

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**21 OCTOBER 2009**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF COUNTYWIDE IMPROVEMENTS**

**Report prepared by Andrew Burton, KCC Highway Schemes Manager**

**HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2009-10**

**1.1 For Information**

Members are asked to note:

- 1.1.1 The progress of the highway improvement programme
- 1.1.2 That a proposed cycle crossing of New Cut Road close to its junction with A20 Ashford Road (Scheme Ref MY 9605/02 TD) has been deleted from KCC's capital programme

**1.2 Background Documents**

- 1.2.1 Item 11, Kent County Council Highways Advisory Board, 8 May 2008, "Transportation and Safety Package Programme 2008-09"
- 1.2.2 Item 7, Kent County Council Highways Advisory Board, 3 March 2009, "Transportation and Safety Package Programme 2009-10"
- 1.2.3 Item 8, Maidstone Joint Transportation Board, 28 January 2009, "Integrated Transport Plan for Maidstone 2009-10 and Beyond"

**2 Discussion**

- 2.1 Appendix A to this report details the progress of each scheme, including previous years' schemes that were not completed by April 2009. Progress to date is summarised and anticipated progress prior to the next Joint Board is detailed. New schemes that are being funded as part of the 2009-10 capital programme are also described. For ease of reference, two schemes (Ware Street Zebra Crossing and Fant Traffic Calming) are reported elsewhere on this Agenda and one is considered in more detail in the body of this report as follows:
- 2.2 **New Cut Road, Maidstone – cycle crossing** (Scheme Ref MY 9605/02 TD). There is an existing "green man" facility in New Cut Road at the signalised junction with the A20 Ashford Road (see Appendix B to this report). This 2008 proposal sought to modify this facility to enable cyclists to legally cross New Cut Road at the same point. Detailed design, however, revealed that there was too little space on the central refuge to separately accommodate cyclists and pedestrians (the timing of the traffic signals is such that either must cross New

Cut Road in two stages, waiting on the central refuge for up to 40 seconds). The existing road width is insufficient for this crowding to be being ameliorated by enlarging this refuge. Because widening the carriageway would be prohibitively expensive, officers consider that the cost of these works would be disproportionate to their forecast benefit. Accordingly, Members are asked to note that this scheme has had to be removed from this year's capital programme and is unlikely to be resubmitted for inclusion in a future year's programme. Whilst this loss is regrettable, an off-carriageway cycle route only exists west of this point and the effect on cyclists' amenity is therefore not considered significant.

| KHS Ref         | Location                                      | Description of Works   | Current Progress   | Anticipated Actions for next 3 months (Prior to next JTB)  | Budget 2009 - 10 | Forecast Out-turn 2009-10 | Kent Highway Services Contact 08458 247800 |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| MG741<br>0 ML   | Traffic calming<br><b>Coxheath -</b>          | 2006-07 scheme: Speed management measures including physical measures to slow vehicular traffic      | Original scheme completed, but review underway following public dissatisfaction with scheme's performance. | Improvements to traffic calming scheme will be carried out during Half Term (October 26-31)  | £50K             | £25K                      | Julian Cook                                |
| MY96<br>05/2 TD | New Cut Rd –<br><b>Maidstone</b>              | 2008-09 Scheme: Upgrade existing pelican crossing to toucan crossing – see Appendix B to this report | <b>See main body of this report</b>  | N/A  | £8K              | £1K                       | Julian Cook                                |
| MY 06<br>07TD   | Ware Street,<br><b>Bearstead</b>              | Zebra crossing west of railway bridge ( <b>Thunham Parish</b> )                                      | Design and consultation complete   | <b>See separate Item on this Agenda</b>  | £25K             | £28K                      | Helen Cobby                                |
| MY 06<br>06TD   | <b>Fant</b>                                   | Traffic calming (estimated £168K scheme, spread over two financial years)                            | Public consultation is complete and detailed design is continuing  | <b>See separate Item on this Agenda</b>  | £85K             | £20K                      | Darren Hickman                             |
| MY 06<br>02TD   | Town Centre<br><b>Maidstone</b>               | Cycle route improvements in Station Road - see Appendix C to this report                             | Design complete  | Works are scheduled to start on 23 November and to take two weeks to complete  | £30K             | £16K                      | Helen Cobby                                |
| MY 06<br>04TD   | Quality Bus Partnership -<br><b>Maidstone</b> | Scheme deferred from 2008/09: Upgrade existing bus corridors in Shepway estate                       | Trial of two new bus-friendly road-humps installed August 2009   | Effect of new humps on traffic speeds and passenger-comfort will be monitored until March 2010 at which time a decision on whether to roll-out this design on the estate | £100K            | £20K                      | Andy Padgham                               |



Appendix B:  
New Cut Road, Maidstone:  
Proposed Cycle Crossing Point  
Near A20 Ashford Road