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80 mph - skewed priorities put people and planet at risk again

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The proposal to increase motorway speed limits to 80mph will please the Top Gear lobby but not those concerned about safety or sustainability, people or planet. Motorways will become increasingly unsafe, with some 50 to 100 additional deaths and serious injuries predicted each year.

Fuel consumption and carbon emissions will increase significantly. Time savings will be made, though these will often be lost at the next tail back, or simply used to extend the spread of commuting dormitories. Any perceived economic benefit to getting somewhere faster will only be lost in higher fuel costs.

Our hyper mobility will come at a cost, and the faster we go, the less it is worth paying.

For further information contact:

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Notes for journalists:

RoadPeace

RoadPeace is an independent national charity, providing practical information, emotional support and advocacy to those affected by road crashes; as well as campaigning for justice for road crash victims and for road danger reduction, with a focus on reducing the volume, speed and dominance of motorised traffic and promoting cycling and walking.

RoadPeace was a winner of the Guardian Charity Award in 2008:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/video/2008/dec/04/guardian-charity-awards-roadpeace>

RoadPeace was founded in 1992 on the principle of road danger reduction (RDR) which places a greater duty of care on those that pose the greater threat, and argues for danger to be controlled at source through reducing the speed, volume and dominance of motorised traffic. RDR differs from traditional road safety in that it also takes into account the other negative consequences of inappropriate and excessive motor vehicle use such as fear and intimidation, environmental impact and public health issues, . adopting a wider approach that considers not only the quantity of death and injury by crashes, but also the effects of inappropriate and excessive motor vehicle use on the quality of life and the environment.