Lee Rowley

From:

David Robinson

Sent:

01 July 2015 10:44

To:

Lee Rowley; Gary Billington

Subject:

FW: Lincoln Eastern Bypass sustainable access statement

The Eastern Bypass and sustainable transport -observations from a school transport and access perspective

The Eastern Bypass Scheme would appear, in general, to offer opportunities for increasing sustainable transport options for families of school-age children and young learners.

The scheme to link the main A15 south of Lincoln to the city's northern ring road is partly aimed, I understand, at allowing the considerable North-South through traffic, including much commercial traffic, to avoid having to negotiate the existing A15 through the heart of the historic centre of Lincoln using a road system which predates this traffic volume.

It is understood that the bypass will relieve pressure considerably on routes in and around Lincoln. This should make sustainable modes of transport to school and college within Lincoln (principally walking and cycling) more attractive, and it is hoped that more parents and pupils/students will opt for sustainable transport as a result, particularly for relatively short journeys in and around the town, where there is no automatic entitlement to free school transport.

The bypass itself includes, I understand, a walking cycling path along its entire route, separated from the road lane. Access and leaving points to and from this walking/cycle lane are to be incorporated at each of the five new junctions. This would help create sustainable travel choices for people using the proposed new bypass.

The scheme could positively contribute to parental choices in schools in the following ways:

- by providing a new route between centres of population and schools which are currents significantly disconnected (eg Washingborough, Heighington and Branston to the south of the River Witham and the settlements to the north of the river), and;
- 2. by reducing journey times on a large number of roads across the greater Lincoln area and thus making it easier to travel between home and a greater number of schools

Parents have the right to express up to three preferences of school in the coordinated admissions process, ranking these preferences in order of priority. The Council coordinates with the schools and offers the highest available preference on application of the oversubscription criteria, that is, the criteria used to allocate places when there are more applications for places to a school than there are places.

The scheme may affect the patterns of parental preference as it will make some routes to and from schools more accessible and practical in various ways. Depending on the criteria (which often come down to ranking on driving distance from addresses to a school names), it may also change how likely parents are to gain places at some of the preferred schools.

These journeys need not be undertaken by road, but could in many cases be effected by means of walking and, particularly, by cycling. If the journeys are by road, shared car arrangements could be used effectively.

David Robinson

HM

22nd June 2015

Mr L Rowley Lincolnshire County Council Technical Services Partnership Crown House, Grantham Street Lincoln LN2 1BD





Dear Mr Rowley

Following a conversation with Dr Billington and an e-mail to him that summarised our views, he suggested that it may be helpful to record those views more formally in a letter.

In short the academy is supportive of the completion of the eastern bypass. It is very clear that for many years ahead government policy will be to support the principle of 'parental choice' in education.

As a consequence young people in Lincolnshire will collectively be heavily reliant on transport for school access (this would be a significant issue anyway in a large, rural county). Therefore any scheme which improves a difficult situation must be encouraged especially when funding that could and should filter into schools is being required for county specific difficulties with transport.

I hope this assists with the process.

Yours sincerely

MR PETER BEIGHTON Principal

Lee Rowley

From:

Kiera Evans <

Sent:

09 June 2015 11:10

To:

Lee Rowley

Subject:

Cherry Willingham primary school

Dear Lee

Further to our meeting at the school on 3 June 2015, I would like to put our views in writing.

With the school being in Cherry Willingham, the access to Hawthorne Road and on and off the bypass will be our largest problem. I know from staff and parents that the long route round to get to and from school is not in the best interests the children. We think this may well impact on the number of pupils coming across to our school. The Carlton academy does not have the capacity to take these pupils. Currently 141 pupils and 15 staff at this school use Hawthorne road to access this school as they come from the Carlton area. All of these families / staff use cars to get their children to this school.

Although the bypass will be beneficial for some, limiting the access to our school will have a negative affect.

Mrs K. Evans

Headteacher

Cherry Willingham Primary School





Lee	Row	lev

3rd June 2015

Dear Lee

Lincoln Eastern Bypass

Following on from our meeting with yourself and Gary Billington today, I am writing to confirm our views on the proposal for the Lincoln Eastern Bypass.

We feel that the bypass itself will have a positive impact on Lincoln and surrounding areas, and in particular, the proposed changes to access for vehicles along Hawthorn Road is likely to reduce the amount of traffic along Carlton Boulevard, making it safer for parents and children to walk, scoot and cycle to school.

Lincoln Carlton Academy opened in September 2013 with a cohort of children from various areas of Lincoln including the Carlton Estate and villages to the east of the proposed bypass route. We are now up to our third year of admission and have found that as time goes on, more of the children we admit live in the Carlton Estate and Glebe Park areas and we expect this to remain the case in the coming years. We feel that the perceived issue of children and parents having to travel further in order to come to this school currently applies to only a few families, and the number of families traveling in from locations to the east of the proposed route is not likely to increase significantly in the future.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Malam Head of School



Lee Rowley

From:

g Thompson

Sent:

23 June 2015 14:48

To:

Lee Rowley

Subject:

meeting today

Just found some time while things are fresh in my mind to put my thoughts down about the eastern bypass proposal.

We are in favour of the concept of the bypass but not in favour of the closing of hawthorn road.

Our catchment is drawn from a diverse area. In September we will have 27 feeder primary schools. These include Fiskerton Reapham and Cherry Willingham.

In addition to that students from Cherry Willingham secondary school tend to in general come to us as a secondary school to further their education.

Cherry Willingham is currently a smaller than we (and they) would desire secondary school however with the projected building work combined with the high numbers of students in the lower years of primary school this is likely to be reversed and they should return to their expected size. When they do over the next few years those students will again come to us in the main.

We currently run coaches and busses along Hawthorn road bringing in significant numbers of students. This is compounded with an unknown number that are brought in by car. (sorry I cannot specify a number or give an indication we don't carry that data)

For us the main issue here is maintaining the parental choice about which school their children attend. A reduction in this route would reduce the choice for parents on either side of the crossing.

Many thanks

Glen Thompson

Deputy Head Teacher

Lincoln Christs Hospital school.

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Meeting with Elaine Stiles, Head Teacher Cherry Willingham Community School

Purpose of meeting	Consultation on Lincoln Eastern Bypass
Location	Cherry Willingham Community School (CWCS)
Date	11 June 2015
Time/Duration	11.00-12.00pm
Notes taken by	Gary Billington

Attendees	
Name	Organisation
Elaine Stiles (ES)	CWCS
Lee Rowley (LR)	LCC
Gary Billington (GB)	Mouchel

Item No	
1.0	Purpose of meeting LR explained that LCC wished to understand any issues and concerns of local schools resulting from the current proposals for Lincoln Eastern Bypass (LEB).
	These proposals include provision of a left-in, left-out junction with Hawthorn Road to the east of the scheme and Hawthorn Road to the west being stopped up. A new roundabout is being provided on Greetwell Road to connect to LEB. A plan of the route was given to ES.
	A non-motorised (pedestrian and cyclist) bridge would be provided crossing LEB and joining the east and west sections of Hawthorn Road. As a result of representations at a public Inquiry in 2014, this NMU bridge would join the footway running along the south side of Hawthorn Road, thus removing the need for pedestrians to cross Hawthorn Road.
2.0	Discussion ES expressed the view that earlier consultation would have been welcome.
	With regard to the stopping up of Hawthorn Road, ES was concerned that this could result in longer journey times for parents choosing to drive their children to school from homes in the Carlton Estate area to the west of LEB. This could result in parents choosing different schools which, in turn, could impact on the budgets for CWCS. ES was also concerned about the extra cost that parents could incur from this.
	ES believes that the greatest impact could be on parents who drop their children off at CWCS before then driving on to work. ES stated that approximately 120 out of 350 students currently attending CWCS live to the west of the proposed LEB and although ES cannot be sure of the scale of impact, it will be a concern

for the future. ES believed the majority of the parent of these 120 students work on the east side of Lincoln and this may have an impact on their journey times back and forth to the school. . A small number of pupils travel to CWCS from areas further away (eg Branston and Washingborough) and ES accepted that journey times to the school would be reduced for these pupils.

ES also expressed concern that other "out of school hours" use of the site facilities could be affected if existing users perceived that the site was more difficult to access. This includes use by the community as a whole and not just students. This is a Community School and it is important to keep these links going with the Community.

If the Hawthorn Road junction was implemented as currently proposed, ES was content that the revised proposals for the NMU bridge would address the previous concerns about safety. However, ES does not believe that any reduction in traffic flow on Hawthorn Road (east) would be a benefit to pedestrians and cyclists as she believes current conditions are acceptable. LR and GB acknowledged that some journeys between CWCS and the Carlton Estate area could take longer as a result of the proposals but suggested that LEB could make CWCS more accessible from other potential catchment areas, including those to the south. ES accepted this in principle but it was agreed that it was not possible to quantify this potential benefit. ES remained concerned about the congestion issues which she believes would not change.

LR and GB suggested that as a result of LEB, traffic flows on the existing A15 at bunkers Hill will be significantly reduced and this could ease concerns for parents driving from this area. ES accepted that there will be some traffic relief, but thought that this would not be as significant as suggested as there are a lot of houses there with at least one car. ES believes that even if strategic movements were reduced these houses would still generate a lot of traffic and hence congestion

GB suggested that the proposed arrangements for Hawthorn Road had the benefit of allowing direct access to/from LEB for Cherry Willingham and Reepham, which the alternative of a road overbridge would not. This could attract other users of the site facilities from further-a-field. Again, ES accepted this in principle however she was concerned that access would be by Kennel Lane which ES perceives to have a high rate of accidents in the winter months, if there is ice and snow.

GB asked whether CWCS has a Travel Plan and if so what this proposed for promoting sustainable travel to school rather than encouraging car travel. ES confirmed that CWCS had a Travel Plan but was not able to confirm any details of the contents. ES will confirm this with her Deputy, who is responsible for this

GB also suggested that the additional housing development on the east of Lincoln, which will be facilitated by LEB, will provide a significantly increased and wider catchment for CWCS than is current. ES accepted this, but noted that this development could take a number of years to be fulfilled, but the impact on existing parents' decisions could be more immediate (eg in the next two / four years). She noted that people will be able to make more informed decisions once the scheme is open but was concerned about perceptions of the impact in the intervening years having a greater impact on decisions.

LR outlined the process and programme going forward and made ES aware of the opportunity to make representations at the public inquiry in August 2015. The contact details of the public inquiry programme officer are provided below.

The name of the Programme Officer is Brenda Taplin
GB agreed to include details of this consultation in his evidence to the public
inquiry, subject to ES agreeing it to be an accurate record.



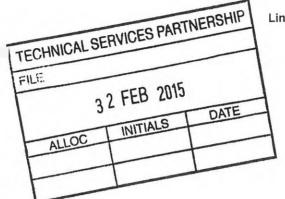
East Midlands Ambulance Service MES

NHS Trust

Our Ref: Please ask for: Fmail:

AJH/CJS Andy Hill

Mr L Rowley Senior Project Leader Lincolnshire County Council Highways Alliance 5th Floor - Mill House Bravford Wharf North Lincoln LN1 1YT



Lincolnshire Divisional Headquarters

Cross o'Cliff Court Bracebridge Heath Lincoln LN4 2HL

Telephone: 01522 832601 Fax: 01522 546834

20th February 2015

Dear Mr Rowley

Re: Lincoln Eastern bypass - Closure of Hawthorn Road

In July 2011 EMAS responded to the stakeholder consultation regarding the above. My predecessor advised that EMAS fully supported the plans to extend the bypass and his response is enclosed for your information.

In November 2014 EMAS was contacted by the Hawthorn Road Action Group which expressed concerns regarding the proposal to close access from Hawthorn Road to the bypass. EMAS has liaised closely with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) to identify the issues specifically around the closure of the Hawthorn Road access and evaluate any associated consequences. EMAS deploys resources from very similar locations as LFR; consequently the data in relation to travel time/distance applies to both organisations.

The Fire Service has conducted some modeling using the Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit and the outcome based on the modeling is as follows:-

Travel times from EMAS deployment location sited at Waitrose (A46), Bishops Court, Outer Circle Road.

To Reepham - no change

To Fiskerton - travel time improved

To Cherry Willingham (Top) - travel time improved

To Cherry Willingham (Bottom) - travel time improved

The closure of the Hawthorn Road access does not affect return journeys from the above locations to Lincoln County Hospital.

I am, therefore, in a position to advise that EMAS fully supports the proposals as outlined in the letter sent in 2011 and the closure of the Hawthorn Road access will have no negative impact on EMAS response to patients requiring time critical assistance.

I understand that the Fire Service are forwarding the modeling work, consequently I have not included it in this correspondence.

I hope this information is helpful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Andy Hill General Manager (Lincolnshire Division)



East Midlands Ambulance Service

NHS Trust

Our Ref: Please ask for: Email:

P.I/RS Pete Jones Lincolnshire Divisional Headquarters Cross o'Cliff Court Bracebridge Heath Lincoln LN4 2HL

Telephone: 01522 832604 Fax: 01522 546834

13 July 2011

Mr D Skeet Senior Project Leader Technical Services Partnership Lincolnshire County Council Witham Park House Waterside South LN5 7JN Lincoln

Dear David

Re: Lincoln Eastern Bypass, Stakeholder Consultation Process

I am responding on behalf of East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust regarding the above. In general EMAS welcomes any initiative which supports speedy access to patients within the community and onward transportation to places of definitive care. Specific comments are as follows:

What are the key problems and constraints on your business/organization resulting from the current transport situation?

Traffic congestion both north and south of the city at peak times impacting upon EMAS ability to respond to patients within required timescales. EMAS currently deploys resources to standby sites at various locations within Lincoln City boundary to mitigate against congestion related delays. Problems will occur, however, when resources at north or south of the City are fully utilized and EMAS is required to respond across town to emergencies. On such occasions problems are encountered on Broadgate due to traffic congestion and road width, which can result in delays of a few minutes pending lights changing to green.

EMAS is also required to transport patients between various hospital sites. Extended journey times can be experienced during transfers from Grantham Hospital to Lincoln County Hospital at peak times. This is due to the location of Lincoln County Hospital and the route taken. Whilst these are not necessarily time critical for all patients, the additional time taken by EMAS resources to complete the transfer and be available for further details does have a consequent effect on EMAS capacity at certain times of the day.

The eastern bypass would free up valuable EMAS resource time by eliminating the delays currently experienced on Cross o'Cliff Hill, Canwick Road, Broadgate and Lindum Road.

How will the Eastern Bypass address these problems and constraints?

EMAS covers a wide geographical area and is required to meet very strict response time targets. Anything which impacts on capability to respond within specific timeframes has a consequent impact on patient care. Whilst EMAS plans for congestion, EMAS is required to operate within the Highway Code, consequently the use of blue lights and sirens only applies to time critical events — travelling to 999 calls or blue light transportation. Where a patient has been attended and requires transportation to hospital, but does not meet blue light criteria, EMAS is required to operate within the Highway Code and has no exemptions. This can result in journey time being increased due to traffic congestion which has a knock on effect to future calls.

What will Lincoln Eastern Bypass do to help you achieve your goals and objectives?

Support speedy response to emergencies and reduce transportation time.

What direct benefits will the scheme have for your business/organization?

Support response time targets and free up EMAS resources by reducing time taken per patient episode.

Are there any actions and plans you would expect to implement when the bypass is built that you
would be unable to undertake without the scheme?

EMAS is constantly reviewing its service delivery model to ensure patients receive a timely response. Without this scheme EMAS will continue to deploy resources north and south of the City to offset congestion problems. There will, however, be occasions when EMAS resources will be required to respond across the City and this will impact on response times during periods of congestion. The issues related to transportation and inter hospital transfers will continue pending a bypass being in place.

• Are there any specific benefits, especially related to economic regeneration that you would expect to see as a result of the scheme?

Unable to comment at this time.

What will be the negative effects on your business/organisation if the scheme cannot be built?
 Delayed response and delays in transfer to places of definitive care due to traffic congestion.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Pete Jones Assistant Director of Operations



LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Witham House Pelham centre Canwick road, Lincoln LN5 8HE

Telephone:

101 exe 5815

E-mail:

11th February 2015

Mr Lee Rowley Communities, Highways and Traffic Technical Services Partnership 5th Floor Mill house Brayford Wharf North LINCOLN LN1 1YT

Dear Mr Rowley

RE: PROPOSED EASTERN BYPASS OF LINCOLN

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed eastern bypass in Lincoln on behalf of Lincolnshire police. The position of Lincolnshire police remains the same as that articulated by Chief Superintendent Hardy in his letter of 7th of July 2011. Namely, that we whole heartedly support the principle of having the bypass and that it would improve police response times overall.

I am aware that the proposals include the closure of Hawthorn Road and introduction of a restricted move junction. This closure and introduction of a restricted move junction is a matter for the appropriate authorities and local democracy and not the police, so we take the position of neutrality in relation to this.

I have considered the Hawthorn Road closure, and proposed junction, in respect of police response times to villages such as Cherry Willingham. In my professional judgement these specific parts of the proposal would have little effect on police response times.

Yours sincerely	
Inspector Simo	on Heads

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LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

Lincolnshire

COUNTY COUNCIL

Working for a better future

Chief Fire Officer: Dave Ramscar

Our Ref: LR/RH

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue South Park Avenue Lincoln LN5 8EL

Mr L Rowley IEng AMICE Senior Project Leader Communities, Highways & Traffic Technical Services Partnership 5th Floor Mill House Brayford Wharf North LINCOLN LN1 1YT

17 February 2015

Dear Lee,

Lincoln Eastern Bypass (LEB) and Hawthorn Road, Lincoln

Further to our meeting yesterday, I am writing to confirm that I have been contacted by the Hawthorn Road Action Group and as a result commissioned some work internally to look at what impact, if any, there would be on response times for emergency vehicles with the LEB in place and the 'stop' on Hawthorn Road. As part of this work some modelling was undertaken using the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) toolkit which allows us to predictively model risk, perform quantitative assessment of changes to emergency response, fire appliance numbers and locations, crewing changes, specialist vehicles and other related issues.

In this instance the LEB routing and the stopping up of Hawthorn Road was replicated within FSEC in order to model response times from our two fire station locations within the city namely Lincoln South station on South Park Avenue and Lincoln North station on Nettleham Road. The models were based on travel times between the fire station locations and school locations within the villages of Reepham, Fiskerton and Cherry Willingham. Two models were run for each route to show 1. Travel times using the existing road network, and 2. Travel times with the LEB in place and Hawthorn Road 'stopped'. The results of the models, which are attached to this letter, demonstrated that travel times improved with the exception of Reepham, which remained the same. The models for Reepham used the A158 on both occasions so the times remained the same.





LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE



Fire and Rescue worked closely with colleagues from East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) due to both services responding from similar locations. The Ambulance and Fire station are adjacent to each other on South Park Avenue, and Ambulances regularly stand by in Waitrose carpark opposite the Nettleham Road fire station to cover the north of the city and surrounding villages.

If I can be of any further assistance then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Lynda Ramscar Integrated Risk Manager

Enc.





Hawthorne Road Action Group (HRAG) work – LFR travel times before and after Eastern Bypass:

Using the FSEC toolkit, LFR have modelled the 1st stage of the proposed Eastern Bypass to perform comparisons at four strategic locations.

The four locations chosen for this pre-emptive consultation work were:

- Reepham primary school Road junction number = 16337
- Fiskerton primary school Road junction number = 19196
- Cherry Willingham primary school (Top half of village) Road junction number = 40064
- Cherry Willingham primary school (Bottom half of village) Road junction number = 16284

The following table gives a breakdown of the comparisons for both the FSEC Basecase (Prior to the Bypass) and the HRAG Model (taking into consideration the Bypass). The same locations were chosen from each model and then the travel times from Lincoln North (C19) and Lincoln South (C20) Fire Stations were used.

	HRAG C19	Basecase C19	HRAG C20	Basecase C20	+ / - time
Reepham 16337	5m 49s	5m 49s	7m 52s	7m 52s	None
Fiskerton 19196	8m 25s	9m 37s	9m 13s	10m 37s	C19 = 1m 12s -
					C20 = 1m 24s -
Cherry Willingham	5m 37s	6m 23s	7m	7m 30s	C19 = 46s -
(Top) 40064					C20 = 30s -
Cherry Willingham	6m 11s	6m 49s	6m 19s	7m 43s	C19 = 38s -
(Bottom) 16284					C20 = 1m 24s -

The Reepham example used the A158 in both FSEC models; hence the same results being output.

Results were also obtained from FSEC with regards the Dwellings Model, again a comparison was performed prior to the road network being modified to reflect the new Eastern Bypass and after the new road had been modelled.

The County of Lincolnshire has since the 2011 Census had an increase of statistical boundaries called Output Areas (OA's). Prior to the 2011 Census there was 2264 OA's, but with the development of numerous new housing estates and an increase in population there has also had to been an increase in the amount of OA's from the 2264 to 2348.

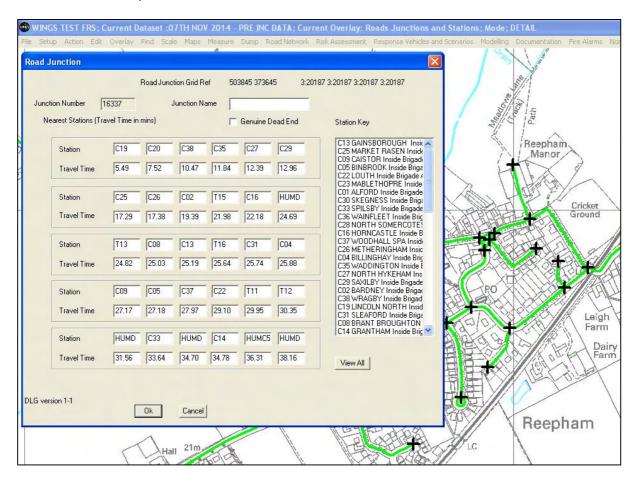
FSEC uses a multitude of data elements to ascertain risk for the 4 distinct models, but the main model used as a comparison for this work is the Dwellings Model.

A count is performed to see what the risk level of each Output Area is currently (Basecase) and then when any alterations are made to the Basecase, the HRAG bypass work for example another count is performed to see if any changes have occurred and if so further granulation into where and why?

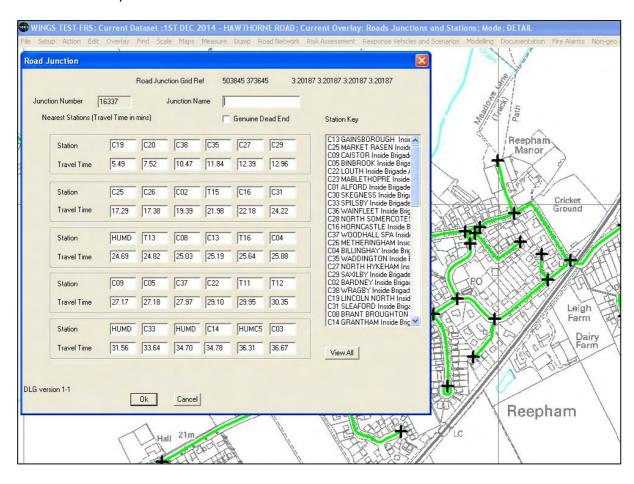
FSEC OA Risk Level	Basecase	HRAG Model	Difference + / -
Very High	1971	1971	None
High	185	185	None
Medium	109	109	None
Low	35	35	None
Very Low	48	48	None

Supporting screenshots for appliance travel time comparisons:

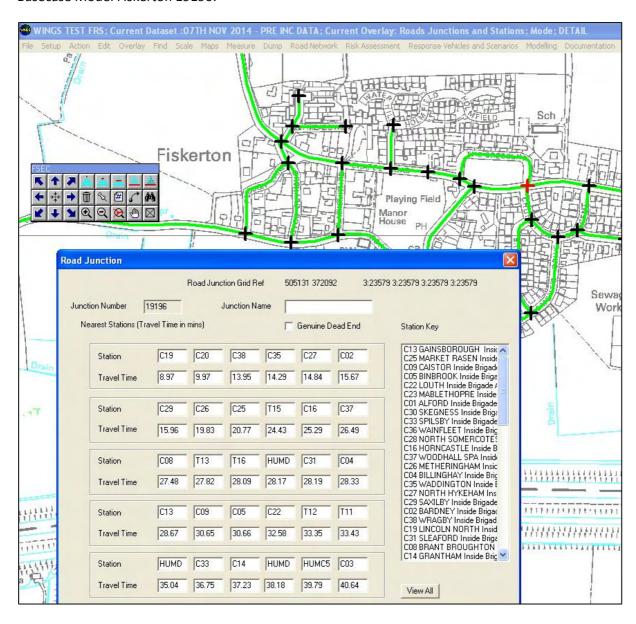
Basecase Model Reepham 16337:



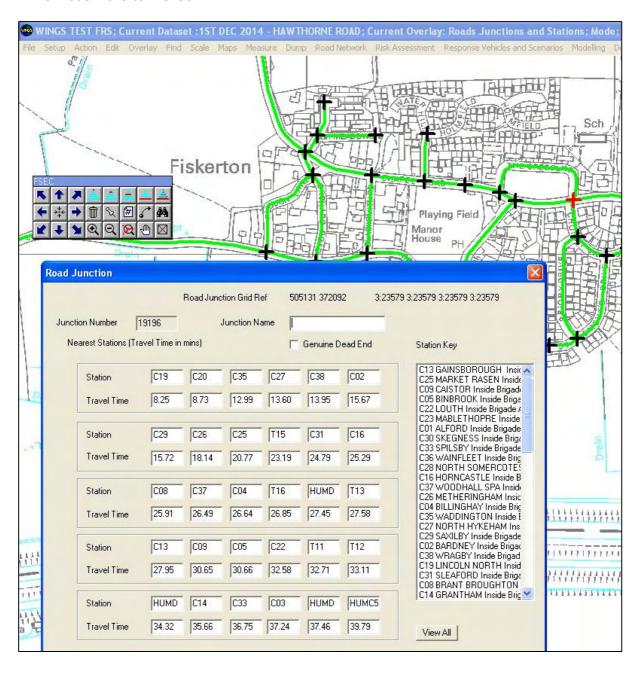
HRAG Model Reepham 16337:



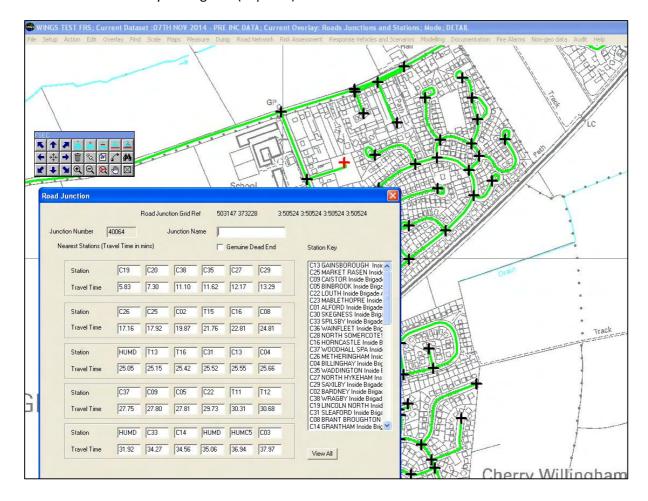
Basecase Model Fiskerton 19196:



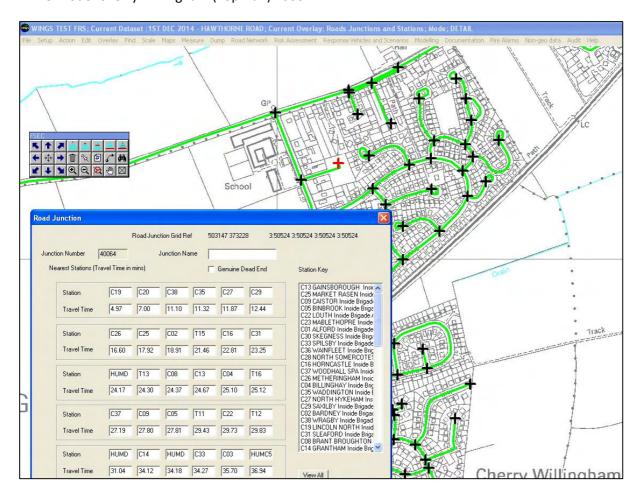
HRAG Model Fiskerton 19196:



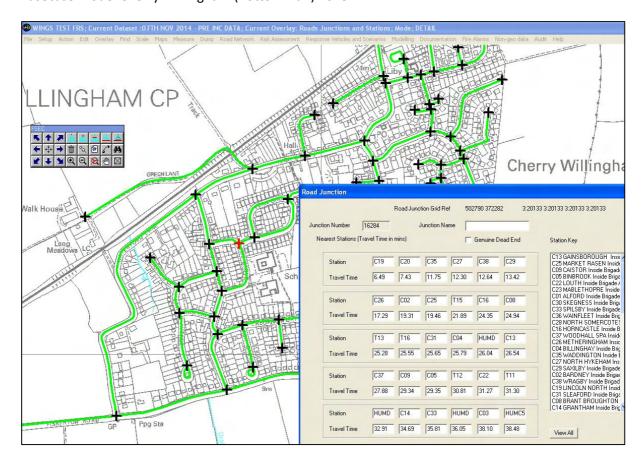
Basecase Model Cherry Willingham (Top Half) 40064:



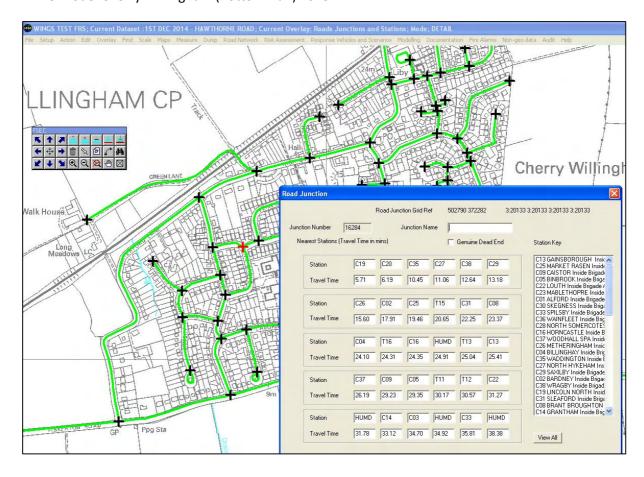
HRAG Model Cherry Willingham (Top Half) 40064:



Basecase Model Cherry Willingham (Bottom Half) 16284:



HRAG Model Cherry Willingham (Bottom Half) 16284:





17 April 2015

Mr L Rowley Senior Project Leader Lincolnshire County Council Highways Alliance Technical Services Partnership 5th Floor, Mill House Brayford Wharf North LINCOLN LN1 1YT PO Box 15 Deacon Road Lincoln LN2 4JB

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Dear Mr Rowley

LINCOLNSHIRE EASTERN BYPASS RELIEF ROAD: LETTER OF SUPPORT – STAGECOACH EAST MIDLANDS

Further to our meeting on Friday 20 March 2015 along with Michelle Hargreaves, our Managing Director, and Dr Gary Billington from Mouchel, I write to confirm that Stagecoach East Midlands continues to support the proposals for the Lincoln Eastern Bypass Relief Road.

Much of the content of our previous letter of support for the Eastern Bypass dated 16 May 2011 remains applicable four years further down the line from your original application including the Lincoln fleet size, staffing and passenger numbers. Consequently, I enclose the previous letter for your information.

Since 2011 we have continued to work with Lincolnshire County Council and the City of Lincoln Council to develop and promote bus services in Lincoln. This has included introducing more modern buses and working with highway officers to improve key junctions and traffic flow.

Traffic congestion and the associated delays remain the most significant external factor affecting the delivery of punctual, reliable bus services in Lincoln. It is the unpredictable nature of traffic flows and lack of consistency in bus running times that forms the biggest challenge for our service planners.

Having studied the route of the Eastern Bypass I can confirm that it will have no adverse effects on the core bus routes forming Lincoln's main bus network. There may be a requirement to amend some school bus routes although we do not envisage that this will present any insurmountable difficulties.

The conclusions of our 2011 submission set out the benefits that the new road is likely to bring for traffic conditions and bus service operation in Lincoln and remain valid. For these reasons Stagecoach East Midlands continues to support Lincolnshire County Council's proposals to construct the Eastern Bypass.

Should you require any further information regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

David Skepper
COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

Copies:

Michelle Hargreaves, Managing Director, Stagecoach East Midlands Dr Gary Billington, Technical Director, Mouchel Anita Ruffle, Group Manager, Public Transport 16 May 2011

Mr D Skeet Senior Project Leader Technical Services Partnership Lincolnshire County Council Witham Park House Waterside South Lincoln LN5 7JN

Dear Mr Skeet

LINCOLN EASTERN BYPASS RELIEF ROAD: BENEFITS FOR BUSES

I write on behalf of Stagecoach East Midlands to confirm our support for the proposal to construct the eastern section of the Lincoln Bypass Relief road.

At first glance it may seem strange that a public transport operator would support the case for a bypass relief road, which would directly benefit car borne traffic rather than alternative modes. However, some analysis of the information set out below will reveal how removing extraneous traffic from the city and its residential environs will significantly minimise the unreasonable and unpredictable effect of delays to our bus operations. At the moment these traffic delays adversely affect our ability to deliver the bus service and place undue pressure upon our front line operating staff. More importantly, is the effect the detrimental traffic conditions have on our customers through longer journey times and lower frequency services compared to other urban operations. I am convinced that the bypass scheme will not only enable Stagecoach to deliver better services it will also contribute to economic regeneration and reducing carbon emissions.

Background

Stagecoach East Midlands is the major bus operator in the East Midlands running 500 buses and employing 1,400 staff. We have eight depots based in Lincoln, Hull, Grimsby, Skegness, Gainsborough, Newark, Mansfield and Worksop and we carry 52 million passengers over 22 million miles each year. Over 80% of our bus services in the East Midlands are operated commercially, i.e. they receive no direct subsidy support from local authorities.

Our Lincoln Depot has an allocation of 85 buses and employs 220 staff. The operation carries 7 million passengers over 3.4 million miles each year with the majority of these journeys being taken with the city and the surrounding residential suburbs. The depot runs a higher than company average proportion of commercial bus mileage in the city, which is expected from a densely populated urban bus operation.

Buses are run in Lincolnshire through a strong quality partnership with Lincolnshire County Council that sees bus operators investing in modern vehicles, service quality and frequency enhancement, staff training, ticketing initiatives, new technology, and proactive marketing. The authority supports this investment through the provision of complementary supported service provision in some weaker areas of the bus network, good quality bus infrastructure, roadside and web based bus information, and real time on key routes.

April 2006 revision

At the acquisition of the Lincoln business by Stagecoach in 2006 an extensive network review took place to modernise bus services in the city.

Analysis of the existing passenger base showed that 82% of bus journeys were between the residential areas and the city centre with an obvious potential to generate new bus use. Despite this clear fact some peripheral circular bus services were being maintained against a background of falling use, wasting resource.

Looking at the route network there is little in the way of bus priority measures in the city with three short lengths of bus lane in the lower High Street, outside the bus station, and through a bus gate near the Cathedral Quarter. Moreover, given traffic volumes there are very few opportunities for the Highway Authority to introduce bus priority measures without impacting on the road network's ability to cope flows despite some very clear "hot spots" for bus delays:

- High Street/Dixon Street junction
- High Street/St Mark Street junction
- Lindum Road inbound tailbacks from Monks Road/Broadgate junction
- Silver Street tailbacks at Broadgate junction
- Pottergate/Lindum Road, difficulties for inbound buses turning right
- Cross O'Cliff/Newark Road junction inbound delays
- Brant Road/Newark Road junction inbound delays
- Canwick Avenue/Canwick Hill inbound delays
- Pelham Bridge inbound delays am peak, and outbound delays pm peak
- Wragby Road/Outer Circle Road junction

The other main notable factor in traffic congestion is the frequent closure of the High Street Railway Level Crossing.

The Stagecoach management team took the decision to revise bus services in the area to run as effectively as possible in the existing traffic conditions with the objectives of maximising the attractiveness of the public transport offer through better service quality, enhanced frequencies, and flexible ticketing whilst trying to improve the robustness of the schedules. This was achieved through:

- A substantial influx of low floor buses being moved into the Lincoln fleet to ensure that all key city bus routes are run by accessible buses less than 10 years old, making travel easier for families with buggies, older customers, and disabled people.
- Simple routes, direct journeys, reduced waiting times.
- Three turn up and go services Ermine, Birchwood, & North Hykeham
- Comprehensive bus guide colour coded routes, easy to understand
- Clear, readily available bus information bus guide, website, Traveline, on street publicity.
- Flexible ticketing: Day Rider, Megarider offering value for money.
- A modern, attractive image for Lincoln buses with brand name appeal.

Rise in Bus Patronage

The Lincoln population responded to the revision of the bus network with an increase in use:

- From 2005 to 2011 bus use in the city has increased by 40% from a weekly average of 90,000 journeys on the city network to 127,000.
- Weekly ticket sales rose from a weekly average of 267 in 2005 to 2,000 in 2011.

It is important to note that this growth in bus use has been realised solely on the basis of improving service quality, raising frequencies, and reducing the cost of travel to regular bus users. This clearly demonstrates that Lincoln people are willing to use public transport where it is perceived to be convenient and of a good standard.

Traffic Congestion

Although we are always trying to continually improve our service quality it is our view that further bus use growth is now constrained by traffic conditions in the city and the lack of bus priority measures.

It is very difficult to persuade motorists to leave their cars at home and use public transport for journeys into the city when the buses are waiting in the same queue that they would have encountered in their private travel mode, i.e. there is no advantage offered by

Lincoln buses. Moreover, it usually takes people longer to start the journey by bus given that they usually have a short walk to the stop and then the wait for the bus to arrive although it can be argued that this is compensated to some extent at the destination by being able to alight at a more convenient point and avoid the delay of parking.

The major barrier constraining growth, and hampering current delivery levels, is the increase in costs required to maintain the existing bus punctuality. Over the last fifteen years bus running times on the core routes have been increased by 25% simply to account for traffic delays. On an unchanged comparable service frequency, such as Service 66 City – Birchwood, this simply increases costs by 25% against the same revenue levels making it difficult maintain discounted fares for regular users.

We need to ensure that we maintain punctuality for two important reasons: (a) industry survey work shows repeatedly that the most important consumer factor in bus services is reliability and (b) all bus operators have an obligation placed upon them by the traffic commissioner to work to a target of 95% of all services being on time, i.e. not more than five minutes late.

In some cases the disruption caused by traffic congestion has led us to reduce service frequencies to increase running times to maintain our targets. Just over a year ago we reduced Service 27 City – North Hykeham to every 12 minutes from every 10 to give the same six buses on the cycle 72 minutes to complete a schedules circuit rather than 60 minutes. Whilst this has undoubtedly led to a more reliable bus service it cannot be denied that the frequency is less attractive.

The High Street Rail Crossing

Bus routes between the city centre and the southern residential areas are markedly busier than those from the north. All need to cross the railway line bisecting the city centre core. Traditionally, this was achieved by buses inbound and outbound over the High Street Rail Crossing from Lincoln Central Station.

Independent monitoring of rail crossing closures show that the closures have become longer and more frequent and the resulting stationary traffic takes longer to begin to move again as traffic levels in the city rise. Clearly, this has a detrimental effect on the bus service.

During 2010 working with Lincolnshire County Council Highways we took the decision to reroute inbound buses along Portland Street, which achieved a 9% improvement in punctuality. This is a relatively short term fix to improve reliability as (a) traffic congestion is increasing on this route and (b) in the longer term this will not remain a suitable road for bus traffic given local environmental and parking concerns.

There is no suitable alternative for outbound buses to traversing the railway crossing.

Conclusion

All of the above demonstrates that rising traffic levels in Lincoln are adversely affecting the bus service and placing constraints on growth. And impacting upon the local environment an carbon emissions. In summary the issues are:

- Traffic levels in Lincoln are progressively rising, which is leading to increased congestion and pollution.
- Traffic delays are adversely impacting on our ability to deliver reliable bus services to our customers and we are incurring continued cost increases to our business as we adjust schedules to try to manage out the effects of congestion.
- Longer running times and increased costs impact upon the attractiveness of the bus as an alternative travel mode impacting upon bus fares and patronage creating a cyclical, negative effect. This is despite a clear indication of the willingness towards modal shift if all elements of the service are correctly delivered.
- The historic nature of Lincoln's city centre means road space is constrained.
- Rising traffic volumes means that road space cannot be easily given up exclusively to buses without a significant adverse effect on general traffic flows, which would further exacerbate current delays to buses.
- Other means of traffic management deployed in similar historic cities such as York and Cambridge, such as Park and Ride, are challenging in Lincoln without removing some extraneous traffic as it is difficult to create room for the supporting package of priority measures.
- Uniquely, Lincoln's worsening traffic conditions are being exacerbated by increased rail traffic through the city centre creating more frequent and longer High Street Crossing Closures.
- All of the above is impacting upon Lincoln's attractiveness as a retail and commerce centre, which will ultimately impact upon the city's economic sustainability. The economic regeneration and job creation in the city is being constrained.

Stagecoach East Midlands is engaged in all the good practice promoted by central government for responsible bus operators. We have strong relationships with all of Lincoln's key stakeholders including the City and County Councils, the Lincoln Business Improvement Group, and the Chamber of Commerce.

We support the proposal to construct an Eastern bypass, which will create an outer ring road taking away extraneous traffic that is currently passing through the city centre. This

will reduce traffic levels in centre Lincoln freeing up road space for buses. This will offer up the following opportunities:

- The provision of a raft of bus priority measures including bus lanes in the city centre improving bus journeys times, punctuality levels, and reliability. This will make the bus service more attractive generating more business.
- The potential to free up staff and vehicle resources through more efficient bus cycles, which can be reinvested in more frequent bus services and new route development.
- Better provision of public transport will encourage modal shift from the private car, which will help further reduce traffic congestion, pollution, and improve air quality.
- Create the necessary traffic conditions to develop Park and Ride for Lincoln, which will encourage more tourist and visitors to the city and reduce the need for valuable city centre land to be utilised for car parking.
- Enable the Bus Quality Partnership to develop good public transport to support new development and improve connections to retail, commerce, employment, education and healthcare.
- Stagecoach East Midlands will have a firmer base giving us encouragement to invest in new buses and local employment.
- Better bus services underpin the local economy creating the opportunities to grow new business, prosperity and employment.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above with us directly please feel free to contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely

David Skepper
COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

12 May, 2015 Our ref:



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PE21 7DD

Lee Rowley
Senior Project Leader
Technical Services Partnership
Lincolnshire County Council
Crown House
Grantham Street
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LN2 1BD

Dear Lee,

Ref; Lincoln Eastern Bypass Project

Further to our meeting of 6th May 2015 with regard the planned Lincoln Eastern Bypass Scheme, I would like to thank you for your time in explaining this scheme to me. Your candid approach allowed me to report back to my executives positively and effectively.

I would confirm that the benefits to our services entering the City from the East and in particular using the B1188 from the Branston direction will be positively welcomed, especially at peak traffic periods.

For this and the obvious effects of this scheme upon inner city traffic flow by taking through traffic away from the area of Pelham Bridge and the very difficult Lindum Hill, it is our intention that Brylaine Travel Ltd will fully support a positive continuation of this project and it is our hope that the forthcoming Public Inquiry will support its furtherance.

Assuring you of our fullest attentions at all times.

Yours sincerely

M P Wheatley Operations Director Brylaine Travel Ltd Directors

Operations Director:
Mr. Malcolm Wheatley
Engineering Director:
Mr. Brian Gregg
Company Secretary:
Mrs. Susan Bradshaw

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3rd July 2015

Dr Gary Billington Technical Director Transport

Consulting Mouchel

Dear Gary

Ref: **Eastern Bypass**

Many thanks for taking your time to come and discuss the proposed Eastern Bypass

As a transport provider, improving the road network is beneficial to us in the fact that this will take away congestion from the town centre where most of our services are run

We would like to wish you every success in your bid to improve the local road networks

I trust that you will find this in order, however should you have any queries or require further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours Sincerely

Suzanne Traynor Operations Executive