

Item 9 - Question Time

To the Chair of the Planning, Development & Infrastructure Committee

“Can I have an update on your discussion about an A830 extension at the most recent joint meeting between Highland Council and Transport Scotland?”

Response to Mr A Baxter

A scheduled liaison meeting with Transport Scotland took place on 9th June 2016.

Amongst the range of topics discussed at the meeting was the A82 Congestion and the A830 Extension. The request from the Lochaber members for a ‘mini’ STAG appraisal was passed on at the meeting but Transport Scotland officials indicated that a ‘mini’ STAG would not be appropriate. The STAG process should be proportionate but, at this point in time, Transport Scotland were not prepared to fund a full STAG appraisal.

Transport Scotland confirmed that modelling work has been carried with a view of relieving congestion on the A82. It was agreed that the Transport Scotland Officer in attendance would discuss further with appropriate colleagues and report back to the Head of Planning and Environment in due course. An update from Transport Scotland is awaited. The next scheduled liaison meeting with Transport Scotland is due to be held in December 2016.

However, the Transport Minister has recently announced that work has started on an amended National Transport Strategy and revision of the Strategic Transport Projects Review to inform priorities that Scottish Government will take forward. This will take provide an opportunity to lobby for reconsideration of the A830 Extension.