

**Major Transport Infrastructure Projects**

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CÒMHDHAIL  
ALBA



Alison Wilson  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Your ref:  
PE 1236

Our ref:

Date:  
30 July 2012

Dear Ms Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 19 June about Petition PE 1236 regarding the evidence given by Nigel Don MSP at the Public Petitions Committee meeting on 29 May concerning the draft development masterplan for South Montrose and the likely impact this masterplan may have on the volume of traffic passing through the Laurencekirk junctions.

I attach a copy of a letter sent to Mr Don on 13 June from David Middleton, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland in response to his letter of 24 May regarding this matter.

As you are aware, Mr Don also sent his letter to the Public Petitions Committee - written submission PE1236/HH refers.

You should note that Mr Don sent a similar letter to Aberdeenshire Council on 23 May. In light of this, you may therefore wish to contact the Council to ascertain their views.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Ainslie McLaughlin  
Director of MTRIPS

**Chief Executive's Office**

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Nigel Don MSP  
SNP Parliamentary Offices  
6A Cameron Street  
Stonehaven  
AB39 2BL

Your ref:

Our ref:  
2012/0018647

Date:  
13 June 2012

Dear Mr Don

Thank you for your letter of 24 May regarding the South Montrose Draft Development Masterplan and the points you make about the Masterplan's impact on traffic at the A90/A937 Laurencekirk junction.

Transport Scotland has met with Angus Council with regard to their emerging Local Development Plan and continues to engage as the Plan develops. Discussions on development management related issues in Angus have also taken place, mainly focussing on Forfar and Brechin. In Forfar we have been consulted on a commercial development at Orchardbank adjacent to the A90 and an Asda supermarket in the town centre. In Brechin we have been consulted on a number of commercial and residential developments close to the A90.

During these discussions, my colleagues have taken the opportunity to remind the Council of the statutory requirement [as set out in *The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008*] to consult Transport Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers on any emerging development plan allocations or planning applications which may impact on the safe and efficient operation of the trunk road, including the Laurencekirk junctions. To date the Council has not consulted Transport Scotland on any planning applications in the Montrose area.

Transport Scotland provided comments on the Draft Masterplan to Angus Council on 24 October 2011. As would be expected at this early stage in a Masterplanning process, the information available is insufficient to allow Transport Scotland to come to a view on the effects of any of the developments to the strategic transport network, including the junctions at Laurencekirk. As the Masterplan work progresses and a clearer indication on the specific proposals for South Montrose emerges, Transport Scotland may be able to comment on the potential impact to the strategic transport network. As proposed developments come forward in the area, Angus Council may require Transport Assessments. At this stage, should Angus Council consider that these proposals will have a material impact on the strategic transport network, then Transport Scotland should be invited to comment.

In relation to your comments regarding the expansion of the grain drying facilities in Montrose, Planning Authorities are required to consult with Transport Scotland when a development is within 67 metres of a trunk road or will lead to a material increase in traffic affecting the trunk road. Angus Council did not consult Transport Scotland on this application. Angus Council may be able to clarify their thinking here.

These comments relate to the impact on the A90 Trunk Road which is the responsibility of Transport Scotland. You also mention the single carriageway roads to the West and the North of Montrose. These roads are the responsibility of Angus Council and Aberdeenshire Council and you may wish to raise your concerns with them.

Regarding your comments on the division of responsibility between Nestrans and Tactran, the responsibility for local roads lies with local authorities rather than regional transport partnership. However, it is good to see there is a productive working relationship between Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council and Angus Council regarding the issues around Laurencekirk.

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this reply to the Minister for Housing and Transport.

Yours Sincerely

**DAVID MIDDLETON**