
From: Turner IP (Ian)
Sent: 28 February 2006 17:39
To: Minister for Transport; Minister for Parliamentary Business
Cc: First Minister; Deputy First Minister & Minister for Enterprise; Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform; Minister for Communities; PS/Perm Sec; PS/ETLLD; PS/LPS; PS/Transport Scotland; Ewing JA (John); Reeve W (Bill); Sharp DP (Damian); Spencer FM (Fiona); Ramsay J (John); Davis L (Lorna); Patel DR (David); Ross J (Jamie); Sinclair MA (Murray); Clifford HV (Helen); Press Transport Scotland; Shields A (Alison); Ghibaldan S (Sam); Colwell A (Adrian)
Subject: Tram (Line 1) Bill - Consideration stage report
Importance: High

Minister for Transport
Minister for Parliamentary Business

PUBLICATION OF THE TRAM (LINE 1) BILL CONSIDERATION STAGE REPORT - 1 MARCH 2006

Purpose

1. To inform Ministers that the consideration stage report on the Tram (Line 1) Bill will be published **tomorrow** 1 March 2006.

Parliamentary process

2. The consideration stage involves the consideration of objections and the detail of the Bill. The report will give its decision on whether to uphold or to dismiss each objection. The report can also highlight where the Committee considers amendments are required to the Bill at the next stage.

Working hours

3. The main issue that we are aware of has been the Committee's intention to restrict construction working time on Saturday to 8am to 1pm instead of the 7am to 7pm currently proposed. This has cost and time implications for the construction of the tram infrastructure as it means that it would change Saturday's from being a fully productive day into one where nothing but tidying up and minor tasks could be achieved. It would also increase the length of time key parts of the city were disrupted.

4. We have not had advance sight of the Committee report so we do not know how the Committee will present this issue but in discussions with Private Bills Unit and the Promoter it appears that the Committee will be looking for an amendment to the Construction Code of Practice and not a direct reference in the Bill. We will examine the implications once we have the published report.

Lines to take

- We remain committed to constructing a tram network in Edinburgh and have announced available funding of £450m to £500m to make this happen.
- On hours of working: Appreciate the issues the Committee is seeking to address. We would wish to consider with the Promoter the best balance between working hours and reducing disruption and cost.

Follow up

5. Once we have the report and have read the Committee recommendations we will be able to provide further advice.

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