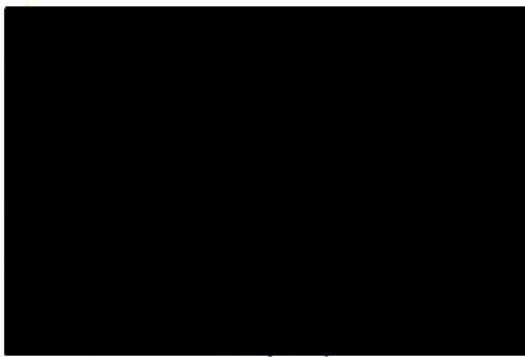


085/80



May 8th 2017

Secretary of State for Transport

Great Minster House,

33 Horseferry Rd

London SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing about Network Rail's proposed closure of a level crossing in my area, E41 Paget Rd. (Essex) and also E42 (Sand Pit, Alresford)

I have written to and telephoned Network Rail and received no personal response. I am alarmed and apprehensive, fearing that Network Rail is ignoring the news and lives of people affected by their wish to close the crossings for what are spurious reasons.

Network Rail² claim that the travel time and economy of the area are affected by the slowing down. The trains ^{at E4L} leaving and ^{at E4N} approaching the station there and on a bend so could not go fast. As for safety, there has never been a fatality on the crossings since the railway was built.

For non-car owners and pedestrians the ^{E4L} crossing divides the upper part of the town with the lower and is level, avoiding the inclines in the area. I and many others carry shopping from our one supermarket, the Co-op. The decision if taken, would force people to more dangerous and difficult routes. The high street bridge ^{in Wivenhoe} is very tricky with buses, pavement too narrow for a pushchair and traffic in different directions. The quality of people's lives here would be affected - it leads us down to the riverside peacefully. I am amazed it hasn't been turned down at an initial stage.

The E42 crossing (Sand Pit Alresford) has importance also for the access safely to lovely, unspoilt countryside. Large housing developments are proposed in the area, with limited infrastructure to the riverside and paths which are safe from traffic.

I urge you to intervene and prevent the closure of these level crossings for a non minimal gain for Network Rail.

Yours sincerely,

