

Strategic Transport
Economy, Transport & Environment
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UD

please reply to:
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Dear Sir / Madam,

Waterside Transport Strategy

Railfuture is Britain's leading, longest-established, national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities.

We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

Completing this Response Form

I am providing the official response of a national organisation. It is complementary to the recent letter of support from our local Wessex branch in relation to the Waterside Line and its Strategic Outline Business Case.

We should like to comment on all of:

- ~ Improving the northerly section of the A326 to address congestion and improve access
- ~ Making changes to the Level Crossing on Junction Road in Totton
- ~ Investigating the re-introduction of passenger rail services on the Waterside rail line
- ~ Improving cycling and walking facilities in the Waterside area.

Waterside Transport Strategy

How concerned are you about the following issues?

- ~ Over-reliance on the car for travelling around the Waterside area - very concerned
- ~ Traffic congestion and delays in the Waterside area, especially on the A326 - very concerned
- ~ The A326 corridor acting as a barrier to East-West travel to / from the New Forest National Park - very concerned
- ~ Bus trips taking longer and being less reliable than car travel in the Waterside area - very concerned
- ~ Buses getting caught in congestion on the A326 in the northern part of the Waterside area - very concerned
- ~ Bus journey times being unreliable during peak travel periods in the Waterside area - very concerned

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- ~ There is only one passenger rail station in the area (at Totton) - very concerned
- ~ There is no passenger rail service on the Waterside - very concerned
- ~ The Hythe Ferry service may not continue to operate in the future - very concerned
- ~ Walking and cycling provision is not coherent within or between places in the Waterside area - very concerned
- ~ Busy roads are not safe or attractive for cycling and walking in the Waterside area - very concerned
- ~ There are not enough off-road cycle lanes, crossing facilities or other infrastructure for cyclists - very concerned.

The proposed vision describes what the County Council wants to achieve by 2036.

The Waterside will have a low carbon, resilient and fully integrated transport network designed around people and communities, enabling economic growth in an innovative way whilst protecting and enhancing health, quality of life and this internationally important environment. It will provide for a prosperous community within which people can live, work and have easy access to local facilities, whilst enjoying easy, direct and affordable access to:

- *The New Forest's unique environment;*
- *Southampton Water's unique deep-water harbour, leisure activities and habitats; and*
- *The city of Southampton's wide-ranging employment, leisure, health and education facilities.*

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- ~ The inclusion of a specific transport vision is beneficial – strongly agree
- ~ The proposed vision appropriately reflects how the Waterside's transport system should look in 2036 (taking into account its role in delivering a better environment, economy and society) – strongly agree.

How important is it that the Waterside Transport Strategy aims to...

- ~ Respond to development and economic growth with appropriate levels of infrastructure – very important
- ~ Improve travel *within* the Waterside area – very important
- ~ Improve travel *into and out of* the Waterside area – very important.

To help the County Council to decide what the focus of the Strategy should be, to what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following themes should be a priority for the County Council?

- ~ Theme A - provide a reliant and efficient transport network to enable the growth of the economy – strongly agree
- ~ Theme B - provide a sustainable means of access to education, health, leisure, services and retail facilities in Southampton and surrounding areas – strongly agree
- ~ Theme C - improve access to local settlements/centres to support businesses, services and communities – strongly agree
- ~ Theme D - integrating new development with well-planned travel choices – strongly agree
- ~ Theme E - protect and enhance the special qualities of the New Forest National Park – strongly agree
- ~ Theme F - supporting and enabling a carbon neutral and resilient transport system designed around people, which connects thriving places, supports healthy, happy, inclusive lives and respects the unique environment – strongly agree
- ~ Theme G - supporting healthier lifestyle choices and wellbeing – strongly agree.

Waterside Transport Strategy

To what extent do you support or oppose the following possible transport changes in the Waterside area?

- ~ Increasing vehicle capacity on the A326 – strongly oppose
- ~ Improving crossings on the A326 for pedestrians and cyclists – support
- ~ Re-opening passenger rail services on the Waterside – strongly support
- ~ Enhancing walking and cycling routes to the New Forest – support
- ~ Improving walking and cycling facilities in urban centres such as Hythe and Totton – support
- ~ Installing a long-distance cycle route from Lepe to Southampton – support
- ~ Improving and enhancing local bus services – strongly support.

The County Council has limited funding and therefore has to choose what to prioritise when making changes. Considering this, which of the following measures should be prioritised? (Please select up to three priorities - underlined)

- ~ Increasing vehicle capacity on the A326
- ~ Improving crossings on the A326 for pedestrians and cyclists – Yes
- ~ Re-opening passenger rail services on the Waterside – Yes
- ~ Enhancing walking and cycling routes to the New Forest
- ~ Improving walking and cycling facilities in urban centres such as Hythe and Totton
- ~ Installing a long-distance cycle route from Lepe to Southampton
- ~ Improving and enhancing local bus services – Yes.

The County Council would like your views on which aspects it should investigate further to support residents and businesses in the Waterside area. For each row below, please select which is your preferred option (underlined).

- ~ Increasing vehicle capacity on the A326 **OR** Making it easier for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians to cross the A326
- ~ Travel into and out of the Waterside area **OR** Travel within the Waterside area
- ~ Re-opening passenger rail services on the Waterside **OR** Having a ferry service
- ~ Improved rail services **OR** Less down time (when the road is closed) at the Totton Level Crossing
- ~ Improved rail, cycling and walking links **OR** Improved traffic capacity

Which of the following, if any, would be most useful to you to help meet your future daily travel needs? (Please select one option – underlined)

- ~ Local bus services: more frequent, faster services that connect the communities within and along the Waterside area and into Southampton city centre
- ~ Passenger rail services re-opening: at least two trains per hour operating from the main local station and facilitating trips to Southampton Central station
- ~ Continuing the Hythe Ferry service as it is now.

Would the re-introduction of passenger rail services to the Waterside area make your life better or worse?

- ~ It would make our members' lives better.

Which of the following measures would encourage you to use your car less for journeys around the Waterside? (Please select all that apply – underlined)

- ~ Improvements to bus services
- ~ The re-introduction of passenger services on the Waterside train line (linking stations on the Waterside, Totton and Southampton Central)
- ~ Improved walking and cycling routes within and between local Waterside towns and villages
- ~ A high-quality cycle route from Calshot to Southampton City Centre

Waterside Transport Strategy

Summary

Overall, what impact do you think the proposals will have on the Waterside area? This could relate to the environment, opportunities for active travel (walking and cycling), impacts on neighbourhoods, or impacts on traffic flows.

~ Very positive

If you have any further suggestions or comments to make on the proposals for the Waterside area that you would like to be taken into consideration, please include these below.

About you

How often do you travel into or around the Waterside area by each of these forms of transport?

Our members travel by all forms of transport.

Why do you typically travel into or around the Waterside area?

Our members travel for a wide variety of journey purposes.

When do you typically travel into or around the Waterside area?

Our members travel at all times of day and days of the week.

Do you live...

Our members live within and outside the Waterside area.

Which of the following best describes your gender?

Our members are predominantly male.

What is your age?

Our members are predominantly of retirement age.

Are there any children or young people up to the age of 18 living in your household (including yourself)?

Unlikely to apply to most of our members.

Is your ability to move around the Waterside area limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Our members' demographic means that some will answer Yes.

What is your ethnic group?

Our members are predominantly White.

Future Consultations

Finally, to help us improve access to future consultations, please tell us where you first heard about this consultation.

Our members heard about this consultation across most of the outlets mentioned.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA MRTPI (Rtd) MTPS
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board

Waterside Transport Strategy