

Thornton to Switch Island Corridor Study news update

issue no. 2 - winter 2001

progress update and time table of events

This newsletter follows on from News Update Issue 1 published summer 2000 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 1 six options for the Thornton to Switch Island Corridor were identified as a result of the consultation process which was carried out in 2000. These options were:

- 1 The do minimum approach, i.e. maintenance and signing of existing highway
- 2 The Switch Island Link Road and the improvement of the Brickwall Lane Junction
- 3 A package of co-ordinated improvements, including a Thornton Bypass, Brickwall Lane Junction Improvements and the Switch Island Link Road
- 4 A package of co-ordinated improvements, including a Thornton Bypass, Netherton Relief Road and the Switch Island Link Road
- 5 A new single carriageway highway link between Switch Island and A565 Southport Road/Ince Road
- 6 A new dual carriageway highway link between Switch Island and the Formby Bypass

Good progress is being made in assessing these options. Although we originally expected this appraisal to take 9 months, in reality it has proved to be a very extensive and time-consuming process. Some problems have occurred, not least because this is one of the first studies of this type to be carried out nationally using the new appraisal process. However, we expect to have the results early in 2002.



Why is this detailed Appraisal Process so important?

- The new appraisal process is a government requirement
- The funding for any improvement scheme will need to be sought from Central Government through the Local Transport Plan process
- Whilst the need for an improvement scheme along this corridor has been identified in the current plan, future funding cannot be guaranteed
- Any large scale solution will need to compete on a regional basis for available funds
- The solution can be expected to be the subject of a Public Inquiry
- A Public Inquiry will involve a public examination of the need, the impact, and whether the scheme meets the Government's and the Local Transport Plan's objectives

So you will appreciate that it is important that we appraise all the options thoroughly.

So What Happens Next?

We are committed to fully involving local people as we develop the way forward for the corridor study area. A further newsletter will summarise the results of this work, provide details of the most favourable options, and in addition give details of an exhibition that will be held to give you the opportunity to have your say. We want to develop solutions to the current problems that are achievable and have local support so please try to attend the exhibition.

We are often asked the question "how long will it take before something happens?".

Whilst much work has already been done, there is still much to do before the construction of any potential major highway scheme. To give you an idea of the likely timescales involved we have put together a possible timetable of events.

May 2002 - Results of the appraisal

June 2002 - Newsletter Issue 3

July 2002 - Exhibition of results of the appraisal and favoured schemes

August 2002 - Preferred scheme confirmed

2002 - Introduction of local safety and environmental improvements

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

2008 - Earliest completion date of major highway scheme

What can we do now?

As you can see any proposal that involves a major highway scheme will take some time to develop. However, the consultation raised some local issues that can be addressed more quickly. A separate study is currently being conducted with the aim of improving safety and the local environment. The objective is to develop measures that could be implemented within the next three years. Such measures may include pedestrian facilities (footways and crossings), speed reduction measures, signing and traffic management within the corridor. Options will be assessed and schemes will be designed and implemented involving the local residents throughout the process.

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 Phil Hunt or Keith Davies at the Strategic Transportation Planning Unit, Technical Services, on;

Tel: 0151 934 4260/4228 or Fax: 0151 934 4532

or E-mail comments to keith.davies@technical.sefton.gov.uk



Sefton Council

Sefton Council
Technical Services, STPU
Balliol House, Balliol Road
Bootle, L20 3NJ