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Edinburgh
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16th September 2009

Strategy and Policy Integration Team
6th Floor
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Transport Scotland's consultation on Station Car Parking Policy in Scotland. This is the joint response from Living Streets Scotland, Transform Scotland, Sustrans Scotland, Paths for All, Spokes and Ramblers Scotland.

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.

Transform Scotland is the national sustainable transport alliance, bringing together rail, bus and shipping operators, local authorities, national environment and conservation groups, businesses and local transport groups.

Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. Sustrans Scotland's mission is to encourage more people to choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and wellbeing.

Paths for All is the national charity promoting walking for health and the development of multi-use path networks. Our vision is of a happier, healthier, greener, more active Scotland.

Spokes is the Lothian Cycle Campaign, campaigning for better conditions for cyclists, especially in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Ramblers Scotland promotes walking and helps to protect the outdoor environment.

In summary, we believe that this consultation is fundamentally flawed and should be re-issued to consider all modes which people use to access rail stations, not just cars.

In particular, we would question the following statement:

"While current policy encourages passengers to cycle or walk to railway stations rather than using their car, this proposal recognises that taking the car is often the most practical way for passengers to get to the station, especially in semi-rural and rural areas, or for specific reasons: carrying of luggage, dropping children at school en route, weather, etc."

This fundamentally opposes current Government policy as laid out in the National Transport Strategy. It directly opposes government policy on encouraging children to travel to school by walking, cycling or public transport. It also contradicts the facts in this consultation document which says only:

"Around 25% of rail passengers travel to stations by car (Scottish Planning Assessment 2005)."

We do recognise that the provision of car parking at stations can help encourage the public to incorporate rail travel into their journey. Overall, we believe that Government should not be developing a policy on station car parking in isolation. Rather it should be developing a policy which addresses:

- its five strategic objectives- Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger, and Greener
- the need to cut climate change emissions by 80% by 2050, as required by the Climate Change Scotland Act
- the target of 10% of all trips to be made by bike by 2020, and the forthcoming Cycling Action Plan Scotland
- the need to encourage active travel, as laid out in the National Transport Strategy
- good examples of transport integration already in place and opportunities to build on this work to improve integration and accessibility. For example, First Scotrail has developed a range of cycle initiatives to improve access at stations, such as cycle lockers, cycle information at stations, integrated signage, bike hire and 'Ticket to Ride' schemes
- the three strategic outcomes of the National Transport Strategy:
 - o *Improve journey times and connections, to tackle congestion and the lack of integration and connections in transport*
 - o *Reduce emissions, to tackle the issues of climate change, air quality and health improvement*
 - o *Improve quality, accessibility and affordability, to give people a choice of public transport where availability means better quality transport services and value for money or an alternative to the car.*

We would be happy to meet David Middleton or other relevant people to discuss this further.

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

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