



Press Release 20th March 2007

For immediate release

Aberdeen Bypass- Scotland's Most Unpopular Road

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8,200 formal objections received by Transport Scotland |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Now Scotland's Most Unpopular Road |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Sense calls on the Transport Minister to announce plans for a Public Local Inquiry before the Scottish Parliament is suspended for the election period. |

Road Sense has learned that Transport Scotland will shortly confirm that the final figure of objections to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route is over 8,200. Road Sense is delighted with this massive response which clearly shows the great strength of public feeling against the proposed bypass. Now, 6 weeks after the objection period closed, Transport Scotland has still not sent out letters of acknowledgement to all the objectors, indicating that the number of responses was far greater than anticipated.

The widespread unpopularity of Tavish Scott's proposal for the Bypass is confirmed.

In light of the large number of objections received, Road Sense is calling for the AWPR proposal to be subject to the scrutiny of a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) at the earliest opportunity, and asks the Minister, Tavish Scott, to confirm that there will be a Public Inquiry into the route.

William Walton, Road Sense chairman, said, "The huge number of objections is a tremendous result given the short 8 week objection period, which included Christmas and New Year.. It puts paid to the view that Road Sense represents only a vocal minority. Given the high level of objection the Minister must now undertake to hold a full public inquiry into the proposal".

Road Sense members campaigned at many locations during the objection period, engaging in conversation with the public. When presented with detailed information on the AWPR project, many people decided to voice their objections to Transport Scotland.

Milltimber resident Dave Robb commented, "Despite the efforts of the Transport Minister and the AWPR team to hamper the campaign against the road by issuing draft road orders just over a week before Christmas and the New Year we were able to raise the awareness of local people. There were 28 public exhibitions displaying the previous preferred route in 2005. There were only 14 exhibitions of Tavish Scott's route and none of these were held in Milltimber, Maryculter or Peterculter, the communities most

affected by the route. The large number of objections shows the true feelings of residents and how they are determined to keep fighting these proposals.”

Roger Murray of Silverburn said, “The majority of people we have spoken to oppose the route chosen by Tavish Scott for the bypass – which makes me wonder where its reported support comes from. As local people are becoming aware of the real issues, they realise that this route is not the magic fix to Aberdeen’s traffic problems that they have been led to believe”.

To put this figure of over 8,000 objections to the AWPR in context, the controversial £500 million Glasgow M74 Extension project received fewer than 500 objections during its consultation process. It is fair to say that the AWPR would be Scotland’s most unpopular road.

Ends

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Please see attached letter sent to Tavish Scott (and copied to Nicol Stephen) asking for details of a Public Local Inquiry to be announced prior to the suspension of the Scottish Parliament for the May Elections.

Further Information can be obtained through:

Sheona Warnock, Invercrynoch House, Maryculter, Aberdeen. 01224 739602 0781 7757830	Paddy Imhof, Wedderhill Farm, Blairs, Aberdeen. 0787 6656747	William Walton, 5 Hillhead of Carnie, Skene, Westhill, AB32 6SL 01224 279996
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The new £400 Million route for the Aberdeen By-Pass (the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route) was announced by Tavish Scott, the Transport Minister on December 1st 2005, following a consultation on 5 other routes (which did not include the Tavish Scott route). The Tavish Scott route combines a road from the A90 at Charleston, splitting the community of Maryculter, with a separate 8 mile long fast link directly from Stonehaven, which goes through Netherley. The two routes merge south of the river Dee and the combined dual carriageway then passes over the Dee on a new bridge and then goes through the suburb of Milltimber, passing through a large number of houses, the International School

Aberdeen with more than 300 students and passing close to Kippie Lodge, a long established family orientated sports and country club.

The route affects many hundreds of families in several communities, including Charleston, Banchory Devenick, Blairs, Maryculter, Netherley, Peterculter and Silverburn. It is expected by the Scottish Executive to cost in the region of £395 Million, but independent estimates are that costs will escalate. The cost of the route is to be shared between the Scottish Executive, which will pay just over 80%, and the Councils of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

The draft Road Orders were served by Transport Scotland 15th December 2006. The statutory period for the public to submit formal Objections closed on the 9th February 2007.

Road Sense was formed in January 2006 and is a group which includes residents from across Aberdeen who are objecting to the proposed AWPR. Its website is located at www.road-sense.org.