

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2010

**Statement from: Cllr W S Webb, Executive Councillor for
Highways & Transport**

ACCESSIBILITY & POLICY

LTP 3 (Lincolnshire's Local Transport Plan)

Work has commenced on preparing for LTP 3, which is required to be produced for April 2011. This is not made easy by the uncertainties around future Government funding for transport.

Choose Active Travel Choose Health (CATCH)

Over the last 10 months, the Accessibility and Policy unit have been giving schools the opportunity to apply for a grant scheme called Choose Active Travel, Choose Health (CATCH). This has joint funding from NHS Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council. So far, grants totaling £214,500 have been allocated to 32 schools for projects that remove barriers to walking and cycling to school. The total value of these projects is in the region of £400,000, which includes extensions to cycle storage, footpath and cycle way improvements, walking shelters, a cycle maintenance workshop and pavement markings.

Parish Shelters

The parish shelter grant scheme has again been fully subscribed with 10 new shelters including Ingoldmells, Wellingore, Ludborough and Hemswell. It is likely there will be less grants in the next few years.

Solar Panels

Solar panels trialled this year in Reepham and Fiskerton have worked very well, enabling users to see timetable information and also ensuring other road users are aware of the bus stop in the dark. There have been no maintenance issues with the panels during the 12 month trial, and it is hoped that more will be rolled out at other rural stops as part of the ongoing improvements programme.

Accessible Kerbs

The Disability Discrimination Act covers public transport infrastructure to the end of 2019. Since 2005, some 22% of the county's bus stops have been improved with timetable information and raised kerbs as part of the Integrated Transport Block. Bus stops in Grantham, Bourne, Market Deeping, Hykeham and Torksey are currently being improved, which will bring the total proportion of accessible kerbs to 25%.

LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The number of people killed on Lincolnshire's roads during 2009 was 52, compared to 51 during 2008. However, the number of fatal collisions actually reduced from 49 in 2008 to 44 in 2009. As councilors' will recall, 51 was the lowest number of fatal

casualties ever recorded and, although the increase is regrettable, I welcome the continued decline in the trend for fatal casualties.

In my December report I said that we were expecting the Government to publish the result of the consultation to its road safety strategy beyond 2010. The Government received 1358 written and over 900 on line responses. Many of those responses expressed concern about the drink drive limit and drugs. As a consequence, the Government has commissioned Sir Peter North to revisit these issues and report back by the end of March. It is unlikely, therefore, that the road safety strategy will be published this side of the General Election.

The DfT has recently announced that it is inviting regional bids for road safety projects. The Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership is working with road safety colleagues from the East Midlands to develop a bid which will focus on the major issues of speed, drink/drug driving, mobile phones and seat belts. If successful, the bid could attract up to £250k of funding to the region for 2010/2011.

LINCOLN TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The various elements of this latest adopted Transport Strategy for Lincoln are progressing as follows:

Lincoln Park & Ride

The ongoing feasibility of a Park and Ride (A46/A57) site will be completed during this financial year. The County Council will then have a chosen site, to the west of Lincoln, and the confidence of the suitability of access/egress to the highway network. Future work on detailed design will only follow subject to further approval and funding. Related activities are the current 'Kickstart bid' for cost of operating a facility and any support for servicing the castle area, particularly if the £15m bid is successful and we have to cater for a significant increase in visitor numbers.

Lincoln Eastern By Pass

The East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) recommended the Lincoln Eastern Bypass be prioritised for funding under the second round of Regional Funding Allocation (RFA2). The County Council has now submitted a Major Scheme Business Case to the Department for Transport to gain Programme Entry in the first round of securing funding for the scheme. The LEB Planning Application on Revised Line Z was submitted to the County Council Planning Authority on 13 October 2009. The County Council's Planning & Regulation Committee is expected to determine the application on 15 March 2010.

Lincoln East West Link

Preliminary design work is progressing on Phase 1 of the scheme, i.e the section from the High Street to Pelham Bridge, with the intention that there will be a public exhibition/consultation in June/July 2010 and a planning application in December 2010. The work presently includes topographical surveys, road and junction alignments, environmental assessment, further traffic modelling and a non-

motorised user study. As opportunities allow, the County Council are acquiring properties that will be required to construct the new road.

Working with the City of Lincoln Council, LCC will shortly be procuring a study to look at how the scheme can be designed to benefit the urban landscape. This work will include the pedestrianisation of the High Street between Tentercroft St and St Mary's Street and also possible improvements to the main pedestrian crossing points on the High Street at this point, i.e the railway line, Wigford Way and Tentercroft St/St Mark's Street.

Bailgate Restored

The £1.2m scheme for repaving the footways and carriageways in Lincoln's Bailgate area, including St Paul in the Bail, with high quality indigenous stone materials commenced in January 2010 with a construction period of six months. Traders and residents in the locality have been kept abreast of plans through the Bailgate Guild and this will continue with additional input from the contractor, North Midland Construction. Access to businesses will be kept open at all times with every encouragement for continuing trade.

South West Quadrant – Teal Park

Outline Planning Application submitted by the County Council and Taylor Lindsey Developments was approved by NKDC on 15 December (subject to referral to GOEM and S106 Agreement). GOEM confirmation that the Application will not be called-in by the Secretary of State has been received.

Grantham Transport Strategy

The implementation group consisting of officers from both LCC and SKDC in order to deliver the Growth Point and Transport Strategy for Grantham is focusing its initial work on the Into Town bus service and Town Centre Enhancements.

Grantham Southern Relief Road

A Traffic Modelling report has been issued to South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) to enable them to progress the Local Development Framework. An Examination Framework of the Core Strategy took place in January 2010 which will then provide the planning framework for the Grantham Southern Relief Road.

Boston Transport Strategy

The tenders for Online Widening works on the A52/A16 have been returned and assessed. Contract award is reliant on resolution of the land acquisition agreement for the single outstanding plot for the scheme. Subject to land acquisition, works are now anticipated to start on site late February/early March 2010. Walking & cycling improvements are being developed for implementation as part of Transport Strategy.

A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvements

Work is progressing well on site with earthworks virtually complete, surfacing works

progressing ahead of schedule and main structures in place. The majority of junctions with existing roads are nearing completion. A good level of contact is being maintained with the public in the area, including local schools. National Grid has completed Phase 1 of installation of the diverted High Pressure gas mains, with Phase 2 scheduled for early Summer 2010. The A47 dual carriageway section is due to open by the end of January 2010, and the overall scheme is on schedule for completion in summer 2010.

BRIDGE STRENGTHENING BLOCK

Network Rail Bridge No 38, Bracken Lane, Heighington – work now completed

Network Rail Bridge No. 21, Dunston Road, Metherringham – work to commence late spring/early summer 2010

Horse Fen Bridge, North Thoresby, A1031 – work commenced on 11 January 2010, due to be completed within 12 weeks

Jobson's Footbridge, Pinchbeck – work commenced on 4 January 2010, due for completion February 2010

Finally, I want to record my appreciation of the dedication and professionalism of our winter maintenance teams, I am proud to be associated with them.