

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 FEBRUARY 2011

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

A1073 SPALDING TO EYE IMPROVEMENTS

Following extensive ground investigations, the cause of the failure at Car Dyke is close to being agreed by the project team. A solution to correct the issue, involving the installation of piles along a length of the embankment, is being prepared by the engineering team. It is hoped that work will commence in early February, with completion expected for late spring/early summer.

We are naturally disappointed that the section in Peterborough has not been able to open as early as anticipated. We are now looking forward to the new road being fully opened, allowing all of the local communities to benefit from improved safety and relief from congestion, and for the region to benefit from the important strategic link to the East of England.

BOSTON TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Work on the A16 and A52 is progressing well, and on target for completion in April. Work has now started on the two level crossings, which are on target to be completed before the end of March.

We are currently exploring options for improvements to the bus station. These improvements will be targeted towards ensuring the facilities comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, improving efficiency and enhancing the passenger experience. This is, however, dependent on the funding being in place from all partners, including Boston Borough Council.

GRANTHAM TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Grantham Station Approach - This is a proposed mixed development of office, residential and commercial provision. Preparations are underway, including ground investigations, surveys, and land purchase to inform the Planning Application submission in June 2011. The scheme will also include some advanced provision of highway improvements and adoption, together with a public realm scheme. This should make the overall site then attractive for the remaining development.

GAINSBOROUGH TRANSPORT STRATEGY

We are now working on implementing some of the early year improvements identified in the Strategy, including additional cycle-ways, pedestrian crossing facilities, junction improvements, a Real-Time Bus Information system and a feasibility study to examine possible improvements to Lea Road Station

LINCOLN TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Lincoln Park & Ride -The Stakeholder meeting scheduled for December 2010 was cancelled due to the severe weather conditions. It is hoped that the meeting will be reconvened as soon as possible.

Lincoln Eastern Bypass - A second revised Expression of Interest (Eoi) was lodged with the Department for Transport (DfT) for the LEB to be considered for acceptance in the DfT Development Pool. The outcome of this application should be known this month.

Lincoln East West Link Road - The County Council's Executive Committee approved the route of the road protecting it from development. Work is now progressing on ideas for the pedestrianisation of the High Street between Tentercroft Street and St. Mary's Street and also possible improvements to the main pedestrian crossing points on the High Street at this point, Wigford Way and Tentercroft Street. We are continuing our dialogue with Network Rail as we seek to find a solution to assist pedestrians cross the level crossing.

LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

I am sad to report that 45 people were killed as a result of travelling on the county's roads during 2010. Whilst that number is regretted, and is unacceptable, it is nevertheless the lowest number ever recorded in Lincolnshire, and means that the fatal casualties recorded for 2008, 2009 and 2010 have been 51,52 and 45 respectively. Members may recall that in 1999 and 2003 there were 104 fatalities. I am, however, pleased to report that, for the first time, there were no child (0-16 years) fatalities during 2010.

Final figures for the number of killed or serious injury casualties (KSI's) for 2010 are not yet available, but are predicted to be in the region of 440. If that prediction is correct Lincolnshire will have achieved the targets set out in the previous Government's ten year road safety strategy. The Government is expected to launch a new road safety framework in April 2011 but there are no indications yet as to its likely content.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership will continue to deliver a three pronged strategy of road safety interventions involving education, engineering and enforcement. With effect from April, however, safety cameras will be funded from income generated by clients who accept the offer to attend speed awareness workshops rather than face prosecution.

TRANSPORTATION

A CallConnect customer survey was carried out during the Autumn, and feedback indicates that over 93% of customers are satisfied or very satisfied with the CallConnect bus service. 2010 saw a record breaking year for CallConnect - the service carried over 200,000 passengers which represents a 28.4% increase in patronage compared to 2009.

Following the very successful CallConnect partnership arrangement in the Stamford area between LCC, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Peterborough Councils, Northamptonshire County Council are planning to roll out a countywide demand-responsive bus network modelled broadly on the CallConnect concept. Advanced discussions are taking place between LCC and NCC on a partnership arrangement, which would see LCC manage the Northamptonshire DRT network including processing passenger bookings and scheduling vehicles.

Work has commenced at:

- Boston Station to improve disability access.
- Metheringham Station to improve parking, safety and the provision of a bus interchange.
- Skegness Station – environmental improvements

Footnote

I want to pay tribute to all staff – from the County Council and from our Highways Alliance partner, May Gurney – whose hard work and dedication kept the major highways network passable during the snowy weather in December. Many were on call, and others actually at work, during the Christmas festivities.

I am hugely indebted to them.