

Item 23

VAS UPDATE/DATA INFO REPORT

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)

21st July 2005

KEY ISSUE:

To advise members on the current situation with regard to the 'Local Transportation Service's' Vehicle Activated Sign program and recommend that the costs for the supply and installation of the permanent sign on Red Road be met from the Local Allocation Budget.

SUMMARY:

The Surrey Heath Local Transportation Service now has a total of six 'Vehicle Activated Signs' predominantly achieved by a contribution of £19,000 from Surrey Heath Borough Council's Community Fund. This report reiterates the list of sites that was agreed at the Local Committee in March 2005 and provides an update of sites that have been visited already and those that are planned for the near future.

The report is ended by a brief outline of proposed permanent sites for 'Vehicle Activated Signs.' These include their utilisation in the proposed traffic calming scheme on Mytchett Road and the warning sign for Red Road, where a number of injury collisions have been noted. It is requested that as well as noting the update information contained within the report the committee agree the use of £25,000 from the Local Allocation Budget to provide the power supply and installation costs for the sign on Red Road.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee in Surrey Heath:

- i. Note the current situation with regard to 'Vehicle Activated Signs.'
- ii. Approve funding from the Local Allocation Budget to install a permanent sign on Red Road – Lightwater.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Following an on-site demonstration by 'Radarlux Radar Systems' in February 2004 Surrey Heath LTS Office subsequently purchased two 'SpeedVisor' signs. The unit measures the speed of an approaching vehicle using an integrated radar unit before displaying it on a LED screen. The unit has a memory stick to record the speeds, which can then be fed back into the feasibility stage of proposed schemes.
2. In January 2005 Surrey Heath LTS Office received delivery of a further four 'Speed Visor' signs. Surrey Heath Borough Council agreed to contribute £19,000 towards their purchase. Although the six signs will predominantly be rotated around the sites detailed in **Annex 1** on an eight-week basis, (agreed at Local Transportation Committee on the 10th March 2005) two of the signs were purchased for community use, as agreed with the 'Chairman of the Committee' previously. Programming of community sites will be carried out following residential requests in conjunction with Surrey Heath LTS Office and the police.
3. Surrey Police support the 'Vehicle Activated Sign' campaign, in particular our 'Casualty Reduction Officer' and 'Motorcycle Enforcement Team' who attend the sites on targeted days with the objective of advising and educating motorists who were caught breaking the speed limit. In some cases enforcement has been and will be carried out.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

4. Unfortunately delays have been experienced in locating the devices within the district. Due to the device's size and weight it was not possible to mount them onto lamp columns as previously anticipated. Posts have therefore had to be installed at the pre-determined sites, which has also increased the cost of the implementation program. On certain roads 'Traffic Management' has been required to install the posts such as on the A322 Bracknell, (again adding time to installation) and problems with overhead cables on the A319 Bagshot Road, which made locating the post difficult due to concerns over operative safety.
5. Posts are now in place on Crawley Ridge, the A325 Portsmouth Road and the A322 Bracknell Road in the vicinity of the A30 over-bridge, (both directions on each road). The posts for the A319 are on order and should be in place within the next month.
6. In total four signs are currently on site, located on Crawley Ridge and the A322 Bracknell Road. Around a month ago one of the signs on Crawley Ridge was vandalised and subsequently had to be exchanged with an operational one. Therefore until repairs are completed, only the Local Transportation Service has five operational signs.
7. It is planned to arrange a meeting with the 'Casualty Reduction Officer' over the next month to finalise post positions for the remainder of the sites in **Annex 1** so that more site rotation can be achieved.

8. Two sites have now been put forward for permanent 'Variable Message Signs.' The first location is Red Road in the vicinity of the double bends where a number of injury collisions have occurred over the last few years. Following a meeting with the sign supplier it was found that our original intention to power the sign by means of solar and wind power was not possible due to surrounding trees. The LTS is therefore proposing to extend the electricity supply along Red Road in order to get power to the sign. It is anticipated that the total cost of all works will be up to £25,000 and there are design issues still to be resolved with regard to recent Highway Guidance on signposts on unrestricted roads and how they can be protected from potential impacts. As a result there is no definitive date when this will be resolved. However it is being treated as a priority.
9. The second location is along Mytchett Road between its junction with Hamesmoor Road and the borough boundary with Guildford. It is proposed as part of the traffic-calming scheme to install eight new 30mph flashing reminders at equal distances along the road. These are a relatively new traffic management tool that can be installed on lamp columns. Due to their weight and size there are no concerns with applying them to lamp columns. These devices cost about £2,000 for supply and installation, and all costs will come from the LTP scheme budget.

CONSULTATION

10. The Speed Management Policy campaign has been developed after consultation with other District LTSs, the Traffic and Road Safety Group of the County Council, and Surrey Police. Further extension of the campaign has been progressed after further discussion with County Members and Surrey Police. No formal consultations have been carried out with the public, but we do intend to produce a questionnaire that can be sent to residents along a road once the posters have been taken down to obtain their views.
11. The LTD has consulted with the Local Committee Chairman and local members with regard to the provision of a VMS in Red Road, including discussions as to the funding. This report is to obtain formal agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The 'SpeedVisor' sign purchase and program has been made possible by contributions by Councillor Coffin, (some money still available following the initial two purchases for sign relocation), Councillor Sealy and Surrey Heath Borough Council. A figure of around £25,000 will be required from the Local Allocation budget in order to install the permanent sign on Red Road.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

13. Surrey has embraced the concept of sustainable development, which is the foundation of Surrey's Local Transport Plan and is committed to the vision of making Surrey a better place. Funding from the integrated transport budget will be expended on projects and schemes in line with this vision whilst fulfilling its key commitments.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

14. The Surrey Heath Crime and Disorder strategy seeks to continually improve the safety of the community. Measures to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian facilities will assist this strategy.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no foreseeable 'Equalities Implications.'

CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

16. It is recommended that Surrey Heath Local Committee approves the £25,000 commitment from the Local Allocation Budget to install the permanent Variable Message Sign for Red Road. This will bring about positive safety impacts on a road, which experiences a number of annual injury collisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee notes the current situation with the Vehicle Activated Sign program and approves the spend from the Local Allocation Budget approximately £25,000 to install the permanent sign on Red Road.

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Ian Pritchard, (Engineering Technician)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01483 518277

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Number of Annexes: 1 **A: Approved Speed Visor Sign Sites for 2005/06**

Annex 1: Approved SpeedVisor Sign Sites for 2005/06

Temporary Sites:

Road	Posts Installed	VMS Signs on Site at Present
A322 Bracknell Road, Bagshot	Yes	Yes
Crawley Ridge	Yes	Yes
Park Street (Park Road – Railway Bridge)	No	No
A319 Bagshot Road, West End	No	No
Mytchett Road, Mytchett	No	No
College Ride, Camberley	No	No
Coleford Bridge Road, Mytchett	No	No
Guildford Road, Lightwater	No	No
Windsor Road, Chobham	No	No
Frimley Road, Camberley	No	No
Old Bisley Road	No	No
School Road and Kennel Lane	No	No
Blackwater Valley Relief Road (Northbound) Frimley	No	No
A325 Portsmouth Road, Frimley	Yes	No

Permanent Sites:

- Mytchett Road – Eight Locations between Hamesmoor Road and Guildford Borough Boundary
- Red Road – Eastbound prior to series of double bends.