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TAR

Transport Activists' Roundtable North West

NW TAR CORE GROUP contact details

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Lord Peter Smith, Leader of AGMA,
and Sir Howard Bernstein,
Clerk to the Authority,
GMPTA, PO Box 532,
Town Hall, Albert Square,
Manchester, M60 2LA.

Wednesday, October 8th, 2008

Dear Lord Peter Smith and Sir Howard Bernstein,

AGMA's & GMPTA's TIF BID/ CONGESTIONS CHARGE CONSULTATION

Whilst the North West Transport Roundtable (NW TAR) and the North West Regional Group of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) support the 'big bang' in public transport improvements plus any enhancements to cycling and walking that would be funded as part of the TIF bid/congestion charge scheme, we are unable to support the entire package of proposals.

For us, attempting to get to grips with all the machinations of the TIF bid, (without all the relevant information being in the public domain), has been a most perplexing experience. Many of our members support the principle of road user charging. We very much wanted to be able to offer our unequivocal support, but the lack of emphasis on environmental factors combined with the over-emphasis on perceived yet uncertain economic benefits and the inclusion in the TIF bid of a phase two stage which indicated long-term plans to fund road-building from income mean we cannot fully endorse it as it stands. On the other hand, we do not want to be seen as objectors to it. Most certainly, we do not wish to be aligned with any pro-car lobbying groups or commercial interests who have been very vocally opposed to the congestion charge aspect of the proposals. We believe the shortfalls that have led to our indeterminate stance are solvable. If they were addressed, we would support the plans.

We would be grateful if you would please address the fact that the present proposals do not deliver absolute cuts in either baseline carbon dioxide emissions or traffic and we appeal to you to guarantee that congestion charge income will not be used for road-building.

We trust that the reasons for our position will be understood.

Yours sincerely,

LILLIAN BURNS, Convenor E-mail: BrLlIn@aol.com Tel: 01625 829492

The NW TAR is an umbrella body operating under the auspices of the Campaign for Better Transport (formerly Transport 2000) that lobbies for sustainable transport and land use and healthy lives. We are a voluntary alliance which represents many non-governmental environmental organisations at the regional and sub regional level.

The North West Regional Group of CPRE is a charity that promotes the beauty, tranquility and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

Both organisations are members of North West Environment Link and both hold seats on 4NW's Regional Transport Group.