

From: LAWRENCE MARSHALL [lawrence336@btinternet.com]
Sent: 18 November 2008 00:37
To: Burnett R (Ruth); Scotrail Franchise Mailbox
Cc: Patrick Hutton; Patrick (SELEX) (UK) Hutton
Subject: Re: CONSULTATION ON INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE SCOTRAIL FRANCHISE EXTENSION

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Dear Ms Burnett,

thanks for your reminder of 17th November re. the above consultation.

Further to my original e-mail below, one additional suggestion which CRAG would think worthy of consideration relates again to the Edinburgh Crossrail service. As you may know, this was originally envisaged to include a station at Portobello. This was eventually excluded on grounds of capital cost. However, we would ask that this proposal be again looked at with a view to stopping not only services to/from Newcraighall but also to/from North Berwick and, in the future, to/from Dunbar.

The benefits of a service to the centre of Edinburgh in less than 5 minutes are obvious and we would envisage a similar residential usage to that seen at South Gyle - probably far greater, in fact.

Like South Gyle, a station at Portobello could be built on the main line to avoid the capital costs associated with the need for a loop on the up line. Services to Newcraighall have to slow almost to a halt anyway at the moment on the approach to Portobello junction. Re. a platform serving trains on the down line, this could be built as an island platform between the main line and the east depot line to the east of Craigentenny depot to give the option of allowing trains either to use the main line or the east depot line on their way to Waverley.

We very much hope that this capital investment may form part of your deliberations as to how best to realise worthwhile initiatives arising from monies made available as a result of the extension of the First ScotRail franchise.

Yours sincerely

Lawrence Marshall

Chair
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Cc: Patrick Hutton <patrickh@6brc.freemove.co.uk>; Patrick (SELEX) (UK) Hutton <patrick.hutton@selex-sas.com>
Sent: Monday, 13 October, 2008 10:13:20 AM
Subject: CONSULTATION ON INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE SCOTRAIL FRANCHISE EXTENSION

Dear Ms Burnett,

thank you for including the Capital Rail Action Group (CRAG) in your list of consultees re. initiatives related to the extension of the ScotRail franchise to First.

It's a fairly lengthy document and I'll pass it over to our secretary, Patrick Hutton (cc'd above), to mull over any more substantive submission to you.

At this juncture, however, I thought that I would write to say that one obvious initiative worthy of consideration would be the provision of a Sunday service between Edinburgh Waverley and Newcraighall via Brunstane.

Such a service was envisaged from day one on this line - back in 2002 - and in fact the official working timetables published at that time actually showed trains running on a Sunday. The funding for this, however, was part of an agreement with landowners near Newcraighall and this fell through at the last minute. Since then, of course, folk using the line have been a bit put out at not having the opportunity to use the train service on Sundays - despite, in many cases, paying for a season ticket whose price certainly appears to reflect a 7-day service!

Sunday is a busy shopping and leisure day these days and I would therefore commend the provision of a Sunday service as one of the initiatives Transport Scotland should pursue in seeking to extract additional benefit for rail users as a result of the extension of the First ScotRail franchise.

Yours sincerely

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