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20<sup>th</sup> December 2005

Mr S Ramsey  
Aberdeen City Council  
Environment and Infrastructure Services  
St. Nicholas House  
Broad Street  
ABERDEEN  
AB10 1EZ

Dear Mr Ramsay,

**Proposed Mandatory 20mph speed limit – central Aberdeen**  
**Transport Infrastructure**

The Aberdeen Cycle Forum wishes to re-iterate its full support for the proposed 20mph outer zone option. We would wish, though, to restate one important amendment.

We believe that the 20mph zone will make the city centre a safer and more attractive area, for cyclists as well as pedestrians. It will play a part in helping the council achieve its policy goal of increasing levels of cycling in the city. It rebalances the city centre towards the needs of non-motorised users and we believe the zone will add to the vitality and viability of the city centre. Indeed, evidence from the Commission for Integrated Transport shows that 20mph (30kph) zones have been instrumental in enhancing the fortunes of city centres, alongside a range of other pro public transport and cycling measures.

However, we believe enforcement is vital to achieve the benefits of this policy. We do not subscribe to the view that the zone will make no real difference as typical speeds are around 20mph. This may be true at peak times, but outside peak periods drivers regularly travel at speeds in excess of this and, indeed, in excess of the current 30mph limit both on Union Street and surrounding streets. Moreover, a common concern reported to the Forum is the speed and 'behaviour' of buses on Union Street. We would therefore wish to see effective enforcement of the new lower speed limit.

We would ask that Committee reconsider the Forum's original request to integrate the top end of College Street and its junction with Guild Street into the zone. This area was the outstanding safety concern for the Cycle Forum in response to the College Street proposals. A small extension to the 20mph zone, running north from the toucan crossing on College Street where the cycle lane will end and where the dual carriageway will narrow even further, through the junction to Market Street would be of real safety benefit for

cyclists. This slight extension will help the council achieve its stated aim that junction works associated with Union Street pedestrianisation be cycle friendly.

Yours sincerely

Derek Williams for  
Aberdeen Cycle Forum