.

Clerk to the Committee

Annexe A

PE1980: Adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road

Petitioner
Derek Noble

Date lodged
6 October 2022

Petition summary
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road, connecting this route into the existing trunk road network.

Previous action
I have contacted Rhoda Grant MSP for advice on this matter, as well as in relation to petition PE1974, which calls for the adoption of the A890 as a trunk road.

Background information
The A832 links the A890 and the A835, completing the west to east road system.

If the A890 is trunked, as requested in petition PE1974, then the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan should also be adopted as a trunk road by the Scottish Government. Doing so would provide a trunk road connection between the A87 and the A835 trunk roads.

Adopting these routes as trunk roads could transform connectivity between the West and East coast, bringing social and economic benefits at both local community and national levels.

Annexe B

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on PE1980: Adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road, submitted by Derek Noble

- The A832 is a 126 mile long road linking Cromarty, Gairloch and the Braemore Junction on the A835 in the north of Scotland. It runs in tandem with the A835 for nine miles, between a junction near Marybank and Gorstan.
- The section of the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan is 15.5 miles in length.
- That section of the A832 is a single carriageway, two-lane rural route.
- That section of the A832 forms part of the North Coast 500 tourist route.
- Highland Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of the A832.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government has not previously considered the trunking of the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not previously considered the trunking of the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan.

Alan Rehfisch
Senior Researcher
31 October 2022

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Annexe C
Transport Scotland submission of 24 October 2022

PE1980/A: Adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road

The Scottish Government has no plans to trunk the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan.

Scottish Ministers have a statutory duty to manage and maintain the trunk road network in line with the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. The Act places an obligation on Ministers to keep the network under continual review. Furthermore, the Act places statutory responsibility for local road improvements, maintenance and repair with local authorities.

In the United Kingdom, trunk roads were first defined in the Trunk Roads Act 1936. There have been two national reviews of the Scottish road network within the last 70 years. The first was in 1946 and the second in 1994/95. The latter was prompted by the reorganisation of local government in Scotland.

A comprehensive national review of the overall network would only be required in response to matters of national significance. We therefore currently have no plans to undertake a formal review of the trunk road network. Ministers do however, keep the trunk road network under continual review with the issue last considered by Scottish Ministers following publication of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). Analysis of the network at that time determined that no major adjustments were required. In the intervening period, the network has been kept up to date by modifying the status of particular sections, as appropriate, in conjunction with the delivery of specific trunk road schemes.

The following guiding principles apply to the trunk road network:

- Provide the users with a coherent and continuous system of routes, which serve destinations of importance to industry, commerce, agriculture and tourism;
- Define nationally important routes which will be developed in line with strategic national transport demands; and

- Ensure roads of predominately local importance are managed locally.