



Maritime Transport Limited

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The Planning Department
North Warwickshire Borough Council
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
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29th September 2022

Dear Planning Department

Re. Land North East Junction 10 M42 - Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal

I write in response to the planning application submitted in December 2021 under reference PAP/2021/0663 relating to Land North East Junction 10 M42.

Overview

Maritime Transport Ltd ("Maritime") operate strategically placed rail freight terminals across the UK serving the largest manufacturing and consumer conurbations, with rail freight terminals in Wakefield, Trafford Park, Tilbury, Mossend, Tamworth (BIFT), Hams Hall, and East Midlands Gateway.

Maritime has operated the Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal ("BIFT") near Tamworth since it was purchased in 2014, albeit we understand that it commenced operations in 2006.

Amongst its benefits, rail freight can reduce CO2 emissions over road freight by 76% per tonne carried, helping us and our customers' to reduce the carbon footprint of supply chain logistics in line with ambitious sustainability and Net Zero Carbon targets. It also reduces vehicle time on the road network and provides resilience in the supply chain.

Operations and Spare Capacity at the Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal

At BIFT, we operate 5 trains per day (an increase from 3 trains per day in 2016) to the major ports of Felixstowe, Tilbury, London Gateway, and Southampton. BIFT has plenty of spare capacity and could operate up to 8 trains per day on existing infrastructure.

All lines to BIFT have full W10 gauge clearance to allow large containers to arrive direct from coastal ports and the Terminal is AFSSO regulated meaning it can accept trains direct from Europe. The current throughput of rail bound containers at BIFT is approximately 80,000 containers per annum. This is an increase from approximately 40,000 in 2014 and 50,000 in 2016. On existing infrastructure, BIFT could accommodate 8 trains per day equating to approximately 110,000 – 130,000 containers per annum. With further investment on the rail network by Network Rail and the freeing of capacity that HS2 is expected to provide more than 8 daily trains could be added.



Customer Proximity & Sustainability Efficiencies

The BIFT user base is located mostly at the local sub-region, with 50% of all rail bound containers delivered or collected within 10 miles radius of the Terminal and 80% within a 20 mile radius. Locally based users include Euro Car Parts and AP Moller Maersk. Furthermore, the move to electrification of road based vehicles and consequent requirement for regular re-charging means close proximity to users is becoming increasingly important.

The growing breadth of our freight terminals across the UK has also allowed us to increase the volumes of goods transported by rail between single customers' locations with a significant reduction in carbon footprint when compared to road base solutions.

Development Proposals

The development proposals at Land NE Junction 10 M42 are of clear interest given the scheme's proximity and would help support our plans to expand the use of rail at BIFT and increase utilisation of existing services.

We therefore support the proposed development and would be very interested to learn more information should planning permission be granted.

With kind regards



Chief Executive Officer