

SCOTLAND'S ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

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Bill Reeve
Director of Rail
Transport Scotland
58 Port Dundas Road
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Wednesday 13 February 2019

Dear Bill

Shotts Line - electrification, new timetable and Breich Station

We responded to the consultation on future options for Breich Station on 31 July 2017 and I attach a copy for information.

At the time we supported closure proposals but suggested the creation of a new and much enhanced station adjacent to Addiewell village. As Breich station is now to remain open at its present location I thought it best to provide you and John Provan with an update of our thinking on the Shotts line.

As already outlined in our earlier response the electrification of this route provides an excellent opportunity to upgrade facilities along the route and market the new much improved service that will be provided by electric trains. You and your team deserve great credit for creating a fourth (or is it fifth?) electrified route between Scotland's major cities and I am happy to place that on record.

To return to our earlier response I would like again to stress the potential of this upgraded route for end to end journeys between Edinburgh and Glasgow Central and the opportunity now presented to develop much greater patronage at key stations along the route. To fully realise this potential routes to stations and the enhancement of the public realm around stations needs to be part of an overall package of measures to market the line and better serve the communities along the route.

Specifically for Breich we note that the station has been rebuilt at its present location and so the need remains to upgrade the walking and cycling routes from the village to the station. However the rebuilt station and new train service also offers the potential to create a park and ride facility for surrounding communities.

Finally, we have been impressed by the initial and ongoing promotion of the Borders Railway. It appears to us that a similar package to coincide with new trains and enhanced timetables on the Shotts Line would be a key measure to help promote the route, remove its 'Cinderella status' and build significant new patronage.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Tetlaw', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Tetlaw
Convenor, Policy Forum
Transform Scotland