
OVERVIEW OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken under the Highways and Transport Portfolio :-
 - (a) **North Road Corridor of Certainty** -
 - (i) Traffic Orders being progressed for Fitzwilliam Drive Traffic Calming, Holwick Road Closure and Thompson Street improvements - ongoing.
 - (ii) Fitzwilliam Drive Toucan - Installation works complete except for guardrailing.
 - (b) **Yarm Road Corridor of Certainty** -
 - (i) Hundens Lane Traffic Signal Upgrade - complete.
 - (ii) Neasham Road/St John's Crescent - Conversion of Zebra to Puffin Crossing - complete.
 - (c) **Highway Maintenance Works** - Various schemes are due to commence/have commenced/been carried out since the last report:
 - (i) **The following schemes have commenced/are due to commence:**
 - C180 Geneva Road Phase 1 - carriageway surfacing - ongoing.
 - C46 Great Burdon to Great Stainton - drainage works - ongoing.
 - Unc Belgrave Terrace - carriageway works - ongoing.
 - Unc Ridgeway Phase 5 - footpath works - ongoing.
 - B6280 Carmel Road South - footpath works - ongoing.
 - Unc Spring Court - footpath works - ongoing.
 - Unc The Rise - footpath works - ongoing.
 - Unc Victoria Road - footpath works - ongoing.
 - Unc Gladstone Street - footpath works – ongoing.
 - A167 North Road - Raby Street to Peabody Street - footpath works - ongoing.
 - Unc Kingsway - footpath works - ongoing.

- A167 Grange Road Phase 3 - kerbing/footpaths/carriageway strengthening - ongoing.
- Unc Kielder Drive/Meldon Close - footpath works - ongoing.
- Swan House roundabout - carriageway resurfacing - ongoing.
- Various surface dressing carriageway works - commenced.

(ii) **The following schemes have been completed:**

- Westfield Drive Phase 2 - footpath works.
- A Roads - deep patching.
- C144 Low Dinsdale - patching.
- B to Unc Roads - deep patching.
- Unc Auckland Oval - footpath works.
- C181 Hundens Lane - footpath works.
- Rear of Westmoreland Street/Eldon Street - micro-asphalting works commenced.
- Back lane between Longfield Road and Lowson Street - micro-asphalting works commenced.

(d) **Traffic Management & Road Safety Schemes:**

- (i) Phase 1 of traffic calming works on Firthmoor Estate have been completed. Construction of Phase 2 has commenced.
- (ii) Work on the Rydal Road/Melsonby Crescent cycleway has been completed.
- (iii) Harris Street to Salters Lane cycleway/footway is complete.
- (iv) Works in connection with the experimental closure of Back Yarm Road between Peel Street and Wesley Street have been completed.
- (v) Works are ongoing in providing dropped crossings for disabled persons at various locations in the town centre.
- (vi) Traffic calming measures on Newton Lane outside Mount Pleasant Primary School are complete.
- (vii) Gateway treatments have been completed in Killerby.
- (viii) West Park Cycleway/footway link has commenced.
- (ix) Traffic calming measures on the A67, Coniscliffe Road have been completed.

- (x) Road safety improvements on the C34a Great Stainton to Aycliffe road have been completed.
- (xi) Dropped kerbs in Sadberge Village have been completed.
- (e) **Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives** - A number of initiatives have been instigated including the following:
 - (i) Three new cycle instructors have been appointed ready for the September on road cycle training programme.
 - (ii) Sixteen cycle training courses (in eight primary schools, including Mount Pleasant Primary School for the first time) have been carried out for the second half of the Summer term.
 - (iii) The Road Safety Team supported the National charity 'Brake' in their attempt to break the world record for the world's largest walking bus. The event was organised locally by ASDA jointly working with Community Safety personnel and Springfield Primary school. The road safety team started the event with a school assembly and provided high visibility jackets to the participants. It is believed that the world record was broken.
 - (iv) Darlington's Safety Carousel, which is a multi-agency safety event lasting for two weeks for year six primary school children included a seat belt campaign given by the Road Safety Team.
 - (v) Children about to move to secondary school have been given free road safety magazines (supplied by the road safety team) during their induction day at new schools. To reinforce this transition campaign, primary schools also agreed to distribute booklets to parents (from the same series) before their children leave at the end of the school year.
 - (vi) A new Road Safety Support Officer commenced work on the 25 June 2004. An open day was held for representatives from the 50 schools and colleges in Darlington to highlight our free services. Regrettably only six people turned up which was very disappointing.
 - (vii) Nursery talks and school based road safety talks for young children are continuing to take place.
- (f) **Bridgework Schemes:**
 - (i) A1150 Salters Lane Bridge - complete.
 - (ii) Polam Lane Bridge - width restriction in place. Tenders for temporary strengthening options were returned on the 8 July 2004 and are being evaluated.
 - (iii) Design ongoing for:

- Unc Bates Avenue Bridge - due to commence 19 July 2004;
- U55/9 White House Bridge - due to commence 19 July 2004;
- A167 Oxneyfield Bridge;
- C46 Little Stainton Bridge.

(iv) Preliminary investigation being carried out for C37 Bishopston Bridge Strengthening work.

(g) Darlington - A Town On the Move:

The Council has advertised for tenders for baseline travel behaviour research programmed to take place in the early autumn.

Key outcomes from this research will be:

- (i) Baseline data used to evaluate the effects on travel behaviour, attitudes and perceptions of the project, including changes in behaviour arising from specific interventions, notably individualised travel marketing. This data will inform the establishment of the main performance indicators and targets for this project.
- (ii) A comprehensive database on existing personal travel behaviour
- (iii) Information on the potential for change, attitudes and perceptions to travel modes.

It is anticipated that the research findings will be available in January 2005.

(h) Pateley Moor Crescent Home Zone - Construction work is nearing completion on the Home Zone; an opening event is planned for late August.

(i) Safe Routes to School -

Dodmire Juniors, Heathfield and St John's Primary are working with Sustrans on the 'Schools and Skills' project, they are receiving help with the development of a travel plan and greater encouragement on promoting cycling. Pupils will be invited to participate in a 'cycling event' during the summer holidays.

Five schools have received a DFES travel plan grant, (approximately £5000 per school). This can be spent on capital items identified within the Schools Travel Plan, for example cycle parking, equipment lockers.

(j) Cycle Network - With the exception of signing work is complete on the construction of 2 Kilometers of pedestrian / cycle path on the former Barnard Castle Rail Line west of West Auckland Road.

(k) Station Interchange

- (i) Virtually all construction work completed, except for the gates on a new emergency vehicle access.

- (ii) Teesside International Airport have issued tenders out for bus operation and are looking to start the service in October to correspond with the airlines' winter timetables and the finalisation of the Airport's re-branding.
- (l) **Cameras on Buses** - Agreed to fit 12 Stagecoach buses with CCTV cameras during 2004/05. This carries on work completed in 2003/04 where over 68% of the local bus fleet was so fitted.
- (m) **National Bike Week** – As in the past, a very successful bike ride was held between the Pierremont Unit at the Memorial Hospital and the new West Park Hospital. Attended by staff of the new Hospital, the cycle ride was designed to demonstrate and promote the cycle links to West Park.
- (n) **Transport Steering Group** - Officers have joined this Group, set up by the County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to oversee the introduction of a travel plan for the Memorial Hospital, as part of a Trust wide initiative.
- (o) **'Pedestrian Heart'** – The Council's consultants, Gillespies, are to carry out public consultation on the proposed design for the Pedestrian Heart during mid-July. Work is continuing on elements of the design, including the detail of bus stopping arrangements.

Councillor Nick Wallis
Cabinet Member with Highways and Transport Portfolio