

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM – 19 MAY 2016

CYCLING

We are pleased to report that the South Gloucestershire Cycle Strategy has now been adopted by the Council, it will very soon be published on our website. We will circulate a link to cycle forum members (including Ann O'Driscoll) when it is available.

Yate Spur – the new section of path between Nibley Lane and the Shire Way viaduct is nearly complete, tarmac surfacing to finish it off is due to be applied in early June. Further work on the Spur this year will be confirmed once we receive confirmation of our Local Growth Funding, expected by the end of the month.

Cycle Ambition Fund – We are currently looking to identify sites for new cycle parking to be installed during 2016/17 as part of our Door-to-Door journeys programme, if any SusCom members are interested, please provide details of your proposal, including any match funding available to Richard Drew or Lee Lodder.

The next Cycle Forum meeting will be held at 6pm on Thursday 26th May, at the Council Offices, Badminton Road Yate, please remind BUG reps, as they may wish to attend.

New copies of the updated South Glos area map, and they can contact us at Transport.policy@southglos.gov.uk if they would like any copies.

Cyclists should note that GWR have changed their policies on carrying cycles on trains. Details can be viewed at <https://www.gwr.com/your-journey/journey-information/on-board/cycles> SGC has not been consulted on these changes.

METROBUS (North Fringe to Hengrove Package)

North Fringe

- In the North Fringe, work continues at the top of Bradley Stoke Way between Aztec West roundabout and Patchway Brook Roundabout. The road is being widened along this section to accommodate a new north-bound bus lane.
- The left-hand turn into Woodlands Lane from Bradley Stoke Way has now re-opened. A left turn out of Woodlands Lane into Bradley Stoke Way should be open later this summer.
- Work has also commenced adjacent to the Willow Brook Centre. This is to install two new MetroBus stops to serve the retail and leisure area.
- Work continues along Great Stoke Way - widening the carriageway for a new northbound bus lane and installing two new MetroBus stops. There are also footway and cycle improvements in this area.

East Fringe

- In the East Fringe, construction to date has focused primarily on installing new bus stops on the A4174. This spring / summer work will also commence on the main east bound bus lane between Bromley Heath Roundabout and Wick Wick roundabout.
- Work on Church Lane footbridge also continues, with the new bridge due to be in place in July

M32 Bus Only Junction and new southbound bus lane construction works

The works on the M32 Bus Only Junction and new south-bound bus lane are progressing. The works include:

- Substantial earthworks to facilitate the slip roads to the new M32 bridge;
- construction of the new M32 bus-only junction with a closure of M32 on 10-12 June to facilitate the bridge lift;
- construction of the new southbound bus lane to commence in earnest in summer.

Coldharbour Lane and Stoke Lane construction works

Works involve road widening to provide sections of bus lanes and a bus gate, as well as a new link road to connect with the new M32 bridge.

The works began in November and include:

- temporary traffic lights currently in operation;
- introduction of a northbound closure on Stoke Lane from 22 May, for up to 12 months;
- substantial earthworks and construction of a retaining wall to allow for a southbound bus lane
- Access to the allotments and M32 Bus only junction

CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION

Public consultation was undertaken on the CPME proposals from November to January and the results, including officer responses to the main issues raised, are available at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult

The CPME was considered at the PTSE committee meeting on 4th May. At the meeting, members of the committee deferred the item so that there can further consideration of options; some options require additional funding which has not been identified at this stage. We will update www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult with further information as soon as it is available and when we have a date for the next committee meeting we will inform all those who responded to the winter consultation.

AZTEC WEST SCHEME

The scheme will be delivered in two phases:

Phase 1

Works are planned to begin in the w/c 16.05.2016. Phase 1 will involve widening and upgrading the footway on Park Avenue on the A38 northbound arm of the Aztec West junction and up to the M5 junction. This work can largely be delivered off-carriageway although some partial lane closures may be required off-peak.

Phase 2

Construction of the main widening work on the A38 southbound between the M5 junction and Aztec West Roundabout is due to start in January 2017 following completion of MetroBus works on Bradley Stoke Way. The aim is to complete all works at the junction by September 2017 which is when the Metrobus service is due to start operating. The main construction will take place using narrow lanes which will minimise the need for lane closures.

A38 CORRIDOR SCHEMES (Filton Roundabout & Gipsy Patch Lane)

The whole Filton Roundabout circulatory is currently being re-surfaced (in order to address existing surface quality issues). The resurfacing work commenced on 3 May 2016 and is expected to be completed by Friday 20 May 2016. The works are being undertaken with overnight closures to minimise the impact on travel.

Gipsy Patch Lane – the minor drainage-related works were completed at the end of March 2016

M5 J16 & J17 'PINCH POINT' SCHEMES

The works were completed in early May 2016.

A4174 CHALLENGE FUND

Resurfacing work was undertaken between the Rosary and Dramway roundabouts between the 6 and 18 May 2016. This included weekend and overnight closures.

A programme is being developed for this financial year to undertake further works along the A403 between Kingswood and the M32. There is close liaison with the Metrobus scheme to coordinate the interface between the two projects.

RAIL

For rail the key issue will be disruption to travel in the North Fringe and across the city of Bristol over the bank holiday period and for businesses, particularly an extended period of disruption whilst the Severn tunnel is closed for 6 weeks in September.

Network Rail, the local authorities affected and Great Western Rail with the support of bus operators have been working together for months to put in place buses and extra trains to enable people to make their journeys.

We understand Network Rail have been in touch with the key employers locally to highlight the work and to describe the plans in place to accommodate rail travellers. For example, whilst the Bath - Keynsham rail line was closed for a period around Easter, the MOD organised coaches for their own staff and many opted to work from home.

The need to carry out work is driven by the need to provide major improvements to the Great Western route from London to South Wales, in the Thames Valley on routes to Gloucester and Oxford and in the West of England area, including re-signalling, new platforms doubling of track between Bristol TM and Parkway, and electrification.

The main focus will be to keep as many people on trains - for example so that London to Cardiff trains will divert around the tunnel. Information as to the alternative options can be found at stations, on trains, and online at GWR and Cross Country Trains (looked under Planned Engineering).

Work also continues across South Gloucestershire, including planned new platforms at Filton Abbey Wood and Parkway stations. More information regarding disruption will be available later this year.

SGC have asked Network Rail to provide a report of their proposals for Pilning so that future options for the station can be considered. SGC understand Network Rail are considering options for improving accessibility at Patchway station.

BUSES

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

JOINT SPATIAL PLAN AND JOINT TRANSPORT STUDY

The initial results of the JSP and JTS consultation held in the winter have been presented to Members. A full consultation report will be published in June. The consultation results and stakeholder views are being fed into the JTS, which is in a modelling phase – testing schemes against existing problems up to 2036 and testing development scenarios to feed into the JSP. The JTS and JSP continue to run in parallel.

The Transport steering group for the project – which Ann O’Driscoll sits on - will meet on 20 May 2016.

The next formal consultation will take place in the Autumn.

BIDS

Sustainable Travel Transition Year (the follow-up to Local Sustainable Transport Fund)

The 4 West of England Authorities submitted a bid for £2.2M of funding to support sustainable transport initiatives in 2016/17. This pot of funding is considered by the Department for Transport as a ‘transition’ between LSTF and a potentially significant pot of funding available in April 2017. SusCom has provided input into the joint bid and we received letters of support from a number of employers – thank you.

If successful, the funding would aim to cover the following initiatives/schemes:

Sub-regional:

- Travel West website and journey planner
- Business Travel Awards
- Business Travel Challenge
- Travel to Work Survey
- Better By Bike

South Gloucestershire Council area:

- Match-funded SusCom membership revenue
- Expanding SusCom activities into new areas
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions funding
- Personalised Travel Planning for moving and expanding businesses
- Provision of travel information and maps
- Cycle maintenance training
- Dr Bike sessions
- JoinMyJourney journey-sharing promotion/expansion
- Travel Roadshow events
- Walking promotion
- Wheels to Work (cycling) schemes

The Department for Transport are currently assessing bids. We understand that announcement is likely before June 2016. We will await the outcome and inform SusCom as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Go Ultra Low City Bid

Our joint West of England successful bid for circa £7M of funding was accepted by the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV).

Although the spending profile will need to be confirmed, the ambition is for the funding to support:

- 5,000 new ULEVs in the sub region by 2020.
- Increase the number of charging points from 200 to 400.
- Increase the availability of demonstrator / trial vehicles.
- New car club vehicles.
- Conversion of 20% of council fleet to ULEVs.
- Subsequent improvements in local air quality and noise reduction.

Our joint bid set out a strong business case for investment in our area – working in partnership with Business West and a commitment from 35 organisations within the sub-region to invest in 100 electric cars by 2020.

We have carried out a series of meet-the-suppliers days, including companies that install, maintain and operate the EV charging points. We are also considering various options for a business model to encourage EV take-up and use.

Low Emission Bus Scheme Bid – pending outcome

A bid for the Low Emission Bus Scheme project was submitted to DfT on 30 October 2015. It would secure £30M investment in 110 gas-powered buses operating in and around North / East Bristol,

including on MetroBus and local services within the North Fringe. The bid was submitted in partnership with First.

It is understood that Wessex / Geneco also submitted a bid for 20 gas-powered buses, some of which would operate on Bristol – UWE services.

A decision on Low Emission Bus Services is still pending – but we understand it will be publically announced imminently.

Regards,

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