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Get on Your Bike! New move to Integrate Cycling with Rail Travel in east Anglia

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Cyclists in East Anglia were welcomed back on to the railways today with a boost from the Shadow Strategic Rail Authority.

The SSRA has awarded £56,000 to a scheme - proposed by Anglia Railways - to create storage for bikes and motor bikes at car parks across their network. The funding will provide 520 secure parking spaces including the installation of 220 cycle stands and 150 ground loops for secure motorbike parking.

The award has been made under the Rail Passenger Partnership fund, which is specifically aimed at attracting new passengers to local services.

Making the announcement, the SSRA's Chief Executive, Mike Grant commented:

"My message to cyclists and motor cyclists in East Anglia is simple - we are making it the railway more accessible - now is the time to use your train service.

"By funding this environmentally friendly scheme, intended to integrate two wheeled transport with rail travel, we hope to encourage passengers to leave their cars at home and use their bikes to get to the station instead. Similar applications from other operators and local authorities elsewhere in Great Britain will be welcomed."

Notes to editors:

1. The Rail Passenger Partnership scheme was announced in the Government's 1998 Integrated Transport White Paper and is an important building block in the SSRA's strategy of attracting passengers to rail.
2. Totalling £105 million, it provides RPP support for three years from 1999/2000 to 2001/2002. There is a fast track assessment system, launched in March, which allows schemes requiring less than £100,000 to be dealt with more swiftly.
3. The bidding process for RPP was announced by the SSRA in May 1999.

For further details contact the Department for Transport Rail Press desk: 020 7944 3108