

# TRAMS TO NEWHAVEN

**transform**  
scotland

**Transform Scotland response to  
01/10/18 City of Edinburgh Council  
public consultation**

**6 November 2018**

Transform Scotland fully supports the tram scheme and its extension to Newhaven because of the benefits it brings in terms of quality of life, congestion, air quality, accessibility and transport efficiency, as we set out in greater detail in the briefing notes which we issued on 23 May 2007, 23 June 2011, and 2 November 2015.<sup>1</sup>

In our initial consultation response of 23 April 2018, we drew attention to the public realm along the extended tram route and the opportunity the new line provides for enhancing that public realm, reducing motor traffic and improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

We welcome the extensive changes that have been made in response to the second consultation, such as the improved cycling provision from the Foot of the Walk to Elm Road, the pedestrian improvements in the form of increased signalised crossings, and the major public space enhancement at the junction of Elm Row and London Road. We also appreciate the efforts that have been made to reconcile the often competing interests of effective tram operations and the needs of active travel users and trust that as further detail is added the Council's transport hierarchy of road users and street design guidance will be complied with to the fullest extent.

In our second response, we would simply wish to highlight two issues, namely Options A and B for Constitution Street and the signalling system on the four-lane section at the top of Leith Walk.

As regards Constitution Street, the original layout in the form of Option B is the only acceptable option in terms of meeting sustainable transport requirements. Option A is clearly provided to give some comfort to a limited number of local residents, but other ways of meeting their concerns, which do not compromise tram and pedestrian movements, should be found instead.

As regards the signalling system on the four-lane section of Leith Walk, it is acknowledged to be complex and largely untested. Whilst it may well work in practice, in the event that it does not any measures to remedy the problems which arise should prioritise the needs of sustainable transport over private car traffic.

Overall, Transform Scotland remains fully supportive of the tram extension to Newhaven, welcomes the alterations to the designs to improve the public realm and pedestrian and cycling facilities, and hopes that the remaining concerns will be addressed.

<sup>1</sup> See our response to the first 'Trams to Newhaven' consultation. Available at <http://transformscotland.org.uk/blog/2018/04/24/tram-extension-will-unlock-huge-opportunities-for-leith-and-newhaven/>

**Scotland's alliance for  
sustainable transport**

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We campaign for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone. Our diverse membership brings together public, private and third sector organisations from across Scotland. We are a registered Scottish charity (SC041516).