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Dear Matt

Proposed adoption of additional Moving Traffic Offences enforcement powers under Traffic Management Act 2004

First South Yorkshire offers its wholehearted support to the application by Sheffield City Council for additional enforcement powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004. Extension of these powers to cover moving traffic offences including banned turns, yellow box infringements and one-way streets will be of potentially great benefit to users and operators of public transport throughout Sheffield and the wider South Yorkshire area.

Inconsiderate and illegal actions by motorists contribute significantly to the problems faced in making buses run to time. Bus operators are obliged to run their services such that 95% of all departures from terminal points are no more than 5 minutes late or one minute early, and that similar performance is displayed at intermediate timing points along the route. The adverse effects of congestion, often the result of other traffic taking such inconsiderate or illegal actions, makes it harder for operators to achieve this. As well as making buses late, these can result in operators "padding" running times to ensure that services do not operate outside this window of tolerance, resulting in longer journey times for passengers (which makes bus services less attractive to those with a choice) and wasted vehicle and driver resources to deliver the same service frequency. The latter also has the effect of increasing operating costs, leading to higher fares. All these impacts make modal shift from car to public transport unattractive and we end up in a vicious spiral of public transport decline and additional car traffic.

Investment in bus priority measures is wasted unless bus lanes and other traffic management and bus priority measures are enforced, therefore this proposal will also help in the effectiveness of such measures and in turn should make the case for their extension easier to make.

Please consider the potential benefits that this extension of enforcement powers will bring to the many users and potential new users of public transport across Sheffield and beyond.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Belfield
Commercial Director

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