

24 September 2024

Dear Bijel

**Bus Lane Scrutiny response and A6 bus lane project**

As the operator of one of the most frequent and comprehensive interurban services into Leicester through our 24/7 skylink Derby service which runs along the A6 we are writing in support of the introduction and retention of high-quality bus priority in the Leicester area. As we run 24 hours a day we can see the difference congestion makes to travel times for bus passengers. Our scheduled times on the Loughborough – Leicester section of skylink Derby are up to 72% higher at peak times for congestion compared to when traffic is at its lightest.

Previous measures introduced, such as the new exit from St Margarets bus station, have helped to provide quicker and more consistent journey times, which enables faster journeys and improved punctuality. This in turn encourages bus use, increasing the number of people using environmentally means of travel and supporting the local economy, whether travelling for employment or leisure.

Earlier this year we made an investment of nearly £1million in improving our service, enhancing skylink Derby to run every 15 minutes Monday – Saturday daytimes between Leicester, Loughborough, East Midlands Airport and Derby, although when congestion is at its highest we do have some slightly longer gaps to allow buses more time to complete their journey. Being able to speed up journeys at these times would enable further uplifts to be made to the frequency within the existing number of buses and drivers.

We continue to encourage bus priority infrastructure to be considered alongside all highways projects. Studies have shown that such measures give back up to £7 to the wider economy for every £1 spent on quality bus priority infrastructure. We know through improved journey times and genuine benefits over the private car bus priority measures can help convert people to a more sustainable mode of transport, such as the bus.

Yours sincerely

Ross Hitchcock  
Head of Commercial  
Kinchbus

