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**From:** Middleton DF (David)  
**Sent:** 11 March 2010 09:19  
**To:** Permanent Secretary; DG Economy; Director Of Finance; Sinclair MA (Murray)  
**Cc:** Reeve W (Bill); McLaughlin AC (Ainslie); PS/Transport Scotland  
**Subject:** Edinburgh Trams

This is just to round off the exchanges of the past few working days.

Mr Swinney met senior representatives of TIE privately early yesterday morning. They described the current position to him - as officials had been advised in discussions the day before and, more or less, how the picture has been displayed in the media. Cab Sec is obviously uncomfortable with where the project now stands and he told them any question of the project continuing until 2014 is clearly unsatisfactory from the City's perspective. He noted TIE's strategy to maintain contractual pressure. He asked TS to stay close to TIE. It is to be hoped that TIE's approach will be seen to induce a shift of approach by Bilfinger - TIE believe they have seen a shift since January. It should be possible to assess whether that shift is happening around 8 - 10 weeks from now.

David