

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM – 22 MARCH 2016

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

The 4 West of England Authorities are submitting a joint bid for £2.2M of funding to support sustainable transport initiatives in 2016/17. This pot of funding is considered by DfT as a 'transition' between LSTF and a potentially significant pot of funding available in April 2017. SusCom has provided input into the joint bid.

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

We are seeking letters of support from employers to help boost our bid. Please find attached letter template. The deadline for providing letters of support is 24 March 2016. Please return to kevin.oconnor@southglos.gov.uk

Go Ultra Low City Bid – Success

Announced on Monday 25 January, the Department for Transport (DfT) allocated £7M to the four West of England authorities to increase the uptake and use of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (electric cars). Press release from DfT: <http://ow.ly/XxiRK>

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.

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.

The 4 WoE authorities are currently refining the proposals within the bid to suit OLEV requirements and are meeting with potential suppliers for vehicles and infrastructure this week (23 March).

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 the Low Emission Bus Services is still pending – but expected soon.

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 next formal consultation will take place in the Autumn.

South Glos Council – Management of Residential Travel Plans

South Glos Council has secured developer funding to deliver Travel Plan measures at a range of new residential developments in Yate, Emerson's Green and Thornbury.

Helen Harrison has been appointed to deliver Travel Plans at these sites – with the post beginning in April 2016. Helen previously worked as part of the South Glos LSTF team.

Cycling Strategy

The draft cycle strategy was approved by the PTSE committee chair last week, and will now be presented to the full PTSE committee for adoption on 5th May.

Cycle Maps

We have updated the South Glos area cycle maps. Richard Drew will provide some copies at the meeting. Contact lee.lodder@southglos.gov.uk for further copies.

Cycle Schemes

Yate Spur:

A new link from the Westerleigh Road crossing point to Kidney Hill has now been completed, which allows cyclists to safely use the crossing point, and provides a safe route to the nearby bus stop for residents on Westerleigh road.

Re-surfacing of the 300m Broad lane road section of the route has now been completed, with an off-road link to connect Broad Lane to the new Westerleigh Road link planned for construction in early 2016/17.

The shared use path along Westerleigh road between Nibley Lane and the Shire Way viaduct is currently under construction, ahead of the construction of a bridge structure to link this path through to Shire Way under the viaduct, which is planned for 2016/17.

Cycle Ambition Fund:

Consultation is underway on the Hayes Way shared use path scheme, and Church Road scheme near Parkway. Construction for both schemes is planned for summer 2016.

Initial design work on the Bromley Heath walking and cycling bridge scheme has commenced, with consultation for that planned in June 2016, followed by construction in summer 2017.

The door-to-door journeys scheme for 2015/16 is providing cycle parking at 6 schools, as well as the Emersons Green Multi modal interchange. There will be further money for cycle parking schemes at schools, businesses and community areas in the next two years.

Southmead Hospital walking and cycling routes

New signage on advisory walking and cycling routes to the Hospital was completed last year, further improvements to these route are in progress, including installation of dropped kerbs, upgrading the street lighting and implementing a 20mph speed limit.

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 this summer

M32 Bus Only Junction and new south bound bus lane construction works

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

- implementation of protective measures to enable access over underground services, in co-ordination with utility providers;
- site clearance works including hedge trimming and removal of required vegetation;
- construction of the new M32 bus-only junction;
- construction of the new southbound bus lane.

In order to carry out the works there will be some planned road closures of the M32. These will be overnight where possible and the majority will be to put traffic management in place. This ensures the safety of those using the M32 during the construction period. Some overnight road closures will begin in April 2016 and will be booked when required through to December 2016, there will be 10 in total. Dates will be advertised in advance when confirmed with Highways England.

In addition to this, a temporary closure of the M32 during a weekend is being planned for this summer to lift the new bridge into place, details are still being confirmed. More information will soon be available at www.metrobusbuild.info

Coldharbour Lane and Stoke Lane construction works

The works began in November and include:

- two-way portable traffic signals approximately 300m in length half way along Stoke Lane;
- construction of a 300m retaining wall under the section of two-way lights noted above;
- a secondary set of traffic signals with Highway Manager permission in various locations for utility diversions along Stoke Lane;
- road widening, kerbing, drainage & surfacing;
- new pedestrian crossing points;
- new bus priority at the M32 crossover bridge.

There will be further traffic management required along Stoke Lane and Frenchay Park Road. This is to support the construction of the road widening as detailed above. To ensure the safety of both the construction teams and general public, Stoke Lane will be reduced to one way for a set time. This is still being confirmed and stakeholders will be informed prior to any changes in traffic management taking place.

For further information visit www.travelwest.info/MetroBus

Metrobus Extension (Bristol Parkway to Cribbs Causeway)

Consultation closed on 15 January 2016 and a number of comments have been received, including a response from SusCom – which SGC are grateful for.

A number of comments were received in response to the consultation and officers are currently forming responses to the main issues raised in them. Officers will be reporting the outcomes of the consultation to the Planning, Transport and Strategic Environment Committee on 4th May and our responses will be published at that time at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult and www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension.

Rail --MetroWest Phase 2

Following acceptance of the Preliminary Business case in September last year work has been continuing on the next stages GRIP 3 and 4 which will culminate in a report to JTB in 2017 setting out the Outline business Case. A consultation was held at the end of last year to consider the public's views of the location for a station at Henbury. The results of this will be reported to the JTB in June this year.

More information at <http://travelwest.info/projects/metrowest>

Rail - Great Western Route Modernisation (GWRM)

Work is proceeding in the West of England to complete the GWRM which includes electrification. A new timetable has been proposed for the work which is subject to consultation (ended on 18 March). The current position is that electrification will be complete from London to Cardiff (via Bristol Parkway) by December 2017. Electrification to Bath and Temple Meads will come later. Works continue to make ready structures and track for electrification and the four tracking of Filton Bank this will require some road closures and the replacement of some rail journeys with buses over Easter and the May bank holidays. GWR will aim to keep as many people on rail as possible through the work which will involve some extension to journey times.

More information at <http://travelwest.info/projects/metrowest>

Public Transport

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

M5 J16 & J17 'Pinch Point' schemes

M5 J16 scheme – civils and kerbing works were completed in December 2015, however a safety barrier remains in place to enable on-going drainage works to be carried out. The drainage works are due to be completed by the end of February 2016, together with final surfacing and road markings.

M5 J17 scheme – the main construction works at the junction were completed in November 2015, however, road makings will be completed during February 2016. This work will be undertaken with overnight closures to minimise the impact on travel.

A38 Corridor schemes (Filton Roundabout & Gipsy Patch Lane)

- A4174 approach to Filton Roundabout – works will be completed following High Friction Surfacing (HFS) treatment on this approach to the roundabout, which will be carried out in May 2016.
- The whole Filton Roundabout circulatory is to be re-surfaced in order to address existing surface quality issues. The resurfacing work will commence on 3 May 2016 and will be undertaken with overnight closures to minimise the impact on travel.
- Gipsy Patch Lane – works are substantially complete, and will be finalised following completion of minor drainage-related works in March 2016. The drainage works will be completed off-carriageway and, as such, will not impact on travel

M5 J16 & J17 'Pinch Point' schemes

- M5 J16 scheme – the surfacing work is to be carried out for 5 nights (8pm to 6pm) starting on 25 April 2016

A4174 Challenge Fund

Work on the design and extent of the Challenge Fund works to the carriageway and structures along the ring road are continuing. Work will begin on the carriageway works in late spring, early summer.

We continue to liaise with the North Fringe project on matters affecting the programme and traffic management to minimise the impact on the travelling public and businesses. The Challenge Fund work is currently scheduled to be completed by March 2018 and in line with the DfT spending profile.

Kevin O'Connor

Transport Policy, South Gloucestershire Council

kevin.oconnor@southglos.gov.uk

01454 863728