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Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
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Date: 13 January 2022

Dear Convener

**REDUCING CAR USE FOR A HEALTHIER, FAIRER AND GREENER SCOTLAND:
A ROUTE MAP TO ACHIEVE A 20% REDUCTION IN CAR KILOMETRES BY 2030**

I am writing to the committee as a courtesy to alert members to the publication of the Scottish Government's route map outlining the approach needed to reduce car kilometres travelled by 20% by 2030 on Transport Scotland's website. I announced its publication to Parliament in my statement this afternoon.

The [route map](#), co-developed by Transport Scotland and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), sets out how we will achieve our Climate Change Plan update commitment to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030, in order to meet our statutory obligations for greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2045.

Transport is Scotland's highest carbon emitting sector (accounting for nearly 30% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions) and the largest source of transport emissions is cars (with cars making up almost 40% of transport emissions). This is why this outcome is pivotal not only to meeting our transport emissions envelope, but to meeting our statutory emissions targets more broadly set as part of the cross-party support during the passage of the Climate Change Act 2019.

Achieving a 20% reduction in car use will require significant behaviour change from all sectors of society.

We recognise that using cars less may be more challenging for some people in certain geographical locations and those who have certain travel needs such as specific disabilities,

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we want to ensure that we enable an inclusive conversation on sustainable travel. Securing a just transition is at the heart of the route map recognising the inequalities in the status quo. We have structured the route map around a range of sustainable travel behaviours that people can choose to adopt. Our aim is to enable everyone in Scotland to feel empowered to re-think their car use behaviour for as many journeys as possible.

As such the route map presents a framework of four sustainable travel behaviours to help reduce car use, these are:

1. **rethink the need to travel** (use online options where available/sustainable)
2. **live well locally** (choose a more local destination to meet your needs)
3. **switch modes** (to walk, wheel, cycle, or use public transport where possible)
4. **combine or share car trips** (where the other options are not feasible)

Supporting and encouraging people to achieve these changes forms the basis of the 30 plus interventions identified in the route map between now and 2030 to enable each of the four behaviours.

Alongside the publication of the route map, we are launching a 12-week public consultation, closing on the 6 April 2022, which will enable us to begin a national conversation on car use. Specifically we are seeking public views on the approach taken in the route map; as well as opinions on the potential impacts, and mitigation of those impacts, of the interventions on groups with protected characteristics, island communities, and across socio-economic disparity. While we will of course be promoting the consultation widely, I would hope members might encourage stakeholders, communities and individuals to take part.

I trust that you will share with me in supporting the commitment to reduce car km 20% by 2030 and publication of the route map. Reducing our reliance on private car use can significantly improve the places we live in and our quality of life. The benefits of living in communities which are less dominated by cars are well known. These include improved air quality and reduced noise, better health and wellbeing as a result of increased physical activity, reduced negative economic and social impacts of congestion and road danger, and increased opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to interact in improved areas of civic space.

I hope this update is helpful.



GRAEME DEY

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