

## Response ID BHLF-PA1N-7G7D-9

Submitted on 2015-08-18 11:07:08.404901

### Issues

In order for us to analyse the results of this consultation we will need some further information about you and / or your organisation. This will be used to help us analyse responses, but will not be published.

Organisation Name (if applicable):

Surname:

Forename:

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

What issue / issues would you like to be investigated by the Inquiry?\*[300 words maximum]

What issue / issues would you like to be investigated by the Inquiry:

### Evidence

Questions about you:In order for the evidence to be analysed and taken forward by the Inquiry we will need some further information about you and / or your organisation.Please note that all evidence submitted to the Inquiry may be published at any point during the Inquiry or when the Inquiry Report is issued. If you are responding as an organisation your full details will be published.If you are responding as an individual your name will be published, but your address will only be published if the Inquiry considers this to be relevant to the evidence submitted.

Organisation Name (if applicable):

Surname:

Frame

Forename:

Barbara

Postal Address:

Edinburgh

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

Are you responding as an organisation or an individual?

Individual

Does your evidence relate to a particular period of time?

Not Answered

If yes, what period?:

Does your evidence relate to a particular event or activity?

Not Answered

If yes, please explain what the event / activity was.:

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**We are particularly interested in:• How you found out about what was happening, and how informed you were throughout the project• What did you think would happen• What actually happened• What were the effects if any, on you (or your organisation) at the time of the project• What if any, were the on-going or longer-term effects on you (or your organisation). Please write your evidence here.**

**We are particularly interested in:**

In response to your 'Holyrood Update Summer 2015' I would like to take the opportunity to ask you to help me engage with the inquiry. I have completed the online survey. However, I would also like to ask you to put forward the points that I raise below.

I communicated with you on a number of occasions during the time that York Place and Queen Street were closed due to tram construction (July 2012 to September 2013). During this time east/west and west/east traffic was diverted along Abercromby Place and Albany Street. More than 1,200 vehicles per hour were monitored. It was a very difficult time with noise, air pollution, structural damage to some properties and a change of ambience in what is supposed to be a protected National Heritage Site. The CEC team told us that there was no alternative and residents would have to bear the pollution and inconvenience. Our window frames and sills became black during this period and we were not able to open the windows due to noise. However, we were told that on completion of the work the traffic flow would return to its pre-diversion state. It was also stated that the roads would be resurfaced.

On completion of the work traffic flow did reduce. However, it has never returned to its pre-diversion state. Myself and other residents have continued to monitor the traffic flow (see attached grid). Approximately 500 vehicles per hour have been monitored. The CEC team consider this to be acceptable as it is lower than 1,200. However, long term residents like myself argue that traffic flow is much higher than it was. Unfortunately, there are no figures for pre-diversion traffic flow. This was an error in the CEC Team 'modelling' that was carried out prior to work beginning. The fact is that this part of the New Town has become a 'rat-run'. The CEC Team have acknowledged our comments and admit that drivers have gotten used to this route and now use it as a preferred route across the City. The NTBCC and residents have asked for action to be taken to actively discourage drivers. Suggestions such as speed bumps and chevrons have been discussed but no action has been taken.

The consequence of the Tram Project for residents of the New Town is that traffic has not been successfully redirected. The consequence of heavy traffic in a residential street has impact on the health and safety of the residents and in the long term impact on the uniqueness of the New Town as a protected National Heritage Centre. (Large tour buses are driven through daily to look at the architecture. In the past people would have walked and enjoyed the ambience of the area).

The issue that myself, other residents and the New Town Broughton Community Council continually raise is the impact of the displacement of traffic from the City Centre to the New Town. This displacement is a direct consequence of the 'Vision for the City Centre Project' and the 'Tram Project'. The aim of The City of Edinburgh Council to reduce traffic in the City Centre is to be applauded. However, this cannot be achieved by closing off streets to traffic as this merely results in traffic being displaced to other areas such as the New Town. The Council are proud of the fact that there has been a decrease in traffic flow in Princes Street, George Street and St. Andrew's Square (obviously so if vehicles are not permitted access). At the same time they ignore the displacement of traffic to the New Town.

My fear is that the New Town will again suffer heavy traffic flow when Picardy Place is affected by the proposed changes to the St James Centre and the continuation of the Tram Project. If the Council do want to reduce traffic then they must do more than close of streets. Actions might include: improved park and ride, congestion charge, street furniture to slow down and deter traffic. Lessons should be able to be learned from other successful city policies on traffic. Additionally, the public should have access to data which records the impact of noise and air pollution. To date this has not been readily available. Jus how well is Edinburgh meeting European safety levels?

I would ask that you represent these views.

**Do you have any documents which you think it would be useful for the Inquiry to see?**

Not Answered

**Details of documents:**

**Upload documents:**

No file was uploaded

**Are you content for the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry team to contact you again in relation to this evidence?\***

Not Answered