



## West of England Partnership

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council



North  
Somerset  
Council

South Gloucestershire  
Council

### Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre Rapid Transit

Community Steering Group Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## Suggested Agenda

- Update and response to new issues raised at our last meeting
- What happens next



travel<sup>+</sup>

## Issues Raised

Issue: Impacts on traffic flow on Prince Street Bridge

- Around 650 vehicles and just under 500 vehicles (both directions) using the bridge in the AM and PM peaks respectively
- These flows are relatively light compared to similar links elsewhere in the city centre
- The main influence in both peaks is at Bedminster Bridge. The increase in traffic numbers at Bedminster Bridge is a net increase of around 210 vehicles (AM peak) and around 200 vehicles (PM peak)
- This increase represents a relatively small proportion of overall traffic flow using the junction and it is considered that this small increase should not be perceptible in operational terms
- Continued support for closure of PSB to general traffic

## Issues Raised

Issue: Modifications to Trading Estate Access and increased traffic on the B3128

- Traffic surveys were carried out in September 2009 on Ashton Vale Road to confirm the current use of the CALA Industrial Estate
- Surveys confirmed:
  - around 1,400 vehicles on average during weekdays entering and then exiting the estate
  - on Thursdays, where the vehicle auction takes place, higher flows of up to 1,800 vehicles were observed
- Survey information in 2007 showed traffic flows on the B3128 of 12,500 vehicles per day
- Analysis showed that there is unlikely to be any increase into Long Ashton itself based on the diversion

## Issues Raised

Issue: Double-decker buses too tall for bridges

- Engineering assessment has identified that double-decker buses can use the bridges along the route with some modifications to existing bridge structures or lowering the ground level beneath the bridge structures
- These works and costs will be included in the Transport and Works Act Order including works to listed structures:
  - Ashton Avenue Bridge
  - Vauxhall Bridge

## Issues Raised

Issue: Results from environmental surveys

- Phase 1 habitat and species report from specialists just received and will be made available. Focus on protected species.
- Key findings:
  - Breeding and wintering birds: no suitable habitat
  - Great Crested Newts: none found, no suitable aquatic habitat
  - Bats: some evidence of bats, opportunities for ecological mitigation to be included in the scheme
  - Badgers: no evidence of badger setts but could be foraging badgers. This will be monitored. Any evidence would require special license
  - Reptiles: some evidence of slow worms and grass snakes. Generally low value habitat
  - Dormice: no evidence. Closest population at Leigh Woods
  - Otters/Water Vole: habitat potential for Colliter's and Longmoor Brooks but no evidence
  - Invertebrates: No protected species but some UKBAP species
- **In summary the analysis shows that there are no significant impacts that cannot be mitigated by the scheme**

## Issues Raised

Issue: Stop on eastside of Bascule Bridge

## What Happens Next - Programme

- Consultation process and results reported to 10<sup>th</sup> December BCC Cabinet and 15<sup>th</sup> December NSC Executive
- Full Council meetings: NSC 5<sup>th</sup> January and BCC 19<sup>th</sup> January, then 23<sup>rd</sup> February for both Councils
- Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) made end January 2010

## Transport and Works Act Process

- Application triggers 42-day objection period
- All application documents available for public inspection. Venues will be advertised
- Individuals and groups can support or object the proposals through written representation
- Secretary of State will consider all objections made and may call a public inquiry – this is usual for TWAO applications
- Public Inquiry usually organised within six months
- This is an independent inquiry where you have the right for your objection to be heard

## Keeping in Contact

- [www.westofengland.org/rapidtransit](http://www.westofengland.org/rapidtransit)
- [transport@westofengland.org](mailto:transport@westofengland.org)
- NPN website and newsletter
- DfT publication "*Guidelines to TWA Orders for Consultees*". Available on WEPO website
- Responses to all questions raised will be on the website shortly
- All application material will be available to review. You will be informed of venues



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