

To: Swale Joint Transportation Board
By: Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager
Date: 10 June 2013
Subject: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea – proposed zebra crossing
Classification: Decision

Summary: This report seeks a decision on the implementation of a new zebra crossing, in the vicinity of the Isle of Sheppey Academy, Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea.

Decision Required: That Members consider the issues surrounding the proposed scheme, and recommend whether or not the scheme should be implemented on site.

Introduction

1. A cluster of injury crashes has been identified in the vicinity of the access to the Isle of Sheppey Academy, Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea. In the three years prior to 30/09/2012 there were a total of 7 personal injury crashes, three of which were categorised as ‘serious’. Three have been at the school access, and four to the east of the access. Four crashes involved pedestrians. Four of the crashes occurred at school closing time (between 3-3.30pm). All occurred during weekdays.
2. Funding was allocated from the 2012/13 Crash Remedial Measures (CRM) budget to develop and implement a safety scheme. A proposal was drawn up for a new zebra crossing adjacent to the school access, outside no. 132, with anti-skid surfacing on both approaches. As an additional measure, new flashing electronic warning signs were proposed on the east and west approach to the school. These would display a school warning sign at opening and closing times, and a ‘30’ speed limit roundel at all other times of the day and at weekends. The ‘trigger’ speed for the signs would be set lower for the school opening and closing times.

Initial proposal

3. Concept proposals were originally consulted on between 19 December 2012 and 14 January 2013. This original scheme is shown in Annex 1.

Letters were sent to statutory consultees, notices posted on site, and leaflets delivered to nearby residents. A total of six responses were received, including from Kent Police, Minster-on-Sea Parish Council, the Isle of Sheppey Academy, and three residents.

4. The response was generally supportive. However, specific concerns were raised over the following points:-
 - Reduced forward visibility of the crossing, due to the brow of a hill.
 - There is no footway leading in to the school on the west side of the access – users of the crossing would still have to cross the access to get to the footway leading in to the school on the east side.
 - Issues with an existing crossing island to the east of the access, not having the capacity to house the large numbers of pupils using it.
5. A combination of these factors was deemed to be a valid consideration, and a revised scheme was developed to take them into account.

Revised proposal

6. Funding has been carried over to the 2013/14 CRM budget. New proposals are being consulted on between 10 May and 31 May 2013. The revised scheme is shown in Annex 2. The proposed zebra crossing has been moved eastwards to the position of the existing crossing island, outside no. 140. The island is proposed to be removed. Letters were sent to statutory consultees, notices posted on site, and leaflets delivered to nearby residents. As the consultation was due to end after the report writing deadline, it is not possible to include the responses received here.
7. A summary of responses received will be presented at the public meeting on 10 June, and in advance as a supplementary report to the members of the JTB. For further information and guidance, images of the initial crossing location, and the revised location, are contained within Annex 3.

Recommendation

8. The recommendation will be included within the supplementary report, to take into consideration any responses received during the consultation period that is due to end on 31 May 2013.

Background documents:

Annex 1 – Original proposal

Annex 2 – Revised proposal

Annex 3 – Images of the location of the original and revised location

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