



North Lanarkshire City Deal
Enterprise and Communities
Fleming House, Tryst Road
Cumbernauld, G67 1JW

PO Box 15175, Glasgow, G4 9LP

e-mail: consultations@gobike.org

web: www.gobike.org

Ref: TF/D57

By e-mail to: nlccitydeal@northlan.gov.uk

14 April 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL, CITY DEAL
PROPOSED EAST AIRDRIE LINK ROAD**

Thank you for your email alert of 27 March and the opportunity to comment on the proposals for a new link road to the east of Airdrie.

GoBike is a voluntary organisation campaigning in the greater Glasgow / Strathclyde area for better infrastructure, policy and political support for cycling. Cycling should be a safe, efficient, healthy and attractive form of transport for people of all abilities and ages and using every variety of cycle. We have members and supporters who live, work and cycle in North Lanarkshire. The comments which follow are made in the context of GoBike's campaign aims.

We are aware that North Lanarkshire's partner in City Deal funding, Glasgow City Council, plus many other local and national governments around the world have now recognised that attempts at constructing more roads as the way out of the problems of congestion have failed. Many published reports confirm the view that the more road capacity is provided, the more people will buy and use motor vehicles to fill them. It is with this in mind, plus Scottish Government policies to reduce pollution, reduce the use of the private motor vehicle, improve public health and effect a modal transfer to public transport and active travel that we most emphatically oppose the construction of this new road.

Indeed the website, with this quote: "This proposal is a key part of a much larger vision, to improve the current link from the M74 to the M80. We feel a new East Airdrie Link Road is vital for this to be a success" confirms the view that road building induces more motor traffic and thus more roads must be built to cope. Both the M74 and the M80 were built to relieve the pressure on local roads; with this proposal North Lanarkshire Council is confirming that the ambition behind the construction of those 2 motorways failed. New road construction is simply encouraging more people to buy and use motor vehicles.

The feedback form, specifically Question 2, demonstrates the concern for the motor vehicle using minority in the Airdrie area:

"If you were to travel in the direction of Cumbernauld or Motherwell / M74 how would you usually get there?"

Use the A73 / local roads (please continue to question 3)

Use the motorway network (please go to question 5)"

Any local resident who travels by bike, bus or train would not be able to answer this question. The consultation documentation appears to ignore this significant proportion of the population altogether.

It is very noticeable that in recent years the rail infrastructure in North Lanarkshire has increased substantially with the reconstruction and reopening of the Airdrie to Bathgate line, the electrification of the Glasgow to Edinburgh via Cumbernauld line with the new station at Robroyston, close to the North Lanarkshire boundary and the electrification of the Glasgow to Edinburgh line via Shotts.

In light of these developments we consider that North Lanarkshire Council should be looking to rail, an option that is discounted in the study, to play a far bigger part in the transport infrastructure in North Lanarkshire. Using the train will reduce motor traffic over longer distances and, in our view, there should now be a concerted effort to improve bus connections, frequency and pricing to ensure all North Lanarkshire residents have access to good public transport.

Putting the emphasis on public transport will also allow the Council to construct good quality cycle lanes along major roads. Many short journeys that are currently made by car could readily be made by cycle if the infrastructure is provided and if local roads are less heavily trafficked by motor vehicles.

Thus we confirm our opposition to this new road and we look to a change of emphasis within North Lanarkshire Council to recognise public transport and active travel as the responsible and healthy way to get to work, to the shops and to school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tricia Fort', written in a cursive style.

Tricia Fort
for Consultations, GoBike