

Ramblers Scotland response to consultation on A83 project corridor options – access to Argyll and Bute, October 2020

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/project-corridor-options-access-to-argyll-and-bute-a83/>

We welcome the opportunity to comment but would point out that it's very difficult to give an informed response to these options as there is no indication of the indicative costings of each one, nor of the comparative advantages/disadvantages in terms of the mileage or time requirements to travel, for example, from Glasgow to the ferry port at Kennacraig.

As a general point, we would like to flag up that many of the roads/routes which are under consideration are well used options for non-motorised users, especially cyclists and walkers. It is imperative that there is a full assessment of these users' needs to be incorporated in each option. Project design and costs should include the development of alternative paths, either parallel to but separated from the road or else making use of a nearby route which does not add to the distance of the current option, given that the upgrade of these routes to busy trunk roads would make them dangerous and unattractive to non-motorised users.

We strongly support Option 1, as we believe retaining the existing corridor will be the best and most cost-effective option (although as noted above, no provisional initial costings have been provided), with the least disruption to other road users or those enjoying recreation in the area.

We strongly object to Options 2 and 3 in particular which would result in a new road being developed along glens which currently have no public road and which are used as recreational routes. These options also face the same risks relating to climate-related environmental factors as the current corridor. We see no advantage in pursuing these options, especially as they would also require more traffic to use the A82 from Tarbert to Ardlui or Inverarnan which is already busy and extremely dangerous for non-motorised users.

We do not support any of the other options.

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