

RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP
Monday, 28th June, 2010

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Buckley, Dodson, Pickering, R. S. Russell, Swift, Wootton and Whelbourn.

together with:-

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| Mark Hampson | Green Road |
| Brandon Jones | First South Yorkshire |
| Richard Simons | First South Yorkshire |
| John Bickerton | First Group |
| Pam Horner | SYPT |
| Rupert Cox | Stagecoach Yorkshire |
| Stephen Hewitson | Rotherham Community Transport |
| Jason Thomas | WSP |
| Andy Poole | WSP |
| Ian Ashmore | RMBC Principal Traffic Officer |
| Andy Butler | RMBC Senior Engineer |

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Gerald Smith, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation (Chair), welcomed everyone present to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Councillor J. Austen | RMBC Ward 6 (Holderness) |
| Councillor A. Atkin | RMBC Ward 19 (Wath) |
| Councillor J. Falvey | RMBC Ward (Dinninton) |
| Shayne Howarth | Stagecoach Yorkshire |
| Paul Lynch | Stagecoach Yorkshire |
| David Stevenson | Stagecoach East Midlands |
| Adrian Kemp | WSP |

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd March, 2010, were noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Reference was made to the following item:-

Item 7 – Road Safety – South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership – particular reference was made to problems outside Anston Fence School. Concern was also expressed that the listed locations of the cameras appeared unchanged.

It was explained that the cameras were located in areas where incidents and speed were an issue. It was pointed out that 2 mobile cameras were also available.

5. DRIVE GREEN PROJECT

Brandon Jones, Commercial Director, First South Yorkshire Limited, introduced the Drivegreen initiative being rolled out across First's fleet.

John Bickerton, FirstGroup plc, with the assistance of a presentation, explained the aims and objectives of the project together with the technology involved.

Reference was made to:-

- Installation in South Yorkshire and in Rotherham since January 2010
- 8,500 vehicles fitted across the UK
- Use as a management tool
- Reduced fuel consumption and reduced fuel costs
- Reduced vehicle maintenance costs
- Improved safety and passenger comfort when travelling by bus
- Accident reduction
- Maintaining ISO 1401 Environmental Standards
- Drivers able to monitor their own performance
- Vehicle tracking, trips history and identification of risk events/locations

The following issues were raised and discussed:-

- Effect on timetables
- Drivers' reaction
- Amount of fuel saved
- Rate of return on investment
- Better engine life of vehicles

The Chairman thanked Brandon and John for their interesting and informative presentation.

6. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS

- (i) First Group

Richard Simons reported only small scale changes were planned for the end of July, primarily a number of minor adjustments to timetables to improve punctuality, or connectivity, with changes on Sheffield services.

Also a special timetable was to be introduced during the schools summer holiday on the Maltby route due to reduced demand in previous years.

The following issue was raised and discussed:-

- Services to the Hellaby industrial estate to cater for shift workers

Concern was expressed that some shift workers experienced difficulties getting to work, particularly in the early mornings as there were no bus services at that time.

It was explained that First operated 2 services into the estate, the use of which was variable. The service operated every half an hour from 7 a.m.

It was stressed that the Service had to be run on a commercial basis reliant on revenue.

It was agreed:- That a Travel Planner be asked to visit employers on the estate to gather information and to find out if the employers would be willing to contribute to cost of tickets.

(ii) Northern Rail

No representative was present.

(iii) Rotherham Community Transport

Stephen Hewitson reported that there were no service changes.

Copies of the following leaflets were distributed:-

- Door2Door Services in Rotherham – local service that comes to you
- Your guide to using Door 2 Door

Information was also provided in respect of Rotherham Shop Mobility Scheme - pilot project in conjunction with Rotherham Access Group, Shopmobility Barnsley and the Community Links worker. The scheme provided for shopping in Parkgate Retail World and in Rotherham town centre. The pilot began on 7th June and would operate until 28th August, 2010.

An invitation was extended to those present to attend the General Meeting of Rotherham Community Transport which was to be held on Wednesday, 14th July, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Unity Centre, St. Leonard's Road, Rotherham.

(iv) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive

Pam Horner reported that all Members should have received copies of the changes due to take place. It was pointed out that the most significant

changes were in services in Sheffield.

Reference was made to the following:-

- Withdrawal of Powell's Service 396 – commercial service between Rotherham and Doncaster which serviced Piccadilly in Swinton and Windhill in Conisbrough. A request had been made for the service to be mapped as part of the tender criteria to see how many households would be affected. However it was pointed out if the service was not commercially viable the PTE was not in a position to contract for a service.
- Veolia – Services in Brinsworth, Catcliffe and Treeton:- reference was made to reported concerns about poor performance of services in this area. It was explained that when a breakdowns occurred and there were insufficient vehicles then vehicles were taken from the commercial operations and put to the contracted service. However, Veolia now had a depot in Rotherham for a speedier change over and the PTE was managing any complaints.
- South Rotherham and Rotherham Bus Vision:- those present were provided with a pack/digi brief.

The following issue was raised and noted:-

- Buses using narrow roads in the Ulley Area

(v) Stagecoach East Midlands

There were no issues or changes to report.

(vi) Stagecoach Yorkshire

Rupert Cox reported that there were no changes to timetables.

The Chairman thanked all the operators for their updates.

7. UPDATES FROM RMBC TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Andy Butler, RMBC Senior Engineer, reported on the following:-

- (i) Local Transport Capital Programme 2010/11

It was reported that the Council had 2 major schemes programmed:-

- Signalisation of Mushroom Roundabout
- Wickersley Road/Broom Lane A6021

Details of both schemes could be found via the Council's website.

A further report would be submitted to the Cabinet Member in respect of

the reduced budget available.

Reference was made to the operation of Whiston Crossroads and right turning traffic. It was confirmed that the operation of the crossroads was being monitored and a post scheme implementation review report would be forthcoming.

(ii) Speed Limit Review of A and B Roads

It was reported that all local authorities had been required by Government to review speed limits on A and B class roads. Rotherham had done this as part of a South Yorkshire wide review.

Changes proposed this year included:-

- Pleasley Road – reduction from 40mph to 30mph
- Tickhill road, Maltby – reduction from 40mph to 30mph
- Wath Road/Bolton Road – split changes:- from derestricted to 40mph and from 50 mph to 40 mph to tie in with the existing speed limit on the Doncaster section
- Redhill, Kiveton Park – from 40mph to 30mph
- Stubbin Road, Rawmarsh – as part of a local speed reduction scheme
- Worrygoose Lane – derestricted to 40mph
- Fishpond Lane, Braithwell – currently 30mph to derestricted

A further list had been drawn up where physical measures were planned in order to engineer speeds down:-

- A629 Upper Wortley Road
- A629 Droppingwell Road
- A6021 Broom Road/Wickersley Road

Members referred to:-

- Speed limit signing outside Aston Fence School
- West Bawtry Road – Whiston Crossroads to Canklow – noting the review had suggested that the speed limit should remain at 50mph, and that the request of a pedestrian crossing did not meet the required criteria.

8. SIGNALISATION OF MUSHROOM ROUNDABOUT

Jason Thomas and Andy Poole, WSP Consulting Engineers, gave a presentation on proposals for the signalisation of Mushroom Roundabout.

It was explained that this was a joint PTE and Council solution to significant traffic issues particularly in the peak period. Therefore options to reduce congestion, improve bus journey times and reliability on the Rotherham via Thrybergh route to Doncaster, and to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities had been explored and tested using micro-simulation modelling.

Reference was made to various options identified and their respective benefits and dis-benefits. It was explained that option 4 was the signalisation of the roundabout. A further revised option had been modelled using MOVA which optimised the operation of the traffic lights to ensure they were working as efficiently as possible to keep traffic moving and allow pedestrians to cross. This scheme included the in filling of the existing subway on Fitzwilliam Road and the provision of an on carriageway traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing.

Videos of the evening peak showing the base information and the MOVA model illustrated the impact of signalisation, with further reduction in queuing on Aldwarke Lane. The benefits for buses were highlighted. The morning peak had also similarly been modelled.

As a result the full signalisation scheme with MOVA control had been recommended to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation and approved subject to funding.

Those present raised and discussed the following:-

- the data on which the model was based on and how realistic were their projections
- cost of the scheme and reduced funding for this scheme

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other items of business were raised.

10. PROPOSE MEETING DATES FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following dates of meetings were agreed:-

WEDNESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2010 AT 2.00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 2010 AT 2.00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2011 AT 2.00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH JUNE, 2011 AT 2.00 P.M.