

PE1657/U

Petitioner submission of 23 November 2020

Since the petitions were last heard, South West of Scotland Transport Study, Case for Change has been published. It should be currently feeding into the STPR2 phase 2, giving recommendations. We don't know the full effects of Brexit, nor that of Covid-19 will have on the Ports at Cairnryan.

Certainly, during Covid-19 lockdown highlighted the strategic importance of these two roads in getting PPE to where it needs to get to. Covid-19 has highlighted to a greater level the vulnerability of the economy of South West Scotland and its reliance on Tourist and Travel sector for its living.

In addition to this Dumfries & Galloway Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, along with South Ayrshire Council, together with Dual the A75 and A77 Action Group have banded to lobby for improving A75 & A77 to full Dual Carriageway Standard trunk roads.

Both campaign's Facebook presence has grown since the last petitions hearing, as people continue to like, follow and share the respective groups posts Dual the A75, 8415 Likes, 8445 Follows, A77 Action Group, 5938 Likes, 6184 Follows with posts reaching between 23k and 36k.

From the perspective of people who live with the A77 & A75 and use it any method of finding the funding required to do what is necessary is surely an avenue worth exploring, especially if that could be the source of funding from the United Kingdom Government.

It would be good to find out the outcome from the Convener's letter of 2019, and the response from the First Minister.