

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 18 SEPTEMBER 2007

A25 WORSHIPS HILL, RIVERHEAD – ROUTE SAFETY STUDY

Report of the: West Kent Divisional Manager

Status: For Information

Chairman Cllr James London

Head of Service Head of Transportation & Planning – Mr Ray Dines

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that Members note the principal aspects of the Route Safety Study currently being undertaken for this road.

Background

- 1 A Route Safety Study relating to the section of the A25 comprising Westerham Road and Worships Hill as far as Amherst Hill in Riverhead has been commissioned from our technical contractor. The objective of the study is to examine all of the traffic management and road safety aspects peculiar to this road and identifying road safety provisions and areas of improvement for consideration.

Introduction and Discussion

- 2 The A25 is a strategically important 'A' Class road running east-west through Sevenoaks District linking Borough Green and the A20 towards Maidstone in the east with Westerham and the Surrey border in the west. It carries a significant quantity of through traffic, including a large proportion of heavy goods vehicles, as well as local service, private and commuter traffic.
- 3 The section of road under consideration runs from the easternmost slip road of the A21 interchange, through Bessels Green village with all the usual village facilities, along Worships Hill (adjacent to the Riverhead and Amherst Schools) and terminating at the mini roundabout at A224 Amherst Hill. The road is a single carriageway, two-way road subject to a 30 mph speed limit.
- 4 Kent Highway Services (KHS) had received complaints from local residents, parents of school children, Riverhead Parish Council and Members about the quantity and speed of traffic using this road. Fears have been expressed and there are perceived conflicts between pedestrians and other vulnerable road users - and motor vehicles. This Board has acknowledged this situation endorsed the intention of KHS to carry out a Route Safety Study of the road.
- 5 The brief given to the technical contractor comprises:

Study headings

- Vehicle speeds
- Traffic count in Worships Hill (1997, 2007, 2012 projected)
- Traffic composition (HGVs, buses, cars, etc)
- Congestion and peak period delay times – Worships Hill j/w Witches Lane and Amherst Hill
- Pedestrian movements inc crossings – Worships Hill between Witches Lane crossing and Amherst Hill Zebra crossing
- 10 year crash history
- Bordering land uses, adjacent public amenities
- Public transport services
- Cycles and horses
- Road widths and alignment
- Visibility (forward, at junctions and crossings, etc)
- Street lighting
- Road condition
- Road signs and road markings audit
- Witches Lane traffic signals

Suggestions for

- Vehicle speed management
- Carriageway lane geometry
- Junction kerb re-alignment
- Road signs and road markings improvements
- Carriageway maintenance
- Street lighting improvements
- Traffic signal phasing improvements
- Pedestrian management (inc crossings)
- Crash reduction measures
- Safety cameras
- Interactive signs
- Vehicle restrictions (eg HGVs at periodic times)
- Bus management
- Cycle management

- 6 Orders have been placed with our construction contractor for interim works at the Witches Lane junction with Worships Hill. These comprise the introduction of a yellow box on the eastbound lane to prevent queuing traffic from obstructing the junction; and a directional sign in Witches Lane to inform drivers that the exit to Riverhead School is part of the junction and an integral part of the traffic signal phasing.
- 7 There is no tangible progress to report to the Board on the Route Safety Study. Progress will be reported at the next meeting.

Financial

- 8 The financial aspects of this study are the responsibility of Kent Highway Services. There are no financial implications for Sevenoaks District Council.

Resource (non-financial)

- 9 Resource implications rest with Kent Highway Services.

Legal, etc.

- 10 The legal aspects of this study rest with Kent Highway Services as the highway authority.

Conclusions

- 11 A commissioning brief has been issued for a Route Safety Study for A25 Westerham Road and Worships Hill between the slip roads of the A21 interchange in the west and the mini roundabout at A224 Amherst Hill in the east. This paper details the principal aspects of that study.

Sources of Information: Copies of the commissioning brief and any associated papers may be inspected at Kent Highway Services' offices

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**GEOFF HARRISON-MEE
DIRECTOR OF KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES**

