

AGENDA ITEM 11

To: Swale Joint Transportation Board
By: Head of Transportation, Kent County Council
Date: 9 June 2014
Subject: Junction Improvements Barton Hill Drive, Minster
Classification: Information

Summary: The report gives an update on the improvements that are proposed for the traffic signal junction at Lower Road and Barton Hill Drive, Minster.

Introduction

1. For a number of years complaints have been received about the performance of the traffic signals at the junction of Lower Road and Barton Hill Drive on the western approach to Minster. Queues from the signals can extend up to 1 mile westwards at times reaching the junction with the A249 Sheppey bridge.

Background

2. With the construction of the Thistle Hill development in the late 1990s a roundabout on Lower Road was provided as the primary means of access into the development at Thistle Hill Way, and it was acknowledged that improvements to the traffic signal junction at Barton Hill Drive would be required at some point in the future. The trigger point for this was set at 1000 houses by which time the developer was required to install MOVA in the traffic signals.
3. MOVA is a technological installation in the traffic signal controller that could, in suitable locations, increase the efficiency of the traffic signals by up to 15%.

Discussion

4. The 1000 house trigger point has now been reached. In view of the length of time that has taken to get to this point, the requirement to install the MOVA system has been reappraised to ensure that it remains the most suitable means of achieving extra capacity at the junction. Since the agreement was first negotiated in the 1990s it has become known that

MOVA does not always produce capacity improvements, particularly at straightforward junction arrangements.

5. A more appropriate means of improving the junction is now being sought and preliminary investigations indicate that a ban on right turn movements from the eastern approach of Lower Road could achieve a more significant improvement to the capacity of the junction. Further design work is still needed on this alternative solution.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the option to ban the right turn movement into Barton Hill Drive from Lower Road is explored further, including modelling of this solution and public consultation and that the results of this are reported to the next meeting of the Board.

Background documents: None

Contact officer: Ruth Goudie
Strategic Transportation Planner
KCC Highways & Transportation
Tel: 0300 333 5539