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Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
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**Chief Executive's Office**

Box ALC2609  
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Dear Mr Shapps,

I am writing to you on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, given your Cabinet responsibilities and those of your department in respect of both active travel and transportation, to express the Council's support for Active Travel England's commitment to deliver a 'new golden age of walking and cycling'.

As I am sure both you and your officials are aware, the long-standing importance of walking and cycling or 'active travel' as affordable and accessible modes of transport has been heightened, particularly in recent years. The climate emergency, changes in national policy and the behaviour changes experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic have all resulted in increased levels of remote and hybrid working arrangements, further highlighting the importance of walking and cycling, whether directly through living more active lifestyles, or indirectly through improving the environment.

Cambridgeshire County Council has ambitious plans for the development of the transport network within the county, working with our partners, particularly the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, to tackle the climate emergency, support active and healthy lifestyles and to facilitate economic growth. In this context, increasing the number of people making their journeys by foot or by bicycle will form a key part of our future work. As such, we are working to adopt the Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire by March 2023. This will build on existing achievements such as the high levels of cycling in Cambridge City, to further improve and increase such active modes across the whole of Cambridgeshire. The overall purpose of the strategy is to provide a comprehensive and complementary set of policies and deliverable plans that will support and enable the county, as a place, to achieve our target of becoming Net Zero by 2045. Clearly, designing high-quality cycle lanes and safer cycling facilities as part of Cambridgeshire's planned network of cycle routes and making improvements to pedestrian pathways will also help us achieve these goals. By 2030, this ambitious strategy will enable and encourage more people to switch half of all their journeys in our towns and cities to active modes.

However, despite the scale of our ambition, the County Council is concerned that local authorities, including Cambridgeshire, will be unable to deliver the quantum of active travel infrastructure necessary to achieve this commitment without an equal commitment from HM Government to fund the maintenance of the expanding network of new cycleways and footways. The explicit inclusion of active travel infrastructure in

the Department for Transport's maintenance block funding formula and for active travel to be included as a priority within the Highway Maintenance Incentive Fund are therefore also areas, we would wish to draw to you and your department's attention.

At present, this County Council has over 340 active travel schemes in the pipeline. 220 of these schemes require funding from the HM Government to enable them to both proceed and be sustained. We need to ensure these schemes are designed and delivered to meet the standards set out in Local Transport Note 1/20, to enable more people to walk or cycle for local trips. Without the necessary additional support and funding from the Department of Transport and Active Travel England, we may not be able to deliver active travel schemes and change people's behaviour to switch half of all their journeys in towns and cities by private car to active modes by 2030.

I and my County Councillors would therefore be grateful for your consideration of these issues and the future funding considerations to achieve the step change necessary for Active Travel within Cambridgeshire.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen S. Moir', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Stephen S. Moir  
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, Chartered CCIPD, FCMI, FRSA  
Chief Executive