



Bus Users
Working for passengers

Cllr Joe Anderson OBE
Mayor of Liverpool
Mayor's Office
Municipal Buildings
Dale Street
Liverpool L2 2DH

3 October 2013

Dear Cllr Anderson

We are extremely concerned to hear of your plans to scrap bus lanes throughout the City of Liverpool, even on a trial basis.

Good public transport is essential to the well-being of any major city, in terms of the economy, social inclusion and the environment. For the vast majority of people buses are the only alternative to cars and it is vital to give people a real serious choice of travel mode. As cities throughout the world have learnt to their cost, dependence on the motorcar simply leads to congestion that means no-one can move around effectively and creates poor air quality. Cities where mobility is restricted simply die.

Bus services can only help to alleviate congestion if they can offer journey times that are comparable with the car and can offer reliability. Bus lanes are one of the few effective means of achieving both those things. What is often overlooked is the number of people per hour that are being transported through bus lanes, and when that is taken into account the allocation of road space to buses is actually a very effective way of transporting large numbers of people.

Research shows that bus passengers make a substantial contribution to the local economy, and they access the local economy in a much more efficient and environmentally friendly way than car users. Britain's major city regions, outside London, are unusual in the developed world of showing a decline in public transport use and this worrying trend needs to be reversed before our cities grind to a halt. Removing the priorities that bus services enjoy will simply accelerate that decline and increase the dependence on cars. This will have an adverse effect on Liverpool's economy and will certainly achieve the exact opposite effect of achieving your stated pledge of making Liverpool 'a cleaner and greener city'.

We do hope you will rethink this policy urgently.
Yours sincerely

Stephen Morris
Deputy Chief Executive

Terminal House,
Shepperton, TW17 8AS
T **0300 111 0001**