

# report

meeting:	<b>JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT</b>	
date:	<b>15 June 2007</b>	agenda item number:
from:	<b>JOINT OFFICERS STEERING GROUP</b>	

## TRANSPORT UPDATE

### Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on key transport issues for the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan (LTP) area.

### Congestion Delivery Report

2. On 17 May the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed by letter that the Greater Nottingham Congestion Delivery Plan, following revision, meets their required standard. The letter states, 'We have been impressed by the professionalism with which you have approached this task. We feel you have a particularly strong grasp of both individual schemes, and how these fit together in a network strategy. Based on your plan, we are confident of your ability to meet, and hopefully exceed, your congestion target'.
3. The outcome of the letter is that the DfT has now released £208,000 of Congestion Performance Funding for 2007/08, with future year funding levels dependent on performance against the target set.
4. It is proposed that the congestion performance funding, which is additional to already allocated Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan funding, is directed towards the following conurbation level congestion related initiatives:
  - § The continued undertaking of comprehensive traffic and journey time surveys to monitor the congestion indicator to a robust standard across Greater Nottingham,
  - § The updating and upgrading of the Greater Nottingham multi-modal computer transport model, the output from which is used in the justification of major transport schemes and interventions, and for assessing the impact of large-scale development proposals.
  - § Contribution towards the development of the Nottingham Station Masterplan scheme and business case,
  - § Development of a sub-regional, co-ordinated approach to marketing of transport initiatives, including the implementation of a branding demonstration project (subject to contributions from other key regional partners also being secured),

- § Implementation of Traffic Control Centre related improvements (for future year allocations).
5. The specific allocation of funding for each of the initiatives is to be determined by agreement by the two authorities.

### **Nottingham Express Transit Phase 2**

6. The formal Transport and Works Act (TWA) Order application for NET Phase Two was lodged with the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 April. The application triggered a six-week period when comments of objection or support could be made to the Secretary of State, and this period finished on 7 June. The documentation was placed in a number of libraries and Council Offices close to the routes to allow for public inspection, and was also available on the website ([www.netphasetwo.com](http://www.netphasetwo.com)). It is anticipated that a public inquiry will commence in November 2007.
7. Resolutions passed by County Council (22 February) and City Council (5 March) approved the submission of the TWA application. Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 applies to the pursuit of a Transport and Works Act Order and requires a confirming decision by the Promoters following the application. This was secured at County Council on 17 May and will be considered by City Council on 25 June.
8. In parallel with the TWA process, a tendering exercise is underway for the development of the scheme design in advance of the future procurement of the scheme. It is expected that the designer will be appointed in July of this year.
9. Work is also continuing on the development of a workplace parking levy scheme within the City boundary and assessment of the potential benefits and impacts of its implementation. It is expected that consultation on the proposals will take place in the summer/autumn.

### **Rail franchise issues**

10. The DfT is expecting to make an announcement in the second half of July about the award of the new rail franchises. A number of enhancements will definitely be included:
- § a new direct Nottingham - Sheffield - Leeds service (28 trains per day),
  - § an additional later weekday evening departure from Nottingham on the Robin Hood line,
  - § additional trains from Nottingham to Attenborough.
11. It is possible that further enhancements, may also be announced, including:
- § on Midland Mainline services to London,
  - § a Sunday service of the Robin Hood line,
  - § to Beeston, and
  - § to Collingham.

## **Rail infrastructure schemes**

12. Network Rail is currently undertaking design works costing £1million looking at upgrading sections of the Midland Mainline. This work is expected to be complete by the end of 2007. Consultants have been commissioned to assess the business case.
13. Network Rail has just commenced the main works at Trowell junction as part of the Trent area resignalling scheme. Regrettably this only includes one very minor upgrade, and Network Rail is passing over the opportunity for a much more significant upgrade.
14. Following discussions with the County Council, Network Rail is considering commissioning consultants to design a number of possible further enhancements along the Erewash Valley that could cut journey times to Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester.
15. Network Rail now accepts there is a business case for doubling the current single-track bottleneck at Trent East junction. A proposal to include this enhancement will be considered by Network Rail's Investment Board in September.
16. Discussions have started between Network Rail, the City Council and the County Council regarding the renewal scheme planned for the Nottingham Station area in 2010 and 2011, and the scope for enhancements to be included in this renewal.

## **Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee note the content of this report.

### Background papers

Greater Nottingham Congestion Delivery Plan, revised April 2007.

Congestion Delivery Plans: Assessment and Feedback, Department for Transport letter, 17 May 2007.

NET Phase 2, Transport and Works Act Order, April 2007

Nottinghamshire County Council, NET Phase 2 Transport and Works Act Order submission resolution, 22 February 2007

Nottingham City Council, NET Phase 2 Transport and Works Act Order submission resolution, 5 March 2007

Nottinghamshire County Council, NET Phase 2 Transport and Works Act Order decision confirmation resolution, 17 May 2007

### Contact Officers

Chris Carter, City Development, Nottingham City Council

Kate Revell, Communities Department, Nottinghamshire County Council

Kevin Sharman, Communities Department, Nottinghamshire County Council