

Worcester Transport Strategy Major Scheme Bid (Phase 1) Best and Final Bid

Letter to Department for Transport 8 September 2011

Mr Robert Fox
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
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I am pleased to enclose the Worcestershire County Council's Best and Final Funding Bid (BAFFB) to the Department for Transport for the Worcester Transport Strategy Major Scheme.

Investment in Worcester's transport network is essential to support the well being of the city, its residents, economy and environment. The Worcester Transport Strategy BAFFB Package is designed to:

- support the economy, through: increased reliability; less congestion, reduced transport costs for businesses and other users and improved public realm
- reduce carbon emissions, through: improving traffic flows along key corridors, reducing the volume of through traffic having to operate via the congested city centre and associated Air Quality Management Areas, improving travel choice by enhancing the attractiveness of walk, cycle and public transport for journeys to, from and within Worcester.
- enable greater participation in the local community, through: Improved labour market connectivity across all transport modes, better connectivity between key residential, employment, health, retail, leisure and education facilities and improving transport related safety and security

We are very aware of the current economic climate and the associated constraints on public spending. Recognising these financial pressures and the ongoing need to deliver a fit for purpose transport network for Worcester, the BAFFB Package of measures has been identified. This alternative to the Worcester Transport Strategy

Major Scheme submitted in April 2010 reduces the cost of the package from £51 million to £20.4million. The funding being sought from the DfT is substantially reduced from £46million to £14.6million. The local and third party contribution now represents over 25% of the package costs (compared with 10% for the April 2010 submission).

Our appraisal has shown that the BAFFB Package represents excellent value for money and will deliver real benefits to Worcester's and Worcestershire's residents and businesses.

Consultation has already been undertaken with key stakeholders who appreciate the importance of this bid to the future success of the City of Worcester as a prosperous, sustainable city. With this in mind, I look forward to hearing the outcome of the bidding process and hope that the result is favourable for Worcester.

Peter Blake

Head of Integrated Transport