

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 18th SEPTEMBER 2006
SUBJECT: B2231 LOWER ROAD/LEYSDOWN ROAD ROUTE SAFETY STUDY
BY: Divisional Manager – Kent Highway Services, Mid Kent Division
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides details of the Study that has been carried out to examine the current safety record of B2331 between its junction with A249 (Cowstead Corner) and Leysdown and the remedial measures identified.

Decision Required: To recommend that a bid is made as part of the 2007/08 Crash Remedial Programme to fund the proposed safety measures.

Introduction

1. A meeting was held on 17th February 2006 involving the local community, Eastchurch and Leysdown Parish Councils, Police, local councillors and the MP, as a result of their concerns about recent crashes and the general safety of B2231, Lower Road.
2. Kent Highway Services agreed to look at this in more detail as soon as funding was available in the new financial year. A Study was then carried out to examine the current safety record, the nature of those crashes and the appropriate measures that could be taken to remedy this situation. A copy of the report has been placed in the Members' Room.

Discussion

3. The section of road under investigation is between Cowstead Corner to Nutts Caravan Park in Leysdown, a length of approximately 11.7km.
4. The road is a main distributor, mostly single carriageway and forms a major route between the A249 and the villages of Eastchurch and Leysdown and includes Rowetts Way (the Eastchurch by-pass). There are numerous side road junctions along the route.
5. The road is also predominantly rural in character and mainly subject to the national speed limit of 60 mph, although there are sections of 40 mph, adjacent to Barton Hill Drive, between Harty Ferry Road and Warden Road, Brambledown and sections of 30 mph on the roundabout approaches at Eastchurch.

Crash record

6. The injury crash record for the latest 3 year period (1st January 2003 to 31st December 2005) shows there to have been a total of 39 (2 fatal, 5 serious and 32 slight). For the previous 3 year period (1st January 2000 to 31st December 2002) there were a total of 48 injury crashes (1 fatal, 11 serious and 48 slight). Nationally we would expect a severity ratio of 0.19, but generally the severity ratio is below expected. This is the proportion of killed and seriously injured of all crashes. The latest 3 year period shows the crash

record to have improved although there were 2 fatals compared to 1 in the previous period.

Identified crash sites, analysis, assessment and recommendations

7. Table 1 shows how the B2231 has been split into sections as identified individual crash cluster sites with the respective, latest 3 year crash record and can be cross referenced with the report and drawings. Proposed measures have been provided and costed, subject to detailed design. Some costs have been revised and may be different from those published in the report, following more detailed work. In the case of section C, third party lane would be required for any improvements to the Barton Hill Drive junction.

Table 1

Site	Crash record	Proposed Measures	Est. Cost
Section A A249 (Cowstead Corner) to west of Barton Hill Drive	1 slight injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved markings Drainage improvements Surfacing repairs Improved signing Improved gateway (west side of junc.) 	£16,900
Section B West of Barton Hill Drive to west of Scocles Road (including the signalled junction but not including the Scocles Road junction)	2 slight injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide new High Friction Surface (HFS) on all 3 approaches to junction Review junction layout Bring pedestrian refuge up to standard Renew markings Resurface on western approach to Thistle Hill roundabout and provide HFS on all approaches Signing improvements and marker posts 	£20,500
Section C West of Scocles Road to Elmley Road	2 serious injury 9 slight injury (Total of 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of HFS on eastern approach New warning signs New markings and marker posts Provision of right turn lane at Scocles Road junction Investigation of additional double white line system 	£15,300
Section D Elmley Road to east of Old Hook Road (including junction)	1 serious injury 6 slight injury (Total of 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New bend warning sign east of garage and at Windmill Quay Road Improved markings, chevron signs and HFS to better define bends 	£25,600
Section E East of Old Hook Road to east of Eastchurch	2 slight injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew markings through bend section 	£2,000

Road (including junction)			
Section F East of Eastchurch Road (Rowetts Way) to west of Leysdown Rd	1 slight injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced signage and markings for Eastchurch Road junction Improved 30mph gateways 	£11,300
Section G West of Leysdown Road to west of Old Rides Farm	1 fatal 3 slight injury (Total of 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove restriction at Rowetts Way/Leysdown Road to allow all movements, through a junction re-design, Island on the eastbound approach in Rowetts Way, HFS, improved signage Improved markings, replacement of missing road studs, improved marker posts Geometric survey of adverse camber General maintenance 	£52,200
Section H West of Old Rides Farm to east of Harty Ferry Road	3 slight injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HFS, additional marker posts, markings, additional signs General maintenance 	£23,250
Section I East of Harty Ferry Road to east of Bay View Gardens	1 fatal 1 serious injury 4 slight injury (Total of 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage review Up-grade existing gateway Improved side road signs Review street lighting Install tactile paving at pedestrian refuge 	£15,500
Section J East of Bay View to west of the Promenade	1 serious injury 1 slight injury (Total of 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install tactile paving at pedestrian refuge Replace signs at gateways Improve visibility to east of Merlin night club 	£3,700
Section K West of Promenade to Nutts Caravan Park	0 crashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of HFS on both approaches to zebra crossing 	£3,300
Contingencies (20%)			£37,910
Total			£227,460

Scheme priority

8. An assessment has been made as to the priority of each scheme based on the cost of the remedial measures and the likely crash savings each year. Table 2 shows the order of priority, with 1 being the highest.

Table 2

Section	Ranking
A	10
B	7
C	2
D	5
E	1
F	6
G	8
H	9
I	4
J	3
K	11

Decision required

9. The schemes that would bring the greatest benefit (in priority order) are Sections E, C, J, I, D, J, F, B, G, H and K. The total scheme cost is £227,460 and it is predicted that implementing the scheme in full would produce a crash saving of 4 injury crashes per year. Members are asked to recommend that one combined bid be made as part of the 2007/08 Crash Remedial Programme with a view to implementing the safety scheme in full during the 2007/08 financial year.
10. This will, however, be subject to the agreed funding allocations and final approval by Members at the March 2007 Highways Advisory Board. Members of the JTB will be advised of the outcome at the next appropriate meeting of the JTB.
11. Eastchurch and Leysdown Parish Councils have been made aware of the publication of the report, its content and the proposed timescales.

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Background documents:

B2231 Lower Road/Leysdown Road Route Study

