

28 July 2005

Plans to aid travellers during Lothian Buses strike

Bus lane restrictions (Green ways) will be suspended on Saturday 30 July due to the continued industrial action by Lothian Buses' drivers, announced the City of Edinburgh Council today.

The decision is intended to ease travel problems and keep traffic moving safely as no Lothian Buses services will be running on Saturday or on Sunday 31 July.

The lifting of restrictions does NOT include the A90 (which serves the Ferry Toll Park & Ride site in Fife), any sections of 'contra-flow' bus lane and any sections of road (such as Princes Street) that are designated bus only.

Other bus operators' services are expected to operate as normal. However it is unlikely that the operators will be able to offer any additional capacity for passengers who would normally use Lothian Buses' routes. Traveline has details of other operators' timetables.

Those coming into Edinburgh on Saturday or Sunday should consider using other modes of transport. Edinburgh is well served by cycle and pedestrian routes. It is also well served by rail in the form of Crossrail. This incorporates Edinburgh Park, Haymarket, Waverley, Brunstane and Newcraighall. Newcraighall has a 560 space Park and Ride site on the A1 and a 30-minute train frequency during the day on Saturday. There is no Sunday service from Newcraighall.

Councillor Andrew Burns, Executive Member for Transport said:

"This weekend will see continued industrial action by Lothian Bus drivers and the City of Edinburgh Council has again announced temporary measures to help ease travel and keep traffic moving safely on strike days. The Edinburgh Jazz Festival will obviously continue as normal over the weekend and I hope all those interested in this major event will continue to attend - many alternative modes of travel are available. I sincerely hope that this dispute is resolved soon and that no further damage is done to Edinburgh's economy."

Note to Editors:

Any additional industrial action, or change to the notified industrial action, must be preceded by seven days' written notice from the trade union.

More information is available at: www.transport-edinburgh.org.uk/

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