

Agenda Item No.

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: 17 March 2008

SUBJECT: B2231 LOWER ROAD - PROPOSED HIGHWAY SAFETY MEASURES AND IMPROVEMENTS

BY: TRANSPORTATION MANAGER – Mid Kent Division Kent Highway Services

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: An up-date to members of the latest position with regard to this scheme

Decision Required: That Members note the report

Introduction

1. Jacobs UK Ltd were commissioned in February/March 2006 to carry out a safety study and crash investigation of the B2231 Lower Road/Leysdown Road and examine the appropriate measures that could be taken to improve safety. The Study was completed in June 2006 and reported in full to the JTB in September 2006. The report identified a package of safety measures with a total value of £227,460. Members recommended that a bid be submitted as part of the 2007/08 Integrated Transport programme (ITP).
2. This was successful in securing £141,000 of funding from the 2007/08 ITP settlement to resolve the highest priority issues in terms of crash saving benefits. The particular measures were identified and reported to the March 2007 meeting of the JTB and Members' resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting of the JTB to consider the issues along the B2231 in more detail.
3. The extraordinary meeting was held on 22 May 2007 and Members resolved that £141,000 funding be secured for the 2007/08 financial year and used to implement the priorities identified within the report and those, raised by the local community, which are deemed, feasible and beneficial.

Update

4. The B2231 route improvements as identified and approved by Members at the May 2007 meeting of this Board is programmed to commence on 12 March and is expected to last for a period of 5 weeks. In addition to these improvements, programmed carriageway resurfacing work on the B2231, between Cowstead Corner and Thistle Hill, through Brambledown and Eastchurch continuing to Bay View and Leysdown-on-Sea is to take place.

5. The resurfacing works will be completed in 3 sections and will begin on 12 March for a day. They will then re-start (nights only) on 17 March (close down for the Easter weekend) and finish on Tuesday 25 March.
6. It is anticipated that the majority of all these works will be carried out using temporary traffic signals. However, where the width of the road is such that it will not allow us to use traffic signals safely, the road will need to be closed to through traffic. An alternative signed route will be provided.
7. Considerable attention and resources have been given to providing the public with advance notification of these works through radio broadcast announcements, notices in the local newspapers and on site, notification to the Parish Councils, Borough and County Members and by letter to the local businesses, caravan parks and Eastchurch prison. Public information leaflets with plans have also been issued and made available to the public. Interactive and fixed signs will be placed at strategic locations in advance of the works starting on site, to alert and inform as many road users as possible that live, work and visit the Isle of Sheppey. Every precaution possible has been taken to ensure that all public service organisations are aware and working together to minimise any disruption and inconvenience caused and, also to maintain best possible access for all highway users and public service providers, whilst these works are in progress. In respect of this, KHS is working closely with the emergency services, public transport providers, and freight organisation and have agreed arrangements for these works.
8. The public through the information leaflets and notices are also being informed of who to contact and where they can gain the latest information from the County Council's website. A copy of the public information leaflet produced is attached to this report.

Decision Required

9. That Members note the report.

Responsible Officer

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