

Press Release from Tom Levitt MP

Labour Member for High Peak

For immediate release

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Victory claimed as bypass is announced to Parliament

High Peak MP Tom Levitt has welcomed the government's long awaited announcement of funding for the Tintwistle-Mottram by-pass. He told the House of Commons "The Secretary of State's announcement about the A57/A628 Tintwistle and Mottram bypass will be greeted with delight in Tintwistle and Glossop in the High Peak – and, indeed, in Stalybridge and Hyde also."

After a clandestine visit, Secretary of State for Transport Alistair Darling has announced that just three new roads are to be added to the Government's spending programme. The A57 / A628 is part of that £637 million addition to the roads budget.

"I visited the area last week," said Mr Darling, "It was perfectly obvious to me that the level of congestion in those small towns was completely unacceptable. I am very glad that many of the environmental agencies recognise that, notwithstanding the fact that this is an area of some sensitivity, a bypass round those three towns [*Tintwistle, Mottram, Hollingworth*] is absolutely essential."

Mr Levitt, who has supported the Longdendale Siege Committee's campaign for a new road for the last 12 years, was overjoyed. "The Labour government have been looking at this scheme for four years and now, nine years after the Conservative government actually took it out of the roads programme, it is set to become a reality," he said. "I have always said that this road would bring environmental and social benefits to Tintwistle and economic benefits to the whole of Glossopdale. The Labour government has made a thorough, objective study and been true to its word that where the case was proven the road would be built."

James Purnell, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, was also in the Commons chamber to hear Mr Darling's announcement. He too welcomed the net environmental, social and economic benefits that the road and the Glossop Spur would bring to his area.

Note to Editor: Mr Darling's written statement and extracts from Transport Questions are attached.