



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Oliver Coppard
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

Sent by email

6 September 2022

Dear Oliver

Re: Supertramlink services

Stagecoach Yorkshire recently wrote to me regarding the proposed removal of Supertramlink bus services and the introduction of a revised No.57 timetable in lieu of these services.

I am extremely concerned about the potential removal of these important services, given that they provide a vital transport link between Stocksbridge and Sheffield, via villages such as Oughtibridge.

Whilst I understand the No. 57 would continue to serve the western side of Oughtibridge, for example, the eastern side (along Langsett Road S) would have no suitable service between Stocksbridge and Sheffield.

Over recent weeks, I have heard from a number of my constituents regarding bus services in the constituency, particularly regarding the reliability of the Supertramlink services and their concern that the services may be withdrawn altogether. Concerned parties include senior citizens, commuters, students, and those who have no access to a vehicle, and all of whom would experience grave difficulties if the SL1/SL1a services were withdrawn.

Since learning that SYMCA had not been successful in its bid to secure money from central government for the Bus Service Improvement Plan, and acknowledging that passenger numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, I have been pressing my colleagues in government for COVID funding to be extended to secure the short-term future of local bus services. I am therefore pleased that it has now been confirmed that the funding will extend through to March 2023.

Therefore I am writing to urge you to work with bus operators to see that this funding is used to continue to run critical services such as the Supertramlink. During this period I would also hope to see passenger numbers return, and possibly a more flexible approach to bus capacity being provided.

I consider this to be an urgent matter and I trust that you will work with bus operators to see that bus services continue to deliver the needs of local communities across South Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely

Miriam Cates MP
Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge