

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM – 17 NOVEMBER 2016

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

South Glos Council are currently delivering schemes funded by the recent 'Sustainable Travel Transition Year' bid success, providing funding from April 2016 to March 2017. We have rebadged the funding as '**Travel West Transitions**' and we are pleased to offer the following:

Employer grants – The current grant application round has now been extended, we can offer match funded grants up to a maximum of 50% of the total value of any project which will promote sustainable travel to and from work. Previously, grants have been approved for new cycle parking facilities, lockers, showers, car share parking spaces and electric pool bikes (amongst others).

We can also offer 50% match funded grants for the installation of electric vehicle charging points as part of the Go Ultra Low West project until March 2020.

Loan bikes – we are trialling a South Glos specific loan bike scheme. Hybrid bikes are available for a loan period of 1 month and can be delivered to a place of work or residence in South Glos. A deposit of £50 is required and before bikes are handed over a 1 hour cycle training session must be completed. At the end of the loan period the bike can be returned or can be purchased, the deposit will cover the cost of the bike and safety equipment.

Cycle champions network - we will shortly be launching a cycle champions network in South Glos. Champions will be able to take advantage of the support we can offer to promote cycling internally within your organisation, including bike maintenance training, guided rides and emergency cycle repair kit provision. More details of a launch event will follow soon.

Dr Bike sessions – The TW Transitions project has some funding available for Dr Bike sessions, budget is not unlimited so please get in touch sooner rather than later to enquire about availability!

Contact: Richard Drew – richard.drew@southglos.gov.uk

JOINT TRANSPORT PLAN / JOINT SPATIAL STRATEGY

The four West of England councils – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire - would like to invite you to help shape the emerging Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS).

The West of England's Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study will set out a prospectus for sustainable growth that will help the area meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years.

A significant amount of work across the West of England has already been undertaken. A period of public consultation was held last year from November 2015 to January 2016 which received nearly 900 responses. This first phase of consultation helped to consider the priorities that we should use to assess the various options for development and infrastructure investment.

We are now launching a second phase of consultation which will inform the final plan and steer development in the region.

The Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study 6 week consultation started on 7th Nov and runs until 19th December. For information and to respond to the consultation, please visit:

<https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk/consult.ti>

A number of business engagement events are also being organised jointly with Business West.

Access Fund Bid to Department for Transport

The 'Access Fund' is a competitive bid process inviting Local Authorities to bid for revenue funding for sustainable travel initiatives over a 3-year period (April 2017 – March 2020) with a focus on walking and cycling. It is the follow-up to 'Sustainable Travel Transition Year' and 'Local Sustainable Transport Fund' competitions.

The 4 West of England (WoE) Authorities submitted a joint bid to the Department for Transport for £6.9M of funding, on 9 September 2016.

SusCom provided input to the business-related schemes included within the bid, aimed at supporting employees to travel more sustainably. A big thank you to SusCom and SusCom members for providing letters of support which have proved key in securing funding for past bids.

Many of the popular schemes from STTY and LSTF formed part of the Access Fund bid, including (but not limited to):

- Match-funded SusCom membership
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions
- Personalised Travel Planning for moving and expanding businesses
- Wheels to Work

We await the outcome of the bid – expected around Christmas 2016.

CYCLING UPDATE

South Glos Cycle Strategy

Maps of the Strategic cycle network contained within the [Cycle Strategy](#), have recently been updated to improve their accuracy and to now include the local connecting routes.

Cycle scheme updates:

Cycle Ambition Fund 2 Schemes

1) Bromley Heath Viaduct

Initial design work has recommended a widening of the current path with cantilevered supports, rather than a separate walking and cycling bridge, there will be consultation on the design later this year. No dates are yet confirmed for this work, but it will be in 2017/18.

Agreement has been reached for a nearby site compound accessed via Scantleberry Close, and a diversion route is planned allowing pedestrians and cyclists to use a path on the Westbound bridge, rather than a longer diversion via Frenchay or Moorend, however due to width constraints cyclists will need to dismount.

2) Hayes Way

The construction of a cycle route along Hayes Way has recently been consulted upon and final design work is in progress. Construction is still planned for 2016/17 but is subject to successfully securing the land required from 3rd parties, negotiations for which are currently ongoing. Construction of the Concorde Museum entrance on Hayes Way, which is on the planned path route, may be starting soon (note these are separate developer works which already had planning permission).

3) Church Road

Widening of existing path to meet anticipated future demand on the Cycle Trunk Route. Stage 1 of this work is now built, with further work at the eastern end of Church road currently being considered for later this year.

4) Door to Door Journeys

Providing new cycle parking at Education establishments and Retail Centres across South Glos, retail locations have been suggested by Cycle Forum members, and the locations currently being considered include the following:

- Bradley Stoke Leisure centre
- Nr Tesco Express - Station Road Yate
- Chipping Sodbury High Street
- Nr Tesco Express– Baileys Court, Bradley Stoke

Local Growth Fund Schemes:

1) Yate Spur

Work planned for the current round of Local Growth includes the following:

- Construction of the off road Kidney Hill section, completing the link between Westerleigh Road and Broad Lane.
- A link under the Shire Way viaduct Yate.
- Improvements to the Nibley lane/ Westerleigh road junction.

Consultation on these elements is due to open in the next few weeks.

2) UWE Cycle Links

Improvements to the Cycle routes into the UWE Frenchay Campus, which comprises of the following two elements:

a. Shared use signals upgrade

Signal improvements at the UWE North Entrance junction, to improve the North- South crossing of the Ring road, an issue regularly highlighted by the Cycle Forum. We are also currently considering whether improvements to the East-West Transition across the UWE North entrance can be made at the same time, subject to funding availability.

b. Jellicoe Avenue

A review of the existing access barriers and improvements to the surface, to upgrade this important connection for cyclists at the south of the UWE site. This scheme is currently out to public consultation: <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/jellicopath/consultationHome>

3) A38 Cycle Feasibility Study

We have recently commenced work on this study to identify Cycle improvements on the entire A38 route from the Bristol boundary to north of Thornbury. This will be followed by design and consultation on the first stage (likely to be Almondsbury/ Hortham lane area). With a view to securing funds for construction in the following financial year from the Local Growth Fund.

METROBUS – NORTH FRINGE TO HENGROVE PACKAGE

Quality Partnership – Meetings regarding MetroBus and the operators are taking place this week and they should be signing up w/c 14th November.

Stoke Lane – there are Community Engagement meetings taking place on Friday 18th of November to discuss various Traffic Management options. Decisions will be made w/c 21st November with any changes being implemented early December. TTROs have already been applied for so that changes can be made almost immediately. Options include temporarily suspending the 2+ Lane between the M32 and Coldharbour Lane and reversing the one-way system along Stoke Lane.

M32 – There are no more road closures planned. There are narrow lanes between Junction 2 & Junction 3 to allow the central bus lane to be extended. There is a temporary 30mph speed limit through these works for safety reasons that will be enforced with average speed cameras. The narrow lanes will be in force until March 2017. The narrow lanes on the M32 allowing works on the new bus only bridge slip roads are due to be lifted in December.

Between Patchway Brook and Aztec West Roundabout (including Woodlands Lane Junction) - Work is underway to widen the nearside lane of Bradley Stoke Way heading towards the Aztec West Roundabout to accommodate a new bus lane. The north-west bound carriageway will operate as a single lane until it reaches Woodlands Lane. From here, two lanes will approach the Aztec West Roundabout. The nearside filter lane is closed.

The westbound footway on Bradley Stoke Way, between Patchway Brook Roundabout and a point opposite the Woodlands Lane junction is closed to rebuild the footpath. A pedestrian diversion route is in place and work should finish around now..

Between Patchway Brook and Savage Wood (Tesco) - Work is progressing on widening the bus lane. Traffic will move to the new eastbound carriageway for drainage works on the westbound. The narrow lane restrictions are due to be removed mid-January 2017, with works fully completed by the end of February.

Between Savage Wood (Tesco) and Great Stoke Roundabout - Work will start before Christmas on a new south bound bus lane approaching Great Stoke Roundabout. It is likely to last around six months. Meanwhile, work on the bus stop base at Great Meadow Roundabout is nearly completed.

Between Bromley Heath and Wick Wick Roundabouts - There will be off-peak lane closures during week commencing 7th November between 9:30am and 3:30pm. All work is due for completion by December 2nd.

Between Hambrook Lights and Bromley Heath Roundabouts - There will be off-peak lane closures during week commencing 7th November between 9:30am and 3:30pm.

Between Lyde Green and Wick Wick Roundabout - Currently off-peak road closures to enable work on the westbound MetroBus stop. All work should be completed early November.

Emerson Way - Eastbound MetroBus stop nearly completed. May require off-peak lane closure to allow landscaping to take place.

Work is being carried out on the central carriageway installing islands at Orchard Gate and Woodlands Lane Junctions. Due to the clocks going back and there being less daylight hours, work will continue through the weekends between 8am. and 5pm. There will be occasional night time closures during December for re-surfacing work. The work should be completed by Christmas although some landscaping may need to be done in January.

Webbs Wood Roundabout - Work will begin early November for approximately five weeks to install MetroBus stops either side of the roundabout.

Bristol City Centre – The piling is going well to bridge the culvert and everything is on schedule to open the Baldwin Street Link, linking Baldwin Street to St Augustine’s Parade outside the Hippodrome during February half term. The new city centre traffic arrangements will come in at this time. More details [here](#)

Hartcliffe Way – Work will start on building a bus lane on Hartcliffe Way in January. This is a long piece of work that is expected to take 40 weeks. Hartcliffe Way will become one way inbound for light vehicles only from the junction of Novers Lane to Parson Street. A diversion will take outbound traffic along Parson Street and up Novers Hill before re-joining Hartcliffe Way at the Novers Lane junction. Heavy vehicles will be directed away from the area via Bishopsworth and the A38. The South Bristol Link should be open before the work starts which should take traffic away from Hartcliffe Way. More details [here](#).

Progress on the Stoke Gifford Transport Link

The Stoke Gifford Transport Link is due to complete and open to traffic in July 2017.

Hambrook Lane re-opened at the beginning of August this year. It will close again for a few days in the winter to allow re-surfacing at the junction of Hambrook Lane and the SGTL. At least two weeks advanced notice of the closure will be given.

Plan your journeys

The Travelwest website contains up to date travel information about road works in the West of England region: <https://travelwest.info/travelupdates> - including disruption from MetroBus works.

Highways England also provides live traffic information for the motorway network via their website at www.highways.gov.uk/traffic or from a phone or mobile device at m.highways.gov.uk

CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION

Councillors on the ECS Committee approved the progression of the CPME scheme at their meeting in July. The agreed route will run between Bristol Parkway Station and The Mall bus station, via Hatchet Road, Gypsy Patch Lane, through the former Rolls Royce East Works site, along North Way, and through the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood.

Officers are continuing to progress detailed design work for the CPME, including investigating the potential for some minor changes to some parts of the route to address concerns raised by local people during the previous public consultation. For updates please keep an eye on the CPME webpage at www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension.

A4174 CHALLENGE FUND

Work is continuing on the A4174 with resurfacing to the Bromley Heath Roundabout. The 2017/18 programme is currently being developed.

We are awaiting updates from the DfT on Challenge Fund 2 and SGC will be seeking further funding for other projects in the authority.

A38 & M5 J16 & 17

The A38 corridor and M5 J16/17 Pinch Point schemes have now been completed, which has resulted in the delivery of the proposed / intended highway infrastructure improvements.

RAIL

MetroWest Phase 1-The project is experiencing programme and budget pressures due to the amount of work required to address issues along the route. An update on progress with these issues will be provided to the next Joint Transport Board.

MetroWest Phase 2- work is continuing to progress this project and this is on programme with an opening date in 2021. The next important stage is the GRIP 3 work which coupled with economic work will be reported to JTB at the end of 2017. Two station sites are being considered for the Henbury station location and work is continuing to address the developers aspiration to move the North Filton station from the old site to a new location which they want to integrate with the proposed development.

Great Western rail is experiencing reliability issues and passengers are urged to report delays and cancellations to GWR.

Electrification deferral - On 8 November 2016 the Rail Minister Paul Maynard announced he is to defer four electrification projects that are part of the programme of work to modernise the Great Western Railway. The four projects being deferred are:

- electrification between Oxford and Didcot Parkway
- electrification of Filton Bank (Bristol Parkway to Bristol Temple Meads)
- electrification west of Thingley Junction (Bath Spa to Bristol Temple Meads)
- electrification of Thames Valley Branches (Henley & Windsor)

The announcement has been accompanied by a report by the National Audit Office which provides some context, timetables and details. It also highlights some of the issues that have led to the announcement. The report can be found here: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Modernising-the-Great-Western-railway.pdf>

Parkway still set to see electrified trains by December 2018 and it is likely that the new Super Express Trains (SETs) will start to operate in autumn 2017. These trains are bi-mode. Discussions are continuing with NR/GWR to consider the impact of the above deferrals on the cascade of rolling stock to WoE but at present signs are (cautiously) good. However we all need to keep up the pressure on this area of investment.

BUS

For full details of changes to public transport provision, visit <http://ow.ly/Xy6XC>

SGC has published a new bus route map for South Gloucestershire. Copies can be ordered by e-mailing. The map can also be viewed on the SGC website – www.southglos.gov.uk

Regards,

Kevin O'Connor

Transport Policy, South Gloucestershire Council

kevin.oconnor@southglos.gov.uk

01454 863728