

Rail Action Group, East of Scotland

Insert with The Rages Rag Issue 38

Visit of the Minister for Transport

When RAGES had its meeting with Stewart Stevenson, MSP and Minister for Transport at Holyrood in March, he suggested that he would like to visit East Lothian and Berwickshire to see the possible station sites at East Linton and

Reston and also the existing Dunbar station.

This has now been organised for 5 August when he will be carrying out his visit as promised.

It is encouraging for RAGES, and hopefully for you as members, that he is taking this visit seriously by dedicating most of a day to it.

Edinburgh to Dunbar Service

It has come to our notice via the Scotsman newspaper that Transport Scotland are launching a consultation into additional rail services between Edinburgh and Dunbar.

Scottish Ministers wish the First ScotRail Franchisee to operate additional services between Edinburgh and Dunbar to fill known gaps in the present service:

- 06:30 Monday to Friday, Dunbar to Edinburgh
- 21:30 Monday to Thursday, Edinburgh to Dunbar
- 22:50 Fridays only, Edinburgh to Dunbar

In addition to the above, the Franchisee will be asked to carry out a study, at no cost to Scottish Ministers, outlining options and details around the implementation on an hourly service between Dunbar and Edinburgh.

The implementation of additional services "... will be carried out upon 18 months' notice from Scottish Ministers before the Passenger Change Date when services shall commence."

The implementation of the study will be carried out within 12 months from now.

Tom Thorburn, Chairman of RAGES, said:

"It is pleasing to see that Scottish Ministers are requesting First ScotRail to provide services to Dunbar. The true addition to Dunbar services is the 21:30 as the other two services are currently provided by Cross Country. The proposal to bring First ScotRail to Dunbar is indeed good, in that they will have drivers trained in readiness for a more fulfilled and deserved service which would benefit this rapidly expanding town.

"I feel that the 21:30 Monday to Thursday would be of far greater benefit if it had been timed to 22:50 and was expanded to Monday to Sunday. Having a seven day 22:50 service would greatly improve the current situation of 19:00 last train on a Saturday and also remove any possible threat to the 21:00 service to York which currently stops at Dunbar and Berwick.

"Finally, it would have been nice to have seen the timescales of 18 months for these services and 12 months for the study into provision of an hourly service being reduced."