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6 January 2010

Dear Mr Middleton

**THE M74 SPECIAL ROAD (JUNCTION 5, RAITH) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 200
THE M74 SPECIAL ROAD (JUNCTION 5, RAITH) SIDE ROADS ORDER 200**

1. The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Scottish Ministers have decided that the above draft Orders should be made.

Background

1. Raith Junction is a roundabout linking the M74 motorway with the A725 Bellshill Bypass and East Kilbride Expressway. The M74 links the Glasgow area with South West Scotland as far as Gretna. The M74 is also linked to the M8 at Baillieston by means of a 1.5km stretch of the M73, thus providing a connection to the Central Scotland Trunk Road Network. The proposals will provide a free flow link for traffic using the A725, separating it from that using the M74 by means of an underpass through the existing roundabout.

2. The M74 currently presents an obstacle to the east-west movements of pedestrians and cyclists. The roadside pavement adjacent to Raith roundabout is the only route between Bothwell and the Strathclyde Country Park. Heavy traffic volumes and congestion associated with this roundabout, especially during peak times, are likely to dissuade pedestrians and others from using this route. The scheme will remove this severance by the provision of a new cycleway/walkway which will cater for trips between Bothwell and Strathclyde Country Park. The facility is fully compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and is grade-separated where it crosses the existing roundabout, thereby segregating pedestrians and cyclists from motorists through the majority of its route.

Summary of Objections

3. There are two outstanding non-statutory objections to the draft Orders. On the basis of reports and correspondence, we consider sufficient information is available to Transport Directorate to determine the matter without the need for a Public Local Inquiry.

4. The maintained objections are from the Cycling Touring Club Scotland and the Go Bike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign and relate to the "long and twisted" route for cyclists. A shorter, more direct route through the roundabout is suggested.

5. Transport Scotland responded to these objections explaining that the proposed route has been designed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and was developed in consultation with Sustrans. Transport Scotland stressed that there were significant physical constraints at the site and these made providing a fully inclusive facility challenging. While the proposed alternatives from the objectors were given detailed consideration by Transport Scotland, the suggested layout would not fit within the physical constraints posed by the underpass and construction in the floodplain. Additionally, the layout would prevent the inclusion of the sustainable urban drainage system and it would involve steep gradients.

Decision of the Scottish Ministers

6. Scottish Ministers have given careful consideration to the objections from the Cycling Touring Club Scotland and Go Bike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign and the responses from Transport Scotland. They have noted the physical constraints posed by the proposals suggested by the objectors and have concluded that Transport Scotland, in consultation with Sustrans, have opted for the most acceptable option to improve pedestrian and cyclist access to the Strathclyde Country Park.

7. Accordingly, the Scottish Ministers have decided, on the grounds of road safety, that the M74 Special Road (Junction 5, Raith) (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 200_ and the M74 Special Road (Junction 5, Raith) Side Roads Order 200_ **should be made in order to allow the project to proceed.**

Subsequent Procedure

8. Transport Scotland should now publish notice, including particulars of the place where the made Orders may be inspected in accordance with the Stopping Up of Roads and Private Accesses and the Redetermination of Public Rights of passage (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1986.

9. A copy of this decision letter is being sent to the objectors.

Yours faithfully

A. MacInnes

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