

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

28 APRIL 2010

REPORT OF KCC'S HEAD OF COUNTYWIDE IMPROVEMENTS

Report prepared by Andrew Burton, KCC Highway Schemes Manager

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

1.1 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- 1.1.1 **Note** the progress of the highway improvement programme
- 1.1.2 **Endorse** the construction of a zebra crossing in Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, as illustrated in Appendix B of this report
- 1.1.3 **Endorse** Officers' proposal that, of the remaining highway schemes scheduled to be built in 2010-11 (listed in Appendix A), only that for the A274 Maidstone Rd, Langley / Sutton Valence, be brought back to this Board for formal endorsement of the proposed works.

1.2 Background Documents

- 1.2.1 On 25 March 2010, Kent County Council's (KCC's) Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste announced the programme of works that would comprise the Integrated Transport Strategy 2010-11.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 Appendix A to this report details the progress of each scheme in the highway improvement programme, including previous years' schemes that were not completed by April 2010. Progress to date is summarised and anticipated progress prior to the next meeting of this Board is detailed. To help streamline these schemes' delivery and reduce the cost and bureaucracy of implementing the more minor highway alterations, officers recommend that only those alterations that markedly impact on the travelling public be reported in detail to this Board. Instead, only a status summary would be reported (to every meeting of this Board). Whilst it is acknowledged that this could remove a "reality check" from the existing process, Officers consider that this can still be ably provided through the local Member engagement that would still take place for every scheme. The schemes that would be affected by this change are identified in paragraph 2.2 of this report.

- 2.2 The last six schemes in Appendix A are those for which funding was agreed to be spent in 2010-11 as part of the Integrated Transport Strategy. These are described in more detail as follows:
- 2.2.1 MY 16 01 TD: A229 Running Horse Roundabout, Sandling. KCC proposes to carry out minor modifications to the road markings, traffic signs, street-lighting and crash barriers to reduce the risk of road traffic accidents at this large roundabout. In due course, local Members will be informed of precisely what changes are proposed, but it is not proposed to report these details to this Board seeking formal endorsement
- 2.2.2 MY 16 02 TD - A274 Maidstone Rd, Langley / Sutton Valence. Following a crash investigation report and the outcome of the joint KCC/Kent Police Speed Limit Review, KCC proposes to carry out changes to the speed limit, traffic signs and road markings between Five Wents and Sutton Valence so as to alter the drivers' environment. Minor modifications to the Five Wents and Warmlake crossroads are also proposed both to improve junction conspicuity and to assist drivers waiting to join the A274. The scheme designer will engage with Local Members and the Parish Council as part of the design process, before referring the final proposal to this board for endorsement.
- 2.2.3 MY 16 03 TD - Bus Routes 71 & 101. As part of KCC's high-level policy to improve accessibility for all, bus stop facilities along Routes 71 and 101 will be improved during 2010. Works to assist passengers on routes 71 (Maidstone-Ditton-Larkfield-Snodland) and 101 (Maidstone-Chatham-Gillingham) will include more shelters, improved lighting, raising the footway to make it easier to board, and providing pram ramps close to bus stops. Local Members will be informed of precisely what changes are proposed, but it is not proposed to report these details to this Board seeking formal endorsement.
- 2.2.4 MY 16 04 TD - Medway Valley Railway Line. As with the improvements to bus routes 71 & 101 above, this project is part of KCC's high-level policy to improve accessibility for all. Shortcomings and obstructions to access have been identified and have been scheduled into those that are on public and those that are on private land. All works on public land will be carried out in 2010-11 and will mostly comprise the installation of pram ramps, better signing and widening existing footways close to the stations south of Maidstone. In due course, Local Members will be informed of precisely what changes are proposed, but it is not proposed to report these details to this Board seeking formal endorsement. Implementation of works on private land (primarily that owned/leased by Network Rail or the train operating companies) cannot be assured until legal agreements with those parties has been obtained.
- 2.2.5 MY 16 05 TD - Maidstone Road, Nettlestead. Following a local request, KCC are proposing to install a zebra crossing in Maidstone Road, Nettlestead outside the village hall. Formal consultation commenced on 19 April and any responses received by the date of the meeting of this Board will be reported verbally on the evening. With this proviso, Members are asked to endorse the proposal, illustrated as Appendix B to this report.
- 2.2.6 MY 16 07 TD - A20 Ashford Road, Harrietsham. Following a local request, KCC is proposing to alter the roadmarkings on the A20 at its western junction with

West Street (the primary school end) to form a right-turn lane. Subject to the proposal passing safety audit, local Members will be informed of precisely what changes are proposed, but it is not proposed to report these details to this Board seeking formal endorsement.

- 2.3 Finally, Officers are currently preparing preliminary bids for inclusion in the 2011/12 Integrated Transport Programme for Kent. The bids for Maidstone are based on requests that have been received from Members, Parish Councils, this Board, the Borough Council and other representatives groups throughout the year. The bids will also include resubmission of schemes that have previously not received funding and those that contribute to achieving the objectives set out in Kent's Local Transport Plan. This year, in response to requests from Members, the Cabinet Member will be changing the policy used to prioritise these schemes. This is to take on board views received from Members and Officers on the current policy (the Scheme Prioritisation System) and to align with the new objectives in KCC's Local Transport Plan 3. The chairmen of the Joint Transportation Boards will be briefed on this revised policy in the next few weeks and a full list of the bids will be brought to the next meeting of this Board.

Appendix A: Programmed Highway Improvements Page 1 of 2

KHS Ref	Location	Description of Works	Current Progress	Anticipated Actions for next 3 months (Prior to next JTB)	Budget 2010-11	Forecast Out-turn	Kent Highway Services Contact 08458 247800
MG 74 10 ML	Heath Road Coxheath	2006-07 scheme: Speed management measures including physical measures to slow vehicular traffic	Works Completed	Scheme review due spring 2010, to be reported to the next meeting of this Board.	£0K	£1K	Andy Corcoran
MY 06 02 TD	Mote Park to Detling	Cycle Route	Design complete and works ordered	Works are scheduled to be carried out in May 2010	£8K	£10K	Simon Allsopp
MY 06 04 TD	Shepway Estate Maidstone	Replace traffic calming with "bus-friendly" humps	Trial has proved successful and design is underway	Works order to be placed, aiming for construction in October 2010	£100K	£100K	Andy Padgham
MY 06 06TD	Fant	Traffic calming (estimated cost £168K, spread over two financial years)	Construction started on 15 February and was due to be completed on 23 April	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£59K	£59K	Darren Hickman
MY 06 07TD	Ware Street, Bearsted	Zebra crossing west of railway bridge (Thurnham Parish)	Design complete and works ordered. Works are scheduled to be completed on 2 May '10	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£25K	£28K	Helen Cobby
EDUC	Castle Road - Allington	Zebra Crossing	Works Completed	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£nil	£24K	Helen Cobby
MY 16 01 TD	A229 Running Horse Roundabout Sandling	Casualty reduction measure	Funding was announced on 26 March 2010	Design to commence May 2010	£13K	£13K	Geoff Dance

Appendix A: Programmed Highway Improvements Page 2 of 2

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MY 16 02 TD	A274 Maidstone Rd, Langley / Sutton Valence	Casualty reduction measures between Five Wents and Sutton Valence	Funding was announced on 26 March 2010 and design commenced April 2010	Consultation due July 2010, to be reported to the October meeting of this Board.	£46K	£46K	Simon Allsopp
MY 16 03 TD	Bus Routes 71 & 101	Bus stop infrastructure improvements	Funding was announced on 26 March 2010.	Design to commence May 2010. Construction dates yet to be determined	£116K	£116K	Geoff Dance
MY 16 04 TD	Medway Valley Railway Line	Improvements to station accesses and accessibility	Funding was announced on 26 March 2010. Scope of works was agreed with Network Rail in April 2010	Detailed design of on-highway works to commence May 2010. Works on railway land to be developed in partnership with Network Rail	£70K	£70K	Helen Cobby
MY 16 05 TD	B2015 Maidstone Road Nettlestead	Zebra crossing at the Recreation Ground	Funding was announced on 26 March 2010 and design was completed three weeks later. Public consultation commenced on 19 April 2010	Subject to the outcome of the public consultation and resolution of this Board, works will commence on 4 May 2010	£29K	£29K	Helen Cobby
MY 16 07 TD	A20 Ashford Road, Harrietsham	Provision of right turn lane into the western end of West St	Funding was announced on 26 March 2010 and design commenced April 2010	Works to be carried out in school holidays	£7K	£7K	Andrew Burton

Appendix B: Proposed Zebra Crossing in Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, 55m North-East of Bishops View

