

Stephen Burt

I was dismayed to learn that Mossbank railway station on the Paisley Canal line is facing closure. Due to a disability I am no longer able to drive and I am completely dependant on Mossbank station for commuting to work.

Transport Scotland's Rail 2014 report states that Mossbank station is only a one mile walk from Corkerhill station. This maybe so, but that extra mile makes a considerable difference to the daily commute. To keep the extra distance within one mile it is necessary to walk along poorly lit minor roads and pathways. This may not be a problem during the day, but it is not something that could be considered safe to do at night.

At the moment I only have a 5 minute walk to Mossbank station, however in winter when the pavement is covered in ice this can take considerably longer. To walk to Corkerhill in such conditions will take 30 to 40 minutes.

I regularly bring my shopping home with me on the train from work. However to carry a heavy bag of groceries that extra mile would not be possible.

It would be possible for me to travel by bus to the city centre, but this still has its difficulties. Firstly it is a half mile walk to the bus stop, then as the buses never run to their timetable I would have to wait for 10 to 15 minutes at the bust stop, often in the pouring rain or cold conditions. The bus journey itself takes 30 minutes during the rush hour, compared to 10 minutes on the train. The seating on buses is also quite poor and would considerably aggravate my disability. As a result of these issues I would arrive at work late, cold and wet and in pain. Not a good start to the day!

Glasgow's roads are already very congested and to force more people off the trains and onto the road will just aggravate this problem.

Mossbank railway station is unmanned with no ticket issuing facilities. As such its maintenance costs must be considerably lower than many other stations. Even the shelter could be removed if this meant keeping the station open.

The closure of Mossbank would have a very detrimental effect on the lives of the hundreds of people who are dependent on the station and I hope Transport Scotland will consider this when deciding the station's future.