



CEC School Streets Project consultation¹

Response from Transform Scotland

Monday 16 February 2015

1. General comments:

1.1. We welcome this initiative generally; and in particular:

- we support the aims of increasing the active lifestyles of pupils and parents, through walking and cycling;
- we support the aims of reducing traffic speeds, congestion, and emissions in the vicinity of school gates at peak times.

2. Popular Scheme:

2.1. We welcome the fact that the scheme has been extended from an earlier 5 schools (in the LTS), to 11 schools, and that the initiative is popular with parents and residents.

3. Permanency

3.1. We hope that the trial scheme will prove successful and be made permanent, and will be extended to further schools across the city.

4. Operating Times:

4.1. The proposed operating times, namely 30-45 minutes before/after entry/exit, are “about right”, in our view.

5. Exemptions:

5.1. On the issue of exemptions, we feel that the fewer exemptions the better, and that the only necessary one is the emergency services, whose vehicles can be easily identified. The problem with giving exemptions to, for example, residents, would be identification. The inconvenience to the residents is off-set by the advantages of the scheme itself, as above, and the need for implementation with minimal expense.

5.2. Pupils arriving by school bus (or taxi) would lose the active travel advantages if the bus/taxi had access right up to the gates, in addition to the dangers posed to the other pupils.

6. Other Exemptions:

6.1. We are not aware of any other groups that might need exemptions, and as noted above, we would be concerned about problems of identification and possible extra expense incurred.

7. Relevance of 20mph Scheme:

7.1. We think this scheme fits well with the ongoing scheme for widespread 20mph speed limits across the city.

7.2. Thank you for the opportunity for consultation, and we wish the scheme every success.

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¹ School Streets Project- Proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order - Prohibition of Vehicular Traffic (During School Travel Periods) <<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/school-streets-project-proposed-experimental-traff>>