

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND NON EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS
SCRUTINY

DATE: 23 APRIL 2009

SUBJECT: UPDATE - NETWORK MANAGEMENT AND
CONGESTION STRATEGY

REPORT BY: HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	STAFFING
EQUALITIES		COMMUNITY SAFETY
FINANCIAL	✓	RISKS
OTHER		

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Committee is recommended to note this report

REPORT

2. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on current and future work in connection with the Council's Network Management and Congestion Strategy. In particular Members have requested information on the possibility of re-designing the Dunstable Road/ Chaul End Lane/ Oakley Road junction.
3. Work completed, in hand or programmed includes;
 - Installation of traffic monitoring screens in the Traffic Signals Office. Currently there are 16 traffic cameras and more will be added as budgets permit to a total of 28 cameras covering the critical routes and junctions. Alongside the traffic monitors is the tracking display for buses fitted with real time information equipment. Some buses have been equipped and are being monitored. It is intended to formally launch and publicise the Real Time Bus

Information system later this year when all bus operator's vehicles are fully equipped and the system as been tested.

- Prohibiting the right turn from New Bedford Road into Cromwell Hill has been formally advertised and a number of objections have been received. The Portfolio Holder for Environment will be recommended to overrule the objections so that the changes to the junction can be made in April/May this year.
- The Waller Ave./Blundell Road/Marsh and Leagrave Roads signal controlled junction will be upgraded in May/June this year with new signals, control and detection equipment.
- Road signs at Teardrop – Hatters Way/Chaul End Lane roundabout – Skimpot Roundabout – Dunstable Road at M1 slips – and Chaul End/Dunstable Road junction have been surveyed and proposals drawn up to direct traffic (especially commercial vehicles) along Hatters Way rather than through Dunstable Road. Changes to the road signs will be implemented this year.
- The traffic signals at Dunstable Road/Francis Street (Bury Park) will be removed April/May this year.
- The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment have requested that an experimental order be considered to divert traffic heading into the Town Centre (buses excepted) from Dunstable Road (Bury Park) into Waldeck Road and onto Bury Park Road. This will revert to the original plans for the Bury Park Improvement Scheme, when at the time, this element of the scheme was dropped due to objections.
- A mini – roundabout has been installed at the junction of Limbury and Neville Roads. This appears to be working very well in terms of general traffic movements and the safety of the School Crossing Patrol that operates nearby, bus operators have also welcomed the changes. However some residents who live immediately adjacent to the junction have submitted a petition which will be discussed at Central and North Area Committees.
- In order to set congestion benchmarks and performance indicators, traffic and occupancy counts in the morning peak period continue to be carried out.

4. Dunstable Road/Chaul End Lane

Plans will be available for discussion at the Committee meeting of a re-design of this junction that optimises capacity. A verbal report will be given regarding costs, land acquisition implications and cost/benefit considerations.

5. Telford Way/Stuart Street/ Hatters Way junction (Teardrop)

Originally programmed as a signals installation scheme, further investigations have led to a more extensive re-design of this complex junction at an

estimated cost of £0.75M. Detailed design is proceeding, but the required funding has not been identified at this time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no direct legal implications to this report. This has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in legal services on 24 March 2009.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Some schemes have already been delivered. Those schemes programmed for 2009/10 have been included on the works programme for that year and have been allocated funding. Funding for the Teardrop and for the Dunstable Road/Chaul End Lane junction are being developed and will be programmed when funding has been identified. Agreed by the Finance Manager (Environment & Regeneration) on 25th. March 2009.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. Executive Decision No. EX/309/06 (13 November 2006).
Executive Decision No. EX/173/07 (28 August 2007).
Executive Decision No. EX/2/08 (7 January 2008).
Executive Decision No. EX/119/08 (23 June 2008).
Environment and Non Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee Minute 42
(18 October 2007).
Environment and Non Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee Minute 6
(23 January 2008).
Environment and Non Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee Minute 31
(1 May 2008).
Environment and Non Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee Minute 53
(16 October 2008).

Luton's Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011.