

26<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Colin Knight  
Head of Traffic and Transport  
Bristol City Council  
Wilder House  
Wilder Street  
Bristol BS2 8PH

Dear Colin

### **Rapid Transit – Ashton Vale to Temple Meads**

Wessex Connect is pleased to support the four councils in the West of England in their submission of the Major Scheme Business Case for the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads rapid transit scheme.

Wessex Connect has worked closely with the councils in improving the quality of public transport travel in the Greater Bristol area. As you know we are also the current operators of the existing, successful 903 park and ride service between the Long Ashton park and ride site and Bristol city centre, and have already invested substantially in new, accessible vehicles for this service.

Rapid transit will provide a high profile upgrade to this service and will link closely with expected major development sites in the area. The route will also initiate the delivery of a wider Greater Bristol rapid transit network to substantially improve public transport provision across and beyond the city.

Subject to its own appraisal of operating costs and passenger numbers and operating agreement details, Wessex Connect would be pleased to provide high quality vehicles to operate the rapid transit service. We understand the vehicle specification envisaged by the councils is for a low emission, articulated vehicle with an ambience and appearance similar to a tram, and Wessex Connect will be keen to discuss this specification with prospective manufacturers to meet the councils' requirements.

Yours sincerely,



Antony Goozee  
Business Development Director  
For Wessex Connect