

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18 MAY 2012

Statement from: Councillor W S Webb, Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport

Lincoln Transport Strategy

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

Lincoln Eastern By Pass

The delivery team continue to progress resolving the challenges to the scheme, with the expected start date on site 2014/15.

Lincoln East West Link Road

We are now in a period of consultation, and the public can access the application online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ewl. As well as details of the proposed road the application also includes details of the building proposed to replace that which forms the south east corner of the High St and Tentercroft Street, within the conservation area. It is anticipated that the application will be determined in July 2012.

Lincoln South West Quadrant – Teal Park

Whilst resources have been concentrated on Teal Park development site to ensure contractual compliance with key dates, these dates can now be met. Highways Agency has raised no issues. LCC's highways related Planning Conditions now over 90% complete; the main one outstanding is the Surface Water Condition, driven by approval process for the creation of a Reservoir. The foul water Condition has been accepted by NKDC, with LCC having requisitioned a new sewer along Whisby Road to AWS's newly identified discharge point.

Boston Transport Strategy

The Brothertoft right turn restriction trial was introduced on 26 February. Initial adherence was poor, but additional temporary signs have improved this. The effects of this trial are being monitored and the Order reviewed later in the year.

Grantham Southern Relief Road

An evaluation of the earliest delivery periods to promote the relief road has been undertaken, which shows the quickest timescale would be via a planning application from development, submitted through South Kesteven District Council. Further work continues with the landowners with regard to the financial viability of the land.

Spalding Western Relief Road

I have signed the preferred route Decision, and approval to submit a planning application. Discussions are currently ongoing with the developer of Holland Park regarding the location of the Phase 1 roundabout. Draft specialist reports for the planning application are being submitted by the various expert teams.

Transportation

In conjunction with other councils and stakeholders, the County Council has agreed to lobby for improved services on the Lincoln to Nottingham line. A joint letter has been sent to the Minister to make the case for support of enhanced services. This work will continue through the Nottingham/Lincoln Stakeholder Board.

We have submitted a Local Sustainable Transport bid to DfT to facilitate improved accessibility around the Hykeham Station and Teal Park areas.

The Music Trains on the Poacher line continue to be very popular.

We are working with local communities to carry out station adoptions, with the aim of improving the appearance of our rural stations.

£888,000 has been secured from the DfT for the delivery of Bikeability over the next three years. This will enable 21,600 9-11 year olds to benefit from national standard cycle training, and a further 600 secondary school children to benefit from the advanced Level 3 national standard cycle training. Bikeability is cycling proficiency for the 21st century, and is designed to give children the skills to ride safely and confidently on today's roads, as well as other benefits including a healthier lifestyle.

During 2011-2012 we have replaced 131 bus stops across the county, installed 51 accessible new bus stops and awarded 12 Parish Council bus shelter grants for new shelters. We have worked with train operators to install 'info hub' help points at Ancaster and Swinderby rail stations and Caistor Bus Shelter to improve passenger safety.

Lincolnshire Highways Alliance

The Lincolnshire Highways Alliance enters its third year of operation, and continues to deliver a number of benefits including:

- reducing the labour costs for winter maintenance when compared to the previous contract;
- an increase, from 15% to 50%, of professional services delivered locally;
- over 3,500,000sqm of carriageway surface dressing, ahead of time and to cost;
- reducing the cost of delivering a typical basket of highway schemes when compared to the previous contract and similar authorities;
- an improvement to 14 of the 16 highway indicators measured by the National Highways and Transportation Survey for 2011;
- the delivery of a number of innovations, increased recycling levels, and cost benefits in our traffic signals service.

Work in Year 3 of the Alliance will focus on a continued drive to improve efficiency through improved planning and programming.

New Framework Contracts for Highway Works

Our existing Select List of Contractors for Highway Works is being replaced with a series of new Framework Contracts. These will deliver schemes which are not carried out through the Lincolnshire Highways Alliance and include categories such as major construction and surfacing. The frameworks have been split into financial bands to encourage participation from local firms and are expected to commence in July 2012 for a period of four years.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Unfortunately, the final figure for the broader measure of killed and serious injury casualties did increase slightly to 485, compared to 462 for the previous year. This highlights that, whilst we have seen a considerable reduction in the number of killed or seriously injured casualties over the last decade, there is still more to do and we will continue to work with our partners to ensure that everything is done to maintain those reductions.

The LRSP has received funding from LCC Community Development fund to support the 2 Fast 2 Soon, theatre in education programme during 2012/13. In addition LRSP has also secured funding from the same source to develop a driver training programme tailored towards mature drivers. Both these user groups are LRSP priorities for casualty reduction, and the funding will enable us to continue to provide evidence based road safety interventions. The 2 fast 2 soon programme will re-commence in September and, as usual, all Councillors are invited to attend the event.

Following a rigorous inspection process, I am pleased to inform you that LRSP has been verbally informed by the Driving Standards Agency that the Life Skills Academy at North Kyme has been approved as a registered post test Motorcycle training provider - one of only four in the country.

During 2010/11 LCC's Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIP) team based within the LRSP have implemented over thirty local safety schemes. These are targeted at sites that have a history of road traffic collisions resulting in injury and continue to provide a cost effective casualty reduction measure.

Finally, a few words of congratulation and thanks to Steve Willis, who has been recently promoted within the County Council and will shortly be leaving his post as Head of Highways – South. I send Steve my very best wishes for the future.