

02 September 2009

Barbara Davies, Head of Joint Transport Team

Copy to Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Chair of Scrutiny committee and Keith Walton SCRP

A statement from a member of the public inspired by the West of England Partnership Joint Scrutiny Meeting minutes (3 July) to be made on Fri 4 Sep

The July minutes note that the Joint Committee received a presentation by the Chair of the West of England Partnership Joint Transport Committee, Councillor Charles Gerrish and a statement on JLTP3 from an officer. Since July, the Joint Local Transport Plan Progress Report 2008/9 has been published which has some useful details.

For example, the 15% increased patronage of rail in the Bristol area (Fig 7 ), and the 22% passenger increase on the Severn Beach line since 2006 ( 20) \* are in the Joint Local Transport Plan Progress Report 2008/9. It's crucial that this success is used as an argument for increased frequency to other stations in the JLTP area such as Keynsham, Patchway, Yate and Pilning. Councillors in the WEP area, knowing that the "increased funding by Bristol City Council is proving attractive to passengers," should feel confident in such expenditure.

Continuation of the funding on the Severn Beach line from 2011 needs to be negotiated with DfT as soon as possible. Nottingham City Council is already negotiating with the DfT for the continuation of a service, which they are currently subsidizing, on the Robin Hood line.

The September issue of New Transit carries a 'compare and contrast feature with **Bristol:** 'poor and a great frustration' and **Nottingham:** a UK success story'. The writer backs up the argument by quoting Dawn Primarolo MP and letters to the Bristol Evening Post and to DP saying that "residents regard (a guided bus network) as second best to light rail. Surely our rail growth, if increased, can partially solve this problem

WEP Progress Report rail trips (Table 1) must include a strategy for this aspiration. Rail should also be included in the Congestion Delivery Plan. (13).

WEP minutes record that councillors are keen to involve the public. A clear presentation in the Bristol Evening Post and at the October and the November Public Transport meetings are essential.

Julie Boston, FOSBR campaigns organiser

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\*40% increase since May 2008 SCRP figure