



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(ELMBRIDGE)**

**B376 ST GEORGES AVENUE, WEYBRIDGE**

**7 DECEMBER 2009**

**KEY ISSUE**

To inform the Committee about the proposed implementation of mitigation measures against vehicle incursion onto the railway at St Georges Avenue, Weybridge.

**SUMMARY**

Following the road/rail accident at Great Heck, Selby in February 2001, the Secretary of State for Transport agreed to recommendations made by the Health and Safety Commission and the Highways Agency about how to mitigate as far as possible against similar incursions in future.

St Georges Avenue is one of the sites in the County parallel to the railway and it has been identified as being at high risk for vehicle incursion onto the railway.

A scheme to mitigate against incursion by vehicles using the St Georges Avenue has been developed jointly by Network Rail (NR) and Surrey County Council (SCC). This requires a land transferred agreement between NR and SCC. Temporary interim measures to reduce the risk of vehicle incursion are to be installed by the County Council as soon as possible pending a permanent solution.

The works are expected to take 8 weeks and would be jointly funded by the County Council and Network Rail. For the safety of the workforce, a lane closure would be implemented resulting in single lane one-way traffic towards Weybridge Station only. Diversionary routes would be sign-posted. This work

will be coordinated and agreed with Elmbridge Local Highway office to ensure that the road restriction does not coincide with the proposed Seven Hill road closure.

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to agree:**

- (i) To note for information the proposed installation of mitigation measures against vehicle incursion onto railway at St Georges Avenue, Weybridge.

### **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 After the road/rail accident at Great Heck in February 2001, the Secretary of State for Transport agreed to recommendations made by the Health and Safety Commission and the Highways Agency about how best to mitigate as far as possible against similar incursions in future.
- 1.2 This mitigation included a joint programme of work by highway authorities and Network Rail to assess and prioritise the risk of vehicles leaving the road and getting onto the railway at sites for which they were responsible. Network Rail and the highway authorities would jointly fund measures at those sites identified as high risk.
- 1.3 In conjunction with Network Rail, the County Council has completed the risk ranking exercise of all road over rail sites in Surrey. St Georges Avenue has being identified in the County as being at high risk.
- 1.4 The County have developed, in association with Network Rail, a scheme to mitigate against the high risk of incursion at St Georges Avenue.
- 1.5 The risk ranking and the proposed mitigation measures are in accordance with the Government's guideline: "Managing the accidental obstruction of the railway by road vehicles" published by the Department for Transport, February 2003.

### **2 CONSULTATIONS**

- 1. Elmbridge Borough Council.
- 2. The Utility Companies.
- 3. SCC Local Transportation Office.
- 4. Network Rail.

### **3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The estimated cost of the scheme is £65,000 (excluding Statutory Undertakers works). This would be funded jointly by Network Rail and the County Council. The County Council has made funds available for mitigation measures from the County's budget for Bridge Strengthening.

### **4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Single lane traffic control during the works is likely to cause short traffic queues. However, the diversionary routes are adequate to accommodate the volume of traffic affected

### **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct implications related to crime and disorder.

### **6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct implications related to equalities.

**LEAD OFFICER:** **Clement Bamgbade – Project Manager**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 03456 009 009

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** “ **Managing the accidental obstruction of the railway by road vehicles**” published by the Department for Transport, February 2003