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I am writing to you regarding the issue of government guidance for tram schemes. Research by the Campaign for Better Transport suggests that tram schemes are frequently disadvantaged, compared to bus and rail schemes, by current government guidance relating to major scheme business cases and local public transport.

I understand that trams are frequently regarded as an expensive alternative owing to no central government revenue being available, and their being wholly dependent on PFI initiatives as a result of this.

I am sure you will agree that trams are an excellent way of reducing traffic and promoting environmentally friendly transport in urban areas, yet we have fewer of them in Britain than in the vast majority of European countries.

I would therefore be grateful if you would consider amending existing major scheme business case guidance, and LTP3 guidance, so as to facilitate a greater number of tram schemes across Britain.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Norman Baker
Lib Dem Shadow Secretary of State for Transport