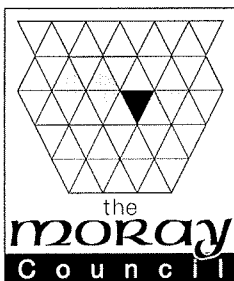


FM



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 Your Ref:

28th September 2007

Fraser Maxwell
 Senior Environmental Specialist
 Scott Wilson
 23 Chester Street
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 EH3 7EN

Dear Sir

**A96 THREAPLAN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS
 CONSULTATION WITH STATUTORY ORGANISATION**

I refer to your letter of 12th September 2007 and have the following comments to make.

I accept that the current proposals are on the grounds of road safety. I consider however that any such road improvements will on a cumulative basis make the road more attractive to road users, reducing journey times potentially increasing vehicle numbers particularly cars. Such vehicle increases would impact directly on the environment and hence should be addressed in the SEA process.

Mitigation measures need to be considered which encourages modal shift giving alternatives to car usage.

The Moray Core Paths Plan Consultative Draft proposes an 'aspirational' cycle road running parallel to the A96 between Forres and Fochabers. This long term proposal once created could encourage cycling as an alternative travel mode to the car when journeying between Elgin, Lhanbryde and Fochabers. Such a route would travel along the minor Marchfield/Loch Oire/Threapland Road thereby considerably reducing costs.

As part of the improvement I ask you to consider creating a new section of grade separate cycle route on the south side of the A96 between the Threapland/Loch Oire road junction and the Loch Na Bo road end junction. As I have suggested this could be considered as an environmental mitigation measure. I contend that in all future A96 upgrading works that similar consideration be given to developing grade separate sections of cycle way as part of an overall strategic link.

Yours faithfully

I M Douglas
Moray Access Manager

