

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM – 28 March 2017

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT/ACCESS WEST

We are currently in the final stages of completing the closure the 2016/2017 Travelwest Transitions project which was funded by the Sustainable Travel Transition Year fund. The project as a whole has been a great success and despite some delays in starting the project, we have been successful in meeting the vast majority of our targeted outputs. Some key figures of interest are:

- 17 employer grants have been awarded, 11 to newly engaged organisations with over £56000 of match funding and an additional £25000 of in-kind contributions.
- The target of engaging with at least one new employer per quarter has been easily exceeded, in addition to the 11 new organisations mentioned above, a significant number of new organisations (particularly in Yate and Warmley) have been engaged with as part of SusCom area meetings.
- A cycle champions network for South Gloucestershire has been successfully launched with currently 16 champions from 10 different organisations. A successful launch event was held last week with 21 champions and potential champions attending and gaining lots of useful information to help develop the network further and also took part in a cycle-powered scalextric championship. 5 bike maintenance sessions, 6 Dr Bike sessions and 1 confidence training session have been delivered.
- Membership of JMJ has increased across all main sites by 90% over the course of the project
- 8 led walks have taken place at 4 organisations with on average 25 participants per event
- A pilot loan bike scheme for South Glos was a success with 18 bikes loaned and then sold on to participants
- The travel to work survey has closed with over 21000 responses to the online survey and a number of paper responses that need to be analysed. Results should be with us by late April/early May
- Winter cycling campaign - a successful leaflet campaign outlining how to stay safe and stay cycling over winter, we plan to build on this over the course of Access West. We also produced a new and improved version of the map showing the extent of winter gritting of cycle routes in South Gloucestershire: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk//documents/Cycleway-gritting-route.pdf>

Contacts for Business Engagement:

Richard Drew - richard.drew@southglos.gov.uk

ACCESS FUND BID TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

The four West of England authorities have been successful in their bid to obtain further funding for sustainable travel related projects. Access West comprises £6.9m of DfT funding, of which South Glos has approximately £1.65m to spend on businesses and community related projects.

We are in the process of mobilising the project but plan to offer the following support services

- Match-funded SusCom membership and support to enable SusCom to deliver further booster activities
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions
- Wheels to Work – we plan to offer some new and innovative support in this area

- Travel challenge(s)
- Annual travel to work survey

There will be 2 full time project officers engaged in delivering this project in South Gloucestershire.

JOINT TRANSPORT PLAN / JOINT SPATIAL STRATEGY

The four West of England councils – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire – are working towards preparing a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS), which sets out a prospectus for sustainable growth that will help the area meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years.

The results of the winter consultation were reported to council members at a Joint West of England Planning, Housing and Communities Board and Joint Transport Executive Committee on 17th March.

The full report and updated information can be found at: www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk

The consultation results will then be taken into account in the final JTS report, due in early summer 2017 and fed into the next stage of the JSP.

CYCLING UPDATE

Cycle Scheme Updates – March 17

1) Yate Spur

There were a large number of responses to the recent consultation on Nibley Lane Junction and Westerleigh Road cycle improvements, including a good turnout at the consultation event in Shire Way community Centre. Responses are currently being considered and a feedback statement expected by the end of the month. Subject to the results of consultation, construction of these sections, plus the Kidney Hill link into Westerleigh Village is expected to take place over the summer.

2) Holiday Inn Access road –A4174

The public consultation on this scheme has also now closed, and there was some very useful feedback. Following consultation a Road Safety Audit has been undertaken, on the proposals, which indicated that with further modifications Cycle priority could be provided. We are still awaiting a funding decision, but if it does get approval, a design that provides cyclists with priority over a raised table will be progressed.

3) New A4174 Walking & Cycling bridge near Lyde Green

The planning application for the new bridge was approved on 14th March, details of the application and approval conditions can be found here: http://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/files/55F81BBFCE8EF6C1EEE496E3747C9A58/pdf/PK16_6500_F-DECISION_NOTICE-5473171.pdf

4) UWE Cycle Link

Work has recently been completed on the upgrade of the Jellicoe Avenue link, a key walking and cycling route between the UWE Frenchay Campus and the Frome Greenway, restrictive access barriers have been removed, and path has been widened and re-surfaced. The council has also contributed £70k to the construction of a new Greenway walking and cycling route through the UWE Frenchay Campus, on which construction has recently commenced. Both of these schemes have been funded by the Local Growth Fund Sustainable Transport Package.

M4 JUNCTION 18A STUDY

[Not much further to add except that work on the feasibility study is proceeding on-track; scheme options are now being developed for presentation to elected representative and stakeholder meetings in May, followed by public engagement in August and September – there is a planned stakeholder meeting in May at BBSP]

The M4 J18a Link Study was approved in ECS Cttee in Nov'16 and CH2M has been appointed to undertake it. The Study is steered jointly by SGC and Highways England. We are currently preparing briefings for key stakeholders (including business reps from SUSCOM (Ann) and Business West), Members, town/parish councils and the MP; the focus of these briefings is to explain what the study entails (and what it doesn't), identify problems, issues and objectives.

The next stage of the study will see the development of scheme options, which will be presented to key stakeholders and elected representatives from May 2017, prior to public consultation in the summer. The Study will complete and report by the end of March 2018.

AZTEC WEST SCHEME

[Nothing further to add except that Autumn 2017 is the planned finish date for the works here]

For the Aztec West A38 road widening scheme – in order to minimise congestion, the central reserve has been removed narrow lanes installed to preserve the same number of traffic lanes as before.

There is however the occasional unavoidable lane closure required for works in the road. An example of this is the planned gas diversion 12 – 15 January 2017.

In terms of progress, all the highway works on the A38 northbound and Park Avenue are substantially complete, with the signals installation and final surfacing to follow.

There are some large gas and telecoms diversions currently progressing in the A38 southbound footway which should be completed by the end of February.

Construction of the remainder of the utility works and the main carriageway widening will be progressed. This is currently programmed as shown below subject to any unexpected delays or bad weather.

July 2017 - Completion of the main civils widening works.

August/September 2017 - Installation of traffic signals equipment and finished surfacing.

There is approximately 1 month of surfacing works to be completed with night-time road closures.

High friction surfacing will also need to be applied after the surfacing but this is very much dependant on weather conditions at the time.

METROBUS – NORTH FRINGE TO HENGROVE PACKAGE

Work is on course and services are due to start in the Autumn 2017. The operators have ordered the new buses and we expect to announce who the operators are in mid-February 2017.

See separate report from Metrobus.

CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION (CPME)

The agreed CPME route will operate between Bristol Parkway Station and The Mall bus station, via Hatchet Road, Gipsy 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 further survey work and 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. A revised programme for the scheme has been published at www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension - which is the link to follow for all ongoing updates.

A4174 CHALLENGE FUND – Bromley Heath viaduct

Mike Dixon will be attending and providing a short presentation

RAIL

MetroWest Phase 1:

MetroWest phase 1 has reported an increase in costs between the Outline business case and Preliminary business case from £58m to a range of £145m to £175m. This has arisen from an increase in costs to upgrade the existing freight line and to a passenger service and to increase the speeds. In addition the need to close a level crossing in Ashton Gate and provide additional track work for trains in the depot and on departure from the depot has further increased the cost. All of this within a difficult and constrained working environment.

A report to the Joint Transport Board on Friday 17 March will consider the way forward. The report has been published and can be accessed by the WoE LEP website. A staged approach has been recommended which would see the service improvements delivered to the original timetable for this phase of MetroWest and then the new stations and restoration of service to Portishead in two further stages culminating in the completion of the scheme's original half hourly service. The timescales for this work will be considered following the meeting of the JTB.

MetroWest 2:

Work is beginning on the GRIP3/4 and although there has been a slight delay in the start of this work by Network Rail, the date for the start of service remains unchanged. The current options which will be developed to Outline business case level are :

1. Passenger service to Henbury with up to 3 new stations at Ashley Down, North Filton and Henbury with an hourly service.
2. Improvements to an hourly service to Yate by extending a service which currently terminates at Bristol Parkway. This part of the scheme includes the use of a turnback at Yate. However active work is ongoing with Gloucestershire CC to establish the costs and benefits of extending the services to Gloucester. The Preliminary Business case will be completed in June 2018.

Regards,

Kevin O'Connor

Transport Policy, South Gloucestershire Council

kevin.oconnor@southglos.gov.uk

01454 863728