

**Written Statement to the Environment and Community Services  
Committee Meeting - Wednesday, 18th January, 2017**

**Re: Agenda Item 11 - Bromley Heath Viaduct Maintenance Options**

**North Bristol SusCom Ltd.** is a group of major employers, located in North Bristol, promoting **sustainable commuting** to our 40,000 employees, 30,000 students and visitors. We are working together to influence and improve local sustainable transport provision to **combat traffic congestion** and reduce the impact upon our environment.

North Bristol SusCom supported both the Maintenance Challenge and Cycling Ambition Fund bids by South Gloucestershire, parts of which are being discussed here in relation to Bromley Heath Viaduct. Addressing the need for improved cycling and pedestrian provision at Bromley Heath Viaduct has been a keen priority in our Group Travel Plan and is regularly raised as a key pinch point/safety concern by our cycle commuters.

We support the recommendations in the report to identify additional funding to ensure the works are carried out in a much quicker way.

There are a few specific points we would like the Committee to consider in the implementation of the Bromley Heath viaduct works:

- **METROBUS** - The works are proposed to commence in the Summer of 2017. Metrobus is expected to be launched in the Autumn of 2017. Commuters (across a wide range of modes) in the North Fringe have experienced significant disruption due to the Metrobus works currently underway. There is already a significant amount of good will that needs to be restored and expectations on what Metrobus will deliver will be high. To launch the service in the midst of significant additional roadworks seems foolish as the Metrobus service will be severely impacted by the closure of the Southern Viaduct. More consideration needs to be given to this issue.
- **TIMING** - If the works can be accelerated further then more thought should be given to the timing of those works –



to take place when alternatives to car transport are more likely to be attractive (i.e. spring, summer). Discussions should also be held with organisations like the University of the West of England who say that major road disruptions have the biggest impact in Sept/Oct/Nov as students are arriving on campus and settling in, and the Bristol and Bath Science Park who are hosting the South Gloucestershire Business Show on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 when people from all over the Region will be travelling to Emersons Green for a two day event.

- **ALTERNATIVES TO THE CAR** – It is absolutely vital that alternatives to the car are promoted and supported during the works to help reduce the number of people travelling through the area in single car occupancy vehicles. This is a great opportunity to support people who do have alternatives to take these up. Major roadworks are a fantastic opportunity to help people understand how they can help reduce the impact of the works by car sharing, walking and cycling, taking the bus in addition to avoiding the area where possible. More effort or joined up thinking should be taking place about how we can minimise the impact of the roadworks. It is also absolutely vital that cyclists, pedestrians and buses are give priority though the roadworks to help encourage that modal shift.

Yours Sincerely



Ann O'Driscoll  
Director  
13 January 2017