



Date: 22:41 25th Apr 2007
From: "Stephen Hadden" <stephen_hadden@virgin.net> 
To: secretary@road-sense.org 
Subject: Letter of April 20, 2007

Dear Sheona,

Solidarity is not in favour of major road build projects like the M74 extension and the AWPR. We believe in public ownership of public transport in Scotland that would receive significant investment, be efficient and affordable, and thereby encourage people away from their car. Sir Nicholas Stern said in his 2006 report on climate change that "Climate change----is the greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen." Do our politicians never listen? Building more roads adds to climate chaos. The AWPR is short-sighted in the extreme. Why do we not look at examples like Karlsruhe in Germany for a public transport infrastructure which solved problems similar to ours in Aberdeen?

In answer to your specific questions:

- a) The AWPR is not justified as studies show that traffic congestion in Aberdeen will not improve dramatically. The road also destroys some wonderful flora and fauna.
- b) The cost I have seen quoted is near £500m. This is not value for money to the taxpayer. Look at other major PFI/PPP projects. The Skye bridge, a bridge which should have cost £15m, by the time it was bought back by the Executive had cost the public in various forms, £97m. Inverness Airport was bought back after 6 years for £8.5m. The financiers had invested £5.5m!!! Not a bad return for the financiers!!!
- c) It seems that the decision was taken on the route in a meeting that was not minuted! Astonishing for such a major decision. Is it any wonder people get turned off politics? Given that over 8,000 objections have been lodged, it would be wholly undemocratic to proceed at all.
- d) For solving traffic issues in Aberdeen, think about crossrail or tram options. But certainly have a public transport system that is publicly owned, well funded, efficient and affordable for the commuter.

I am at a hustings at Peterculter Parish Church tomorrow evening, Thursday. If you are there please introduce yourself to me.

Stephen Hadden,
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