

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: 18th September 2006

SUBJECT: MINSTER ROAD/SCRAPSGATE ROAD – JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS

BY: Divisional Manager – Kent Highway Services' Mid Kent Division

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides an update on the previously considered scheme.

Decision Required: That Members recommend that the action being taken is endorsed.

Background

1. The annual examination of the crash statistics showed there had been 4 slight injury crashes over a 3 year period in the deceleration lane/ lay-by at this location. These crashes involved vehicles pulling out of Scrapsgate Road. The plan in Annex A shows the location of the site.
2. A scheme was devised which involved removing the bus lay-by to prevent incorrect use as a deceleration lane, improve visibility, corner protection to protect sight lines at the junction, bus boarders and dropped kerbs with tactile paving. This was the subject of a report to meeting of this board on 10 January 2005 and Members resolved not to progress with the scheme.

Discussion

3. At the request of the Chairman of this Board the issue has been revisited. The crash database has been examined again and it shows that only one slight injury occurred at this location over the past three years. It would, therefore seem that the there is no longer a major crash issue at this location.
4. Given the above, the site is considered as a low priority and it would not be possible to argue for funding to improve the junction. However, the deceleration lane/bus lay-by is occupied for long period by parked cars. This means that buses are forced to stop on the carriageway for passengers to embark and disembark. This reduces the visibility for cars exiting the junction and impedes the free flow of traffic flow in Minster Road.
5. It may be possible to introduce an “at any time” (double yellow lines) parking restriction at this location to alleviate the problem. This requires further exploratory work and officers will be liaising with Swale colleagues to establish a way forward. Members will be given updates as progress is made.

Decision Required

6. That Members' recommend that the action being taken is endorsed.

Contact Officer

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