Thornton to Switch Island Corridor Study

news update

issue no. 3 - summer 2002

progress update and timetable of events

This newsletter follows on from News Update Issue 2 published winter 2001 and reports on current progress being made in addressing the environmental issues along the Thornton to Switch Island Corridor.

As reported in the News Update Issue 2 good progress is being made in appraising the six options for the Thornton to Switch Island Corridor as identified as a result of the consultation process which was carried out in 2000

Switch Island Improvements

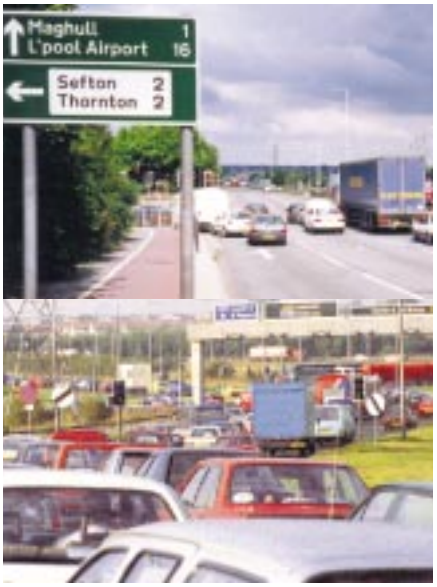
As you will know the roundabout at Switch Island has for many years suffered from the problem of traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon peak periods. The Highways Agency are keen to address these problems and recently they have been considering options to improve the situation.

Improvements to Switch Island are obviously welcome but it does present a slight problem in respect to the appraisal work for the Thornton to Switch Island Corridor Study. Because changes at Switch Island are likely to impact on the Thornton to Switch Island options, further work on their appraisal will have be delayed until we know what form the Switch Island improvements are likely to take.

Completing the Appraisal

However Sefton Council is in close contact with the Highways Agency and we expect them to announce their preferred option for the improvement of Switch Island in the next few months. Once we know their decision, we can complete the appraisal process and inform local people of the results.

This slight delay, whilst frustrating, will increase the credibility of the appraisal process and ensure that the Thornton to Switch Island improvements can develop in harmony with improvements to Switch Island, and so deliver the maximum benefits for local people. Given the amount of work that will still be required before the construction of any potential major highway scheme, this small delay will have little effect in the longer term on the overall timetable of events.



Other Developments:

As reported in the last News Update, a separate study is currently underway with the aim of improving safety and the local environment. The objective is to develop measures that could be implemented within the next two years. Such a package of measures may include pedestrian facilities (footways and crossings), speed reduction measures, landscaping, signing and traffic management within the corridor.

Revised Timetable of Events

December 2002 - Results of the appraisal

January 2003 - Newsletter Issue 4

February 2003 - Exhibition of results of the appraisal and favoured schemes

March 2003 - Preferred scheme confirmed

2006 - Earliest date for construction, assuming a major highway scheme

2008 - Earliest completion date of major highway scheme

This timetable is based on the preferred option for Switch Island being announced in the next few months

Who do I Contact for more Information ?

The Council will try to keep everyone within the study corridor informed of progress. If you would like to discuss any issues further or have any particular areas of concern please do not hesitate to contact either Keith Davies or Phil Hunt at the Strategic Transportation Planning Unit, Technical Services, on;
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or e-mail comments to: keith.davies@technical.sefton.gov.uk

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