

Save the Woodhead Tunnel

News Release, April 2009

Bypass decision puts Woodhead on the right track

Local campaign group Save the Woodhead Tunnel have welcomed the decision of leaders in the North West to de-prioritise funding for the Mottram-Tintwistle A628 bypass and believe the move opens the way to a re-opening of the trans-Pennine Woodhead rail route.

The decision, made by 4NW, means local leaders are looking for quick, achievable and sustainable ways of reducing traffic flows in the Longendale/Glossop area. The Save the Woodhead Tunnel group have long argued that re-opening the Manchester-Sheffield line would take freight and passengers off the road and on to rail.

“At £100m a mile the bypass never made economic sense and Highways Agency figures show traffic would actually rise in the local areas as a result of it being built”, says Save the Woodhead Tunnel spokesman Jonathan Atkinson.

“Everything is in place to re-open the Woodhead line for freight and passengers, relieving traffic congestion in the Longendale/Glossop area, all that is missing is the political will at the highest level. The Woodhead line makes sense economically and environmentally for the communities that line the route.”

Campaigners are now hoping transport secretary Geoff Hoon will impose weight restrictions on A628 to take heavy haulage traffic off the route and commission a full feasibility study into re-opening the Woodhead rail line.

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For further information:

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