

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 15 March 2010
SUBJECT: Interactive Speed Sign on the A2 Preston
BY: Transportation and Development Manager - Swale
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Update on investigation to install an Interactive Sign on the A2, Preston, Faversham

Decision Required: For information

Introduction

1. Local Members requested an update on the request to install an Interactive Speed Sign on the A2 Preston. The sign has to be erected within 250 metres of the start of the speed limit and this would place it in the vicinity of the junction with Selling Road.

Discussion

2. Speed surveys have been undertaken to compare the speed of vehicles before and after the introduction of the 30 mph limit. The survey undertaken in 2005 recorded the westbound 85th percentile speed as 36.2 mph and mean speed of 30.9. The 2009 survey was 35.8 mph and 30.7 mph respectively. This shows that a reduction of less than 1 mph has been achieved.
3. The introduction of interactive speed signs in the county has been shown to produce significant reductions in speed and crash levels. However it is important that further signs are installed in such a way that these benefits continue and that the work so far carried out is not undermined by the implementation of signs with no identifiable benefits.
4. The current formula for the priority assessment of interactive signs considers both the number of crashes, their severity with high scores for KSI's and the rate per km past the proposed location of the sign. To this is added the difference between the recorded 85th percentile and the posted speed limit of the road. In future, where potential sites achieve below a specified score, or where the 85th percentile is already within 3 mph of the posted speed limit they will not be considered appropriate.
5. The County Council has developed a forward programme which ranks prospective signs in priority order based on reported injury crashes and recorded speeds. The proposal for an interactive sign will be considered for inclusion in the 2010/11 programme subject to the site conforming to the above criteria, in March 2010.
6. Over 30 bids for interactive signs in Kent have been received to be erected in next years programme and unfortunately only 12 or so signs can be installed.
7. A further report will confirm whether the bid has been successful.

Decision Required

8. To note the report.

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