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Ministear an Àiteachais agus Ceangal
Jim Fairlie MSP
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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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09 September 2025

Dear Convener,

You will be interested to note the launch of the £20 million Bus Infrastructure Fund in this financial year 2025-26. Delivering improvements to bus services through the infrastructure that supports them is a key priority for this government. Bus makes significant contributions to all the First Minister's priorities: eradicating child poverty, growing the economy and tackling the climate emergency and improving Scotland's public services.

Improving the quality of bus infrastructure will assist in perceived safety; make it easier to access bus services; improve integration between bus and other modes of transport; and make bus journeys shorter and more reliable. This will provide benefits for existing bus passengers as well as encouraging people to leave their cars at home and take the bus.

As with the Scottish Government's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund, the Bus Infrastructure Fund has two tiers. Tier 1 has been distributed directly to Local Authorities for bus infrastructure via the General Capital Grant using a methodology based on levels of transport poverty. For Tier 2 funding is being awarded to Local Authorities on behalf of voluntary Bus Partnerships (consisting of Local Authorities, Regional Transport Partnerships, Bus Operators and other key stakeholders) that were previously undertaking work through the Bus Partnership Fund, including on bus priority.

The Bus Infrastructure Fund will allow for the development, design and delivery of projects at varying scales across Scotland. These include smaller scale accessibility and other improvements to local bus stops or junctions to improve bus operations. Other projects funded will improve interchange between bus and modes of travel. Also funded is the development of large scale bus priority on some of the key routes into Scotland's main cities including Perth, Inverness, Glasgow and Dundee, often alongside active travel improvements.

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It is a capital fund replacing the Bus Partnership and Community Bus Funds representing an evolution of the support we provide for bus infrastructure and bringing them under one funding banner. Officials have been working with stakeholders in its preparation, including the Confederation of Passenger Transport, the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers and COSLA.

I would be grateful if you could bring the launch of this fund and the increase in funding to the attention of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE

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