

Ms Maggie Shapland

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Our ref Your ref Date

10 October 2011

Dear Ms Shapland

Thank you for your statement.

You also raise a number of questions, my response to which follows.

The inbound BRT alignment is shared with the Bristol Harbour Railway alongside Cumberland Road. The alignment is wide enough to accommodate both modes. Rails will be incorporated into the BRT guideway to allow operation of the railway. Outbound BRT will use a new bus lane on Cumberland Road. The bus lane is being provided in order to maximise reliability of the rapid transit and other North Somerset bus services. On days when the railway is operating, bus services will use Cumberland Road.

Prohibition of general traffic from Prince Street Bridge is necessary to maintain reliability of rapid transit services. The upstream side of the bridge will incorporate guidance and thus physically prohibit other vehicles. If the BRT proposals are implemented, the number of people (pedestrians, cyclists and on BRT) forecast to use the bridge in peak periods will be greater than the number of current users and by more sustainable modes.

You ask how, in these circumstances, drivers are meant to get to the city centre if they are driving in from Cumberland Road. If their origin is from Spike Island or elsewhere on Cumberland Road, then the choice is either via Cumberland Basin/Hotwell Road or via Redcliffe Hill. If their origin is further afield then they will have had opportunities earlier on in their journey to decide where to cross the Floating Harbour and/or New Cut - at Cumberland Basin (thence via Coronation Road or Hotwell Road) or at Bedminster Bridge - thus avoiding using Prince Street Bridge as an inappropriate rat-run. Parking at/for M Shed is very limited so the impact of the Prince Street Bridge proposals will be minimal.

Cabinet

The Council House College Green Bristol BS1 5TR Cllr Tim Kent Executive Member



Promoting Racial Equality 2006-2007 Transforming the Delivery of Services Through Partnerships 2007-2008 Healthy Schools

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BRT will provide an effective alternative for car users (for whatever purpose - tourism/leisure, work or business) to access the centre of Bristol whether they are local, residents of the sub-region or visitors from further afield. There will be BRT stops at M shed, Arnolfini, the Centre, Spike Island (for SSGB), CREATE and at Long Ashton Park and Ride as well as serving Temple Meads Railway Station. These will provide services for local residents and business users as well as tourists (particularly from Temple Meads and via the Park and Ride site) from sustainable interchanges and to a variety of tourist attractions.

Yours sincerely,

CIIr Tim Kent

**Executive Member for Transport**