

## Transport Policy

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Mr Dave du Feu

Your ref:

Our ref:  
2015/0014905

Date:  
16 September 2015

Dear Dave,

Thank you for your email of 22 April following a meeting with Derek Mackay MSP, Minister for Transport and Islands, regarding standalone cycling schemes involving trunk roads. The Minister has seen your letter and has asked me to research the specific points you make and to respond. Sorry it's taken so long to respond but I wanted to make sure I had the right information.

We have since spoken recently about a potential visit to Dumfries as we both do not know the area but could appreciate the linking of communities along trunk roads if we could see them in person. With this in mind, I have agreed with Peter McCormack from the RTP and John Howell from Dumfries and Galloway Council that they would show us the projects (A75 and A701) on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October and to see why D&G Council and local residents want an active travel path built alongside these trunk road sections.

I have also spoken to my trunk road colleagues regarding supporting the local projects you mention and which involve trunk roads. They assure me that they have "investigated this matter and understand that DGFirst (Dumfries and Galloway Council) are investigating cycleway provision in the west of the region on behalf of Swestrans. Transport Scotland is content to work with Swestrans/D&G Council when a proposal will affect Trunk Roads. We have recently been assisting DGFirst in identifying land ownership in the Glenluce area and will continue to assist as appropriate."

This above information was provided by the Area Manager for the A75/A701 recently in response to a query raised by Council Forster. He also added that Transport Scotland would always assist where it can and do not refuse any proposal unless there is a road safety issue that will affect the Trunk Road. David Allan in Trunk Roads Division is not aware of TS rejecting any schemes. He understands that Swestrans promote cycleways in D&G and TS has assisted where possible. He is on leave on 5<sup>th</sup> October but I have asked if one of his colleagues could attend.

I have also spoken to John Howell as the originator of the Council input into the letter and he is aware that at least one of these schemes is something that Cycling Dumfries had approached Sustrans looking for them to reroute NCN7 along the route on the A75 corridor at Shawhead



which forms part of their loop rides. Phil Kearney at Sustrans had been involved with this discussion and I have asked Phil to join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> October which he is happy to do.

I am on leave now till 1 October, when I will get back to you with travel details.

Best wishes,

Karen  
Transport Scotland  
Sustainable Transport Team