

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MAY 2010**

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

The Directorate has many important projects. I am grateful for the continued support of our busy officers and staff.

**LINCOLN TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

Progress on the various elements of the latest adopted Transport Strategy for Lincoln is outlined below:

**Lincoln Park & Ride** - The feasibility of a western Park and Ride site (A46/A57) has been completed. The County Council now has a preferred site to the west of Lincoln, with a degree of confidence over the suitability of access/egress to the highway network. Unfortunately, the recent 'Kickstart bid' for the cost of operating a facility was unsuccessful, and future work on detailed design will need to be considered as part of the development of options for the next LTP.

**Lincoln Eastern By Pass** - The East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) recommended the Lincoln Eastern Bypass (LEB) 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 Planning Line Z was submitted to the County Council Planning Authority in October 2009. The County Council's Planning & Regulation Committee is expected to determine the application during this summer.

**Lincoln East West Link** - Preparation for the public display and consultation of this scheme continues, and the dates have been set for the 8/9/10 July – further details to follow. After consideration of the public consultation responses, it is envisaged that the next stage would be for a planning application to be submitted in early 2011.

The preliminary design work is complete, and our focus has moved to the presentation of the scheme to key stakeholders and statutory consultees prior to the public consultation.

**Lincoln High Street Environmental Improvements** - The High Street improvement scheme from St Catherines' roundabout up to Tentercroft Street was discussed in detail at a County and City Council Member Workshop held in February 2010. Following this workshop, endorsement to proceed with a public consultation of these proposals was granted, and is programmed for late June 2010. It is hoped that a scheme could commence on site in January 2011.

## **BAILGATE RESTORED**

The £1.2m scheme for repaving in Lincoln's Bailgate area continues. Residents and the Guild of local traders have been kept fully informed, access has been made available to all properties, and businesses have remained open. The work to date has, in general, been very well received and is on target to be completed by end June 2010. Traffic diversion arrangements have changed with the various phases of work, but communication with the public proved to be very effective.

## **SOUTH WEST QUADRANT – TEAL PARK**

Outline Planning Application, submitted by the County Council and Taylor Lindsey Developments, was Approved by NKDC on 15th 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, Section 106 Agreement in progress.

## **GRANTHAM TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The implementation group consists of officers from both LCC and SKDC in order to deliver the Growth Point and Transport Strategy for Grantham. Initial work has been focused on the Into Town bus service, which was launched in April. Work will continue with the town centre enhancements, which are currently being designed, and Phase A will commence on site this financial year.

## **GRANTHAM SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD**

An Examination in Public took place in January 2010 on the Core Strategy within the Local Development Framework. The Inspector's Report is awaited - this will then provide the planning framework for the Grantham Southern Relief Road.

## **BOSTON TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The contract for the Online Widening works on the A52/A16 has been awarded, and the expected duration of work is up to 11 months. A Member briefing, and a public meeting, took place on 28 April. Walking and cycling improvements are being developed for implementation as part of the Transport Strategy.

## **A1073 SPALDING TO EYE IMPROVEMENTS**

Work is progressing well on site with earthworks virtually complete, the majority of surfacing works also complete, and the main structures in place. Landscaping works ceased at the end of April, and are not permitted to recommence until November. A good level of contact is being maintained with the public in the area, including local schools and a charity running, cycling and walking event held on a section of the new road. National Grid has completed Phase 1 of installation of the diverted High Pressure gas mains, with Phase 2 scheduled for early this summer. The A47 dual carriageway section is now open, and the overall scheme is on schedule for completion in summer 2010.

## **BRIDGE STRENGTHENING BLOCK**

### **Network Rail Bridge No. 21, Dunstan Road, Metheringham**

The works are due to start on site on 24 May, with a road closure for 11 weeks from June 2010. The bridge is programmed to be re-opened to traffic from 7 September. A temporary footbridge will be provided for the duration of the work and a Call Connect service will ensure that local access to the existing commercial bus services is retained. All school children affected have received letters informing them of the revised arrangements to be put in place.

### **Horse Fen Bridge, North Thoresby, A1031**

The works are now complete, and the road has re-opened to traffic.

### **Jobson's Footbridge, Pinchbeck**

Works are now complete and the bridge is operational.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The number of people killed or seriously injured for 2009 was 456, disappointingly higher than the figure predicted in February. Nevertheless, this means that Lincolnshire is still on track to achieve the Government's 40% casualty reduction targets, and the stretched targets agreed for the Local Area Agreement.

I am pleased to inform you that the bid for regional road safety grant, which I mentioned in my last report, was successful. This will provide £260K of additional funding to provide a concerted regional campaign against the 'fatal four' key factors of speed, drink/drug driving, mobile phones and seat belts. Each theme will last for two months and will be supported by signing on selected routes, and by regional radio advertising. The police will also carry out roadside clinics to provide advice and information to drivers on the fatal four. The campaign will commence in June 2010 with the drink and drugs driving theme.

The driving academy at North Kyme, funded through the rural development project, is now operational. This facility will be able to provide training not only for pre/newly qualified drivers, but also nationally approved programmes for offending motorists, skid workshops, and speed workshops. The Academy will also benefit from the acquisition of a high tech driving simulator which replicates on-road driving - this will also be made available to the emergency services.

Construction work to install the average speed camera system on the A52 at Ropsley is nearing completion, and the cameras should be operational very shortly. This is another initiative funded nationally through the Rural Demonstration project.

## **ACCESSIBILITY & POLICY**

The Louth 'Nipper' was launched on the 7 April, and provides an experimental town service on two separate loops operating hourly.

The first phase of the re-launch of Grantham IntoTown by Centrebus took place on 8 February with new low-floor buses being provided on two services. The second phase was introduced on 12 April, with further new buses provided by the County

Council to deliver improved services, enabling the people of Grantham to access the rail station, the hospital, Downtown, and the Meres Leisure Centre. The official launch was held at Downtown on 9 April.

On 6 April a new CallConnect service was launched in Stamford, in partnership with Peterborough Council, following the recent introduction of a Stamford service jointly funded by Northamptonshire. A community minibus was also launched by Stamford Christ Church Community Group with assistance from LCC.

In April 2011 the role of Concessionary Travel Authority transfers from the district councils to the County Council. We need to ensure that the full costs are provided to the council from DfT. There is some concern as the appeals, that were determined several years ago, are now subject to a judicial review.

All LEA schools in Lincolnshire now have a School Travel Plan, meeting the target set by Government. The team will now be working with school clusters to increase healthy travel to school.