**Tim Farron MP**

House of Commons

Westminster

SW1A 0AA

**The Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP**

10 Downing Street

London

SW1A 2AA

14/10/2024

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to represent my constituents to ask for a meeting regarding the A66 running through my constituency and that of my co-signatory and constituency neighbour.

As I explained in my question to you at PMQs on 4th September, the A66 has had at least ten fatal accidents in the last six years in the short stretch running through the Eden Valley in Westmorland. One hundred and ninety eight collisions were counted from 2018-2023. In 2023 alone there were twelve fatalities along the route’s entire length between Penrith and Scotch Corner.

Your government has put the Northern Trans-Pennine Project – which would dual the whole stretch of road from Penrith to Scotch Corner – under review.

We hope to persuade you to commit to backing this project with the funding it needs. The longer it is left under review, the longer our constituents are left in uncertainty, and the longer preventable accidents will continue. You can – and must – act swiftly to stop these horrifying accidents.

Completion of the dualling project would also deliver noticeable benefits for our region – reducing congestion and boosting the wider economy. It will improve connections between Cumbria, North Yorkshire, the Tees Valley, and Tyne and Wear. It will also boost the tourism economy in our region and ease traffic pressure on our rural communities.

Would you meet with my co-signatory and I, who agree cross party on the benefit to our neighbouring constituencies that your commitment to this project would bring.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Farron MP

**Member of Parliament for Westmorland and Lonsdale**

Rishi Sunak MP

**Member of Parliament for Richmond and Northallerton**