

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 16 September

Transport Select Committee publishes road congestion report

The House of Commons Transport Select Committee has published the report "Out of the jam: reducing congestion on our roads", as a result of a committee inquiry that examined options for curbing congestion without road building or road pricing (HGV road charging is in the coalition agreement).

Recommendations include a tougher driving test, greater use of real-time information systems and better co-ordination between road management authorities. Launching the report, Transport Committee Chair Louise Ellman MP stated:

"Congestion costs the economy billions of pounds each year. Improving the way we manage road space so that the network runs more smoothly is vital to the prosperity of the nation. Pursuing this challenge should form a key plank of central government transport policy". The Transport Select Committee has also announced that it will be undertaking an inquiry into government's "Strategic framework for road safety", published in May 2011, to ensure the strategic framework fulfils the vision of Britain remaining a world leader on road safety, and that the relatively high risk of accidents amongst some groups, such as cyclists and children from deprived areas, is quickly reduced. (Source: Parliament.uk)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmtran/872/87202.htm>

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg calls for investment in UK infrastructure

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has announced a plan to boost the economy through investment in the UK's infrastructure, at a speech delivered at the London School of Economics. Projects such as the rollout of high-speed broadband, work to transform the national grid, and major improvements to the rail network will be given "priority status" to ensure they

are not delayed. The coalition government's commitment to reducing the deficit was also reiterated, as was the need for the UK to be seen as an attractive place for foreign investors and businesses. (Source: Cabinet Office)

<http://www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/investment-uks-infrastructure-will-boost-economy>

Labour leader Ed Milliband delivers speech to TUC conference

Labour leader Ed Milliband has delivered a keynote speech to the TUC conference at Congress House in London. In the speech Mr Milliband reiterated the importance and strength of the link between Labour and the trade unions (who provide over 80% of the party's funding), however he also warned the delegates that industrial action should always be seen as a last resort, and in a reference to the pension strikes by teachers and civil servants in June, stated that he believed it was a mistake to strike whilst talks were ongoing. Mr. Milliband also praised the new academies that had opened in his constituency, stating "What you need is academies, free schools and other schools working much better together". (Source: Labour)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/speech-to-tuc-conference>



Party Conferences

Liberal Democrats

17 - 21 September 2010, Birmingham
Conference venue: ICC, Broad Street, Birmingham,
B1 2EA

Labour

25 - 29 September, Liverpool
Conference venue: ACC, Liverpool, Kings Dock,
Liverpool Waterfront

Conservatives

2 - 5 October, Manchester
Conference venue: Manchester Central, Manchester

Week ahead

House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess. The House will next sit on Monday 10 October 2011.

House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess. The House will next sit on Monday 10 October 2011.

