

APPENDIX D

STATEMENT FROM THE BUS OPERATOR

A6 Bus Lane, Oadby

“ The relatively recent introduction of bus lanes along the A6 at Oadby has been most welcome, particularly as it follows on from the huge financial investment that Arriva Midlands made two or three years ago when we introduced a fleet of ultra modern low floor easy-access double deckers on the Oadby 31 and 31A group of services which operate into and out of Leicester City Centre every 6 minutes during the day time. The new Oadby section of bus lane of course also fully compliments the various other sections of bus priority that already existed along London Road within the city boundary.

“ Whilst the new section of bus lane along the A6 has undoubtedly helped our buses progress more efficiently along what can be an extremely congested section of highway at peak times it is unfortunately rather difficult at present to actually measure any overall saving of journey times on the route as a whole. The reason for this difficulty is because for much of the period of time since the new section of bus lane has been introduced there have been numerous road works schemes in both Oadby and in Leicester that have unfortunately delayed our services from time to time. Perhaps the most obvious and current example of such a scheme are the lane restrictions near to Leicester Railway Station which have been introduced to allow the construction of a new pedestrian crossing to replace the underpass. However, without the benefits gained from the aforementioned bus lanes the overall impact of these various road works schemes to our services would no doubt have been even greater and would have caused our customers serious inconvenience with buses running very late.

“ There is absolutely no doubt that the provision of bus lanes as well as other bus priority initiatives do play an extremely important part in making public transport a much more attractive proposition to both current and potential bus users. If the Local Authorities are going to achieve their ambitions of reducing the levels of traffic congestion by encouraging a greater use of public transport then the new Oadby bus lane is a good example of the way forward.

“ S. P. Smith
Area Business Manager Leicestershire
Arriva Midlands ”