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5th June 2007

NEWS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE

MEETING IN PUBLIC OF TRAVELWATCH NORTHWEST

The next public forum of TravelWatch NorthWest, the body representing the interests of all public transport users in the North West will take place in County Hall, Pitt Street, Preston on Saturday 9th June between 10.30 and 13.30 hrs. The meeting is sponsored by National Express.

This will be the first public meeting of TWNW since its recent incorporation as a Community Interest Company. Peter Robinson, TWNW's new Chair, lives in Grange over Sands and played a key part in the case for retention of the Settle-Carlisle line in the 1980s. He was a director of the West Coast Rail 250 campaign between 1992 and 2005 and member of the Rail Passengers Committee NW England from 1999 to 2005. He has been involved with TWNW since its inception in 2003.

Chris Dale, Deputy Chair of TWNW, from Macclesfield, is a member of Bus Users UK and a Director of Transport 2000. He is also a member of the Policy Council for Transport 2000. Chris played an instrumental part in saving the subsidised evening and Sunday bus services which were threatened with total withdrawal by Cheshire County Council in 2003. He has been involved in local transport campaigns for about 20 years.

The agenda will focus on coach travel with presentations from Mike Lambden, Head of Corporate Affairs, National Express; Alan Scoles, President of the Confederation for Passenger Transport; and Phil Tonks, Bus Users UK.

There will also be updates on -

- The Concessionary Bus Travel Bill
- The Local Transport Bill
- Network Rail's Route Utilisation Strategies
- The NW Regional Spatial Strategy

In addition an "Open Forum" session will give the opportunity for all present to ask a question or make a short statement on any public transport issue of concern.