

Local Sustainable Transport Fund DRAFT Annual Progress Report for 2012/13

SECTION A - Project Description, Spend Profile and Progress Summary

A1. Project description:

TravelSMART's aim is to promote economic growth and increase sustainable travel (walking, cycling and public transport) throughout Surrey. The programme builds on existing successful initiatives such as the "Cycle Woking" cycling demonstration town, our Drive SMART anti-social driving initiative, our quality bus partnerships and the Transport for Surrey Partnership. The overarching objective is to use Cycle Woking as a genuine demonstration town to create a toolbox of cost-effective "high impact-low cost" measures which can be repeated in many other small-medium sized towns and their rural hinterland. Wherever possible, measures will be developed, directed and delivered by local people and stakeholders.

A4. Progress summary:

Bus Priority and corridor improvements in Woking

- Small amount of work completed on the bus corridor improvements, generally at bus stops, raising the kerbing.
- Intelligent Bus Priority – kit obtained, and working with traffic systems to install 2013/14.
- Multi-media screens, kit obtained and awaiting approval from Woking BC for installation during 2013/14.
- Real Time Passenger Information upgrade completed on site and on vehicles. “Back office” work to be carried out early 2013/14.

Walking and cycling improvements in Woking

- Marist school, ducting etc completed, but next phase planned end May 2013. Note that S106 funding is timed out after September 2013.
- A320 Egley Road phase 1 completed around Wych Hill/Claremount Road
- A245 Parvis Road (phase 1) completed
- Dione Trail Cycle Tracks Order completed.

Travel planning and promotion in Woking

- Go Ride and level 3 bikeability undertaken
- Woking Business Travel Forum set up and actively spent funding on transport related activities
- Sustainable maps produced for Woking town centre and Sheerwater and Maybury community area.
- Community funding programme for Sheerwater and Maybury undertaken.
- Phase 1 of Wayfinder mapping completed.

B1. Scheme element 1: Bus priority and corridor improvements

RTPI systems upgrade

A major upgrade to the Real Time Passenger Information System serving Woking and Guildford was undertaken during the year. The work involves improving the performance of RTPI by using a GPS-based system, rather than relying on the outdated Private Mobile Radio (PMR) system which was in place previously. This, therefore, permits more accurate predictions of bus times and provides the operators with a more user-friendly web-based control system in their depots.

The upgrade has enabled the County to purchase ten media screens to relay RTPI information to public buildings, rail stations, and other hubs. Locations have been identified and will be installed in 2013/14.

Traffic Signal Bus Priority Works in Woking

Planning and evaluation of technical work to install bus recognition at ten junctions in Woking commenced during the year. Equipment for the upgrades to the selected traffic signals was made and installation is during shortly. The detection equipment will enable traffic signal controllers to compare bus arrival times to the scheduled time and adjust bus progress accordingly. Late running buses will be given priority through the junction.

Guildford to Woking Bus Stop Improvements

Up to bus stop improvements have been implemented on routes servicing communities between Guildford and Woking. The stops are served by buses on route 557, 437, 462, and 463.

Improvements were carried out at these bus stops, to upgrade the bus stop flag, pole, and travel information panel. Of these, some 15 stops had additional works such as a new footway to replace a grassed waiting area, raised kerbs to assist pushchair and disabled access to buses, and bus cage markings. A further three bus stops were improved last year in Woking and Guildford Borough using Section 106 funding, to compliment the LSFT work programme.

Woking Bus Corridors Improvements

Planning work for two bus corridors in north-west Woking were also completed during the year: Sythwood-Knaphill and St John Road Corridors.

A significant part of the infrastructure improvements are at bus stops where bus access, passenger facilities and passenger access has been addressed. An important part of the works will ensure all stops provide a level step-free access to the bus fleet in both towns. Other works included partially in-filling bus lay-bys to ensure that the larger front entry buses now operating in these towns, can pull up to bus stops to within 200mm of the kerb and parallel to it (for step-free access). These improvements also speed up bus access and boarding times

SECTION B – Scheme Element Outputs

B2. Scheme element 2: Walking and cycling

Woking

Cycle parking at stations

In support of the growth in cycling in Woking South West Trains plan to construct a Bike Hub at Woking railway station during the autumn / winter of 2013/14 and upgrade some cycle parking facilities at West Byfleet railway station.

A245 Parvis Road shared pedestrian and cycle route – *Mercury Trail*

Phase One of a new shared pedestrian and cycle route was implemented between West Byfleet and Byfleet during the winter. It links the mainly residential area of West Byfleet with industrial and commercial land uses in Byfleet, some three kilometers to the east. Phase One works involved widening the footway to 2.5m where available highway land enabled this to be simply achieved. A second phase of works, currently under discussion with Members, is agreeing the most suitable method for the junction treatments.

The route joins Chertsey Road (Byfleet) (*Venus Trail*) and then the Oyster Lane cycle scheme in Byfleet, constructed and reported upon last year.

A320, Egley Road shared pedestrian and cycle route - *Earth Trail*

Good progress has been made in constructing a new shared pedestrian and cycle route. Planning and detailed design of complex junction elements of the route are outstanding and will be completed in the next few months. The route, known as Earth Trail, will link Woking town centre to Worplesdon Station, using quiet streets and off road shared cycle/footway facilities adjacent to the A320 Egley Road. Under future funding the route will be completed to Guildford.

A245, Old Woking Road: Marist School Crossing

Progress was made on the construction of a new puffin crossing outside the Marist School in Old Woking Road. Developer funding contributions have been made towards this crossing, but LSTF funding has also been made to enable this scheme to proceed, which commenced during the October half term. Unforeseen technical issues resulted in the road booking slot being lost in February half term, when the scheme was to be completed. The works are now scheduled for May half term.

The design of the scheme has flexibility to permit the crossing to be upgraded from a Puffin to a Toucan facility when the County is able to extend a nearby cycle route into Old Woking Road.

Dione Trail cycle tracks order

The Dione Trail cycle route was the subject of a Cycle Tracks Order, which attracted objections. Following a lengthy process, these objections were withdrawn and the making of this order has now enabled cyclists to use the shared facility with pedestrians. Signing for this route is planned to be installed during June 2013.

B6. Scheme element 6: Travel planning and promotion

Cycle training (Go-Ride and Level 3) Woking and Guildford

Awaiting details

Marketing, branding and travel planning

The Woking Business Travel Forum is an opportunity for businesses in the town centre to discuss and resolve transport issues that affect their staff. Forum members can participate by making transport related improvements with allocated funds for the group (£150,000 total) and benefit from free training to help staff travel more sustainably. The group have met once and potential schemes to spend the £50,000 allocation for 12/13 spend are currently being investigated. These include cycle lockers in the town centre, electric vehicle charging point (capital) and a sustainable travel fayre (revenue). Participating businesses include: CapGemini, Skanska and IBM. The next meeting is Thursday 6th June where ideas for 13/14 spend will be discussed.

Sustainable travel maps were produced for Woking town Centre and distributed to all major attractions, including the Peacock centre, the main shopping centre in Woking. These maps provide multi modal travel information in an easily accessible format and include information on cycling, walking, public transport, car clubs and car sharing. A second revision of this map is being developed for 2013/14.

In the local community of Sheerwater and Maybury a community map was produced, highlighting the sustainable travel options for local residents. This was widely distributed in this area in conjunction with the community funding programme for this area (see below).

A successful community funding programme in Sheerwater and Maybury ward invited local community groups, charities and organisations to apply for funding to undertake projects that promote sustainable travel or bring services into the area reducing the need to travel. Local residents decided which projects should receive funding via a community event at which around 200 people attended. 28 applications were received and 18 projects funded. Projects funded included, cycle parking for local residents and schools, welcome packs for new residents to the area, skills workshops for local NEETs.

Phase 1 of the wayfinder mapping is complete, with a complete signage placement and de-cluttering audit completed. Two stakeholder engagement sessions were undertaken. Detailed design to be completed and installation to commence in 2013/14.

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