

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 22 SEPTEMBER 2009

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT

Report of the: Interim Director of Kent Highway Services

Status: For Consideration

Executive Summary: This report describes the progress to date and anticipated progress over the next three months of all 2009/10 programmed highway improvements.

This report supports the Key Aim of Reducing speed, encouraging safer driving and tackling known speeding crash hotspots. Also improving pedestrian safety, including measures to improve access for people with disabilities as indicated in the Sevenoaks Community Plan.

Chairman Mr Peter Coates

Head of Service KHS – Head of Countywide Improvements – Behdad Haratbar

Recommendation: That Members note the progress of programmed highway improvements.

Background

- 1 The progress of all the proposed highway improvement schemes for 2009/10 in the Sevenoaks district are detailed in Appendix A. Details of the progress of schemes not completed in previous years are also listed.

Discussion

- 2 In July 2009 it became apparent that there was insufficient provision in the 2009-10 budget to meet those costs from the 2008-09 programme that had not been paid by 31 March. As a result, part of the budget allocated to 2009-10 schemes has had to be used to meet this shortfall. The consequence is that the delivery of some schemes that were due in 2009-10 has now been postponed until 2010-11. The affect of this on the capital highway improvements in Sevenoaks are discussed below.
- 3 **Bat'n'Ball junction, Sevenoaks:** Sevenoaks DC has agreed to fund £10,000 of modifications to the western approach to this junction. These works are comprised of alterations to road markings so as to create a three-lane approach to the signals. They are scheduled to be carried out early in next year's road-marking season (April-October 2010). Kent County Council will not be considering the funding of further works at this junction until negotiations in respect of potential nearby redevelopment are more advanced.

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- 4 At the last meeting of this Board, Members requested that Officers investigate the potential for installing a roundabout in place of the existing traffic signals. The unbudgeted cost of carrying out an outline design and fully assessing such a scheme has limited the work carried out to one of developing the concept. To avoid the risk of the Council being served with a blight notice, no drawing illustrating the proposal has been included in this agenda but one will be on display at the meeting if required. Whilst technically feasible, the extensive land acquisition, diversion of underground services, compensation to owners of nearby properties and magnitude of the alterations to the highway suggest a cost of between £1.7million and £2.2million (at 2009 prices). Before committing to such a proposal (even if it were to be privately funded as part of nearby development) Kent County Council would need to be satisfied that this form of junction control would be an improvement over traffic signals. This is far from certain.
- 5 **Darent Valley – Farningham to Otford (accessibility improvements):** This scheme proposed improvements to sign-posting and other facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in Farningham, Eynsford, Shoreham, and Otford. It has been put on hold pending the outcome of KCC's wider survey of the local community. This is being carried out through face to face and written consultation to gain opinion on the Countryside Access Services' new Access Improvement Schemes. Because the £25,000 that had been allocated to this scheme in 2008-09 went unspent, this sum has been earmarked as a strong contender for the 2010-11 budget. However, no decision will be taken until the outcomes of Countryside Access Services' consultation are known, the deadline for which ends in March 2010.
- 6 **London Road, Swanley; 30mph Speed Limit and Cycle Route Extension:** The funding shortfall described in paragraph 2 of this report has necessitated delaying the cycle-path aspect of this proposal until 2010-11. The proposed reduction in speed limit will proceed as planned with a forecast implementation date of February 2010
- 7 **Pedestrian crossing (pram ramp) improvements 2009-10:** KCC had been expecting to install a further batch of pram-ramps in January 2010. The reduced budget reported in paragraph 2 of this report has meant that this will not now be possible. Requests for new pram ramps will continue to be processed in the expectation that a budget for these works will be available from April 2010.

Key Implications

Financial; Resource (non-financial); Legal etc.; Value For Money

- 3 None for Sevenoaks District Council or Kent County Council as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment Statement

- 4 None.

Appendices

A Progress on Highway Improvement schemes

Sources of Information: None

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Highway Services 08458 247 800

Interim Director: **Caroline Bruce – Kent Highway Services**
08458 247 800

Highway Improvement Programme: Sevenoaks District 2009-10

KHS Ref	Location	Description of Works	Current Progress	Anticipated Actions for next 3 months (Prior to next JTB)	Original Allocation 2009 - 10	Forecast Out-turn 2009 - 10	Kent Highway Services (08458 247800)
07-ITS-SE-01	Hildenborough Road, Leigh	2007 scheme - Phase 2 of new footway between Home Park Farm and Gibbs Field	Detailed design completed, discussions regarding land ownership have reached an impasse	Works cannot proceed until land is acquired. Insufficient justification for seeking compulsory purchase. KCC continues to work with land-owner to seek a mutually acceptable resolution. Full report to go to next JTB meeting.	£50k	£0k	Andrew Burton
07-ITS-SE-08	Hartfield Road Cowden	2007 scheme - Phase 2 of visibility improvements at the junction of Blowers Hill and Hartfield Road	Detailed design completed. Works to be progressed subject to permission from land owners.	When land has been successfully transferred to KCC's ownership, work to the hedge will start.	£2k	£2k	Alan Ash
07-ITS-SE-07	Childsbridge Lane, Seal	2007 scheme - new zebra crossing to assist pedestrians accessing the school in Zambra Way	Works completed 15 August 2009	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£5k	£13k	Helen Cobby
08-ITS-SE-01	Bat'n'Ball junction, Sevenoaks	2008 scheme - realign junction, creating three-lanes on approach from Bradbourne Vale Road	Scheme on hold	See text of report	£20k	£0k	Simon Allsopp

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KHS Ref	Location	Description of Works	Current Progress	Anticipated Actions for next 3 months (Prior to next JTB)	Original Allocation 2009 - 10	Forecast Out-turn 2009 - 10	Kent Highway Services (08458 247800)
08-ITS-SE-03	Darent Valley – Farningham to Otford	2008 scheme - cycle stands and improved signing for pedestrians & cyclists	See text of report	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£25k	£0	Andrew Burton
09-ITS-SE-01	London Road, Swanley	Speed Limit & Cycle Route Extension at Birchwood	Design underway	See text of report	£50K	£6K	Andrew Burton
09-ITS-SE-02	Various roads, District-wide	Pedestrian crossing (pram ramp) improvements	See text of report	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£12K	£12K	Helen Cobby
09-ITS-SE-03	Childsbridge Lane Kemsing	Zebra crossing	Works complete – (malfunctioning belisha beacon due for repair 10 Sept 2009)	None – this scheme will no longer be reported to this Board	£20K	£22K	Helen Cobby

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