Dear Minister Ross,

**Re: Realigning Investment to Achieve the Goals of the Smarter Travel Policy**

In 2009, the Government adopted ‘Smarter Travel’ as national policy. The policy included the following targets to be met by 2020:

- The transport sector making a meaningful contribution to Ireland’s EU climate change commitments by reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

- 500,000 more people taking alternative means to commute to work so that the total share of commuting by car drops from 65% to 45%;

- Walking, cycling and public transport rising to 55% of total commuter journeys to work;

- The total kilometres travelled by car not increasing significantly from 2009 levels.

None of these targets is being met. It will be impossible to meet our Paris Agreement commitments without immediate reductions in transport emissions. Transport is the only sector where emissions are still higher than they were in 1990. They almost tripled from between 1990 and 2007, and are once again rising quickly now.

An increased transport budget isn’t necessary. However, the rebalancing of existing funding away from roads towards clean public transport and active travel is needed now.

On behalf of my constituents, I am asking you to increase investment in cycling, walking and clean public transport to the levels necessary to meet the targets in Smarter Travel.

Yours sincerely,