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EARL EXPRESS

FAST FACTS

- By 2026 EARL will remove 1.7 million road trips per year from the road network.
- For every £1 of cost EARL will deliver £2.16 in transport benefits.
- 71% of businesses surveyed confirmed that EARL was important to their business.
- EARL has the support of 83% of Scotland's population.
- An estimated 17% of airport passengers will use EARL in 2011, rising to 22% by 2026.

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EARL GRANTED PRELIMINARY STAGE APPROVAL

tie Limited, the promoter of the Edinburgh Airport Rail Link Bill (EARL Bill), has welcomed the Scottish Parliament's decision to support the general principles of the EARL Bill.

The scheme will place Edinburgh Airport at the centre of the national rail network. It will deliver £920 million transport benefits over the first 30 years of its operation and £1.35 billion of transport benefits over 60 years.

EARL will stimulate economic growth across the Edinburgh city region and Scotland as a whole by enhancing Scotland's global, national and regional competitiveness and greatly improve connectivity.

EARL will encourage inward investment in Scotland and assist and support the growth of Scottish tourism. It will reduce traffic congestion, providing a sustainable alternative transport option to the private car and facilitate the creation of an integrated public transport hub at Edinburgh Airport.

Barry Cross, Project Director, EARL, said: "We welcome the result of the vote on the general principles of the EARL Bill.

This vote underlines the importance of EARL to the whole of Scotland and echoes the views of the Scottish public and business communities.

"The EARL Committee has been unequivocal in its requirements for the Bill to complete its parliamentary stages successfully. tie has a clear understanding of the work to be undertaken for the project to progress to completion. tie will continue to work with Transport Scotland, BAA and Network Rail to ensure the Committee's questions and objectors' comments are addressed.

"tie also acknowledges the reasonable request that further information should be provided to the Parliament on the funding of the project and on the assessment of alternative methods of establishing a rail link to Edinburgh Airport. tie is committed to providing the necessary information in the course of the Consideration Stage.

"We are pleased that the Parliament recognises the benefits EARL brings to Scotland and the positive benefit to cost ratio, along with the role EARL will play in getting drivers out of their cars and on to public transport."

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

One of the key policy objectives for EARL is to offer a sustainable public transport alternative for accessing Edinburgh Airport. EARL will encourage a shift from cars to trains, with an estimated 17% of passengers using the rail link in 2011, rising to 22% by 2026.

As the design of the EARL project progresses, we will seek to incorporate many initiatives to reduce emissions, conserve energy, minimise the production of waste and be a good neighbour to the local communities. Ideas currently being researched include:



- The utilisation of local products and services
- Innovative methods of reducing energy consumption at the station
- Using eco-cement
- Seeking waste exchange programmes with other local construction projects

Our assessment will take into account the 'whole life' costs of the sustainable initiatives in addition to capital costs to ensure long term value for the project.

The EARL team are committed to promoting sustainable development in Scotland. A sustainability workshop has already been held and sustainability objectives have been set. tie has also prepared a Sustainable Policy.

If you have any suggestions for sustainable initiatives, please email: info@earlproject.com

EARL CONSULTATION PROCESS

EARL has undertaken an unprecedented level of public consultation since November 2004, and this work is still ongoing. Consultation work enables us to find out what other people think, and also creates an opportunity for people to feedback their views to us. Results from the 2004 consultation showed that 83% of those consulted in Scotland thought EARL was a good idea.

In the EARL Preliminary Stage Report, which was submitted in September, the EARL Committee acknowledged this work, and said:

"The Committee agrees with the promoter that an unprecedented amount of consultation was undertaken. The

Committee acknowledges the diverse techniques used...and believes this has gone some way towards encouraging support for the scheme and that EARL is a better scheme for that consultation."

More recently the EARL team attended Community Council meetings in Kirkliston and Newton. EARL has organised an open day for Kirkliston on 17 October. This will be held at the Kirkliston Community Centre from 4pm to 8pm.

Community Council meetings will also take place in Winchburgh, Cramond and Ratho during October and November, where the team will provide a project update and answer questions.

EVENING NEWS OPINION POLL

In September The Evening News asked their readers the following question, and the results speak for themselves!

Should the rail link plans for Edinburgh be scaled down or even abandoned?

No, a line under the runway will provide the quickest access.....82%

Yes, a station at Turnhouse would cost much less.....16%

Yes, the link won't be necessary when trams start.....2%

OBJECTIONS REMOVED!

Four key objectors have now withdrawn their objections to the EARL Bill. Royal Mail, O2, Scottish Power Energy Networks and Grampian Country Food Group all removed their objections during the last three months.



If you have any ideas or feedback on the EARL Newsletter, we would be delighted to hear from you! Please submit any comments to the EARL website.

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