

Layla Moran MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

15 September 2026

Your reference: LM50093

Dear Layla,

Thank you for making time for a meeting last week. I welcomed the opportunity to provide an update on Botley Road, answer yours and your team's questions and to understand any concerns you may have. Although we couldn't meet in the end due to urgent Parliamentary business, I wanted to write to ensure you have the latest information and to reaffirm our commitment to maintaining an open and constructive dialogue.

Firstly, I can confirm we're on track to reopen Botley Road on Sunday 20 September. We're very grateful to everyone for their patience. We're now working to ensure the local community are fully informed of the new road layout and returning bus routes, as well as endeavouring to open the Northern Walkway on the same day as Botley Road.

We've been working closely with the local councils and bus companies to ensure there's a coordinated plan in place and Oxfordshire County Council's webpage will be updated imminently with all relevant information. To ensure the community is briefed and fully understand the new pedestrian and cycle routes, we're updating our existing Facebook page and website, along with information on our digital screens and in our newsletter. We'll also be leafleting in the run up to the opening at the station, in local businesses, onboard buses and taxis.

You may remember in January 2025, we reprogrammed the project to focus on re-opening Botley Road. Once the road reopens, work will restart on the Western entrance and platform 5. This investment will enable Cowley branch line and East West Rail services to Bedford from December 2029. Despite the challenges we've faced, we're looking forward to the work that lies ahead to connect communities with a new Oxford to Cambridge railway and transforming connectivity for communities in the south of Oxford.

I would welcome the opportunity to reschedule our meeting and discuss the current status of the project and the points raised in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Jones'.

Marcus Jones
Great Western Route Director, Network Rail