

Zoe McClelland  
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AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited  
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Edinburgh EH12 5HD

8 May 2017

Dear Zoe,

Thank you for your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 with reference to the **A720 Sheriffhall Junction Improvement – Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping**.

Sustrans responded in January 2017 to the consultation carried out by Aecom in November 2016. We assessed the three options presented (A, B and C) against the five [Core Design Principles](#) in Cycling by Design; safety, coherence, directness, comfort and attractiveness.

Considering these design principles, we felt strongly that option C was the best for active travel (walking, cycling and non-motorised users). We also provided, for reference, two examples of provision for active travel at grade-separated junctions near to Sheriffhall – one an example of good provision and the other, an example of very poor provision.

Finally, we provided thoughts on ensuring how option C could be made even better for walking, cycling and non-motorised users.

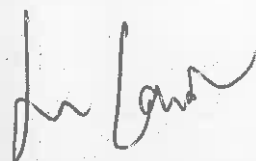
Having provided such a detailed response, we were extremely disappointed to receive your letter which stated that the preferred option had been chosen. This option is very poor for active travel. In fact the layout looks similar to the A720 Straiton Junction, an example of 'poor active travel provision' provided in our previous response. Your letter made no reference to what the thought process or design principles were that enabled you to come to this conclusion.

We feel that the redesign of Sheriffhall should enable people to make local journeys across the junction on foot and by bike, reducing the severance caused by the A720. There are many potential active travel journeys which require a safe crossing of Sheriffhall roundabout. (For example major employment sites at Edinburgh Bioquarter and Royal Infirmary)

Far from creating an exemplar design that enables the movement of both vehicular traffic and people travelling actively, the preferred option will discourage walking and cycling between Dalkeith and Edinburgh, not to mention for new residents of the developments planned for Shawfair and Gilmerton. There is an opportunity being ignored to make walking and cycling a central part of these new communities, as new residents reconsider how they make regular journeys when they relocate.

For this reason, Sustrans will not comment on the design chosen for the A720 Sheriffhall Junction as detailed in your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. We would like to draw your attention once more to the response we provided in January 2017 and urge you to re-think your preferred design option.

Yours sincerely,

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

John Lauder  
National Director