



Meeting: Transport Working Party

Date: 13th August 2015

Wards Affected: Berry Head with Furzeham, Preston, Roundham with Hyde

Report Title: Minor Congestion Relief Schemes 2015/16 and 2016/17

**Executive Lead Contact Details: Councillor R Excell, Executive Lead for
Community Services**

**Supporting Officer Contact Details: Ian Jones, Principal Engineer and Acting
Service Manager - Highways and Transport**

1. Purpose

1.1 To determine schemes for the forthcoming financial years to continue the current programme of Minor Congestion Relief Schemes in Torbay.

2. Proposed Decision

2.1 That the junction improvement at Bolton Cross is implemented as the Minor Congestion Relief Scheme for 2015/16 and that the further recommendations in Option 1 are progressed in the 2016/17 financial years.

3. Action Needed

3.1 Once a recommendation is obtained from this Working Party, any approved schemes will be progressed under the approved Local Transport Plan.

4. Summary

4.1 The Transport Working Party approved the priorities for Minor Congestion Relief Schemes in June 2011 and June 2012.

4.2 Improvements were approved and implemented for some of the junctions highlighted in the previous reports, with two junctions, 'Dartmouth Road/Penwill Way' and 'Abbey Gates' being deferred for improvements subject to future funding opportunities and studies.

4.3 As part of the Council's Integrated Transport Block Capital allocation for 2015/16 and 2016/17, funding has been identified for further Minor Congestion Relief Improvements. A recommendation of the Working Party is therefore required in respect of the priorities for schemes to be progressed under this funding.

4.4 The proposed rebuilding works and junction improvement to Bolton Cross, Brixham have been unable to be progressed beyond the demolition of the former building at

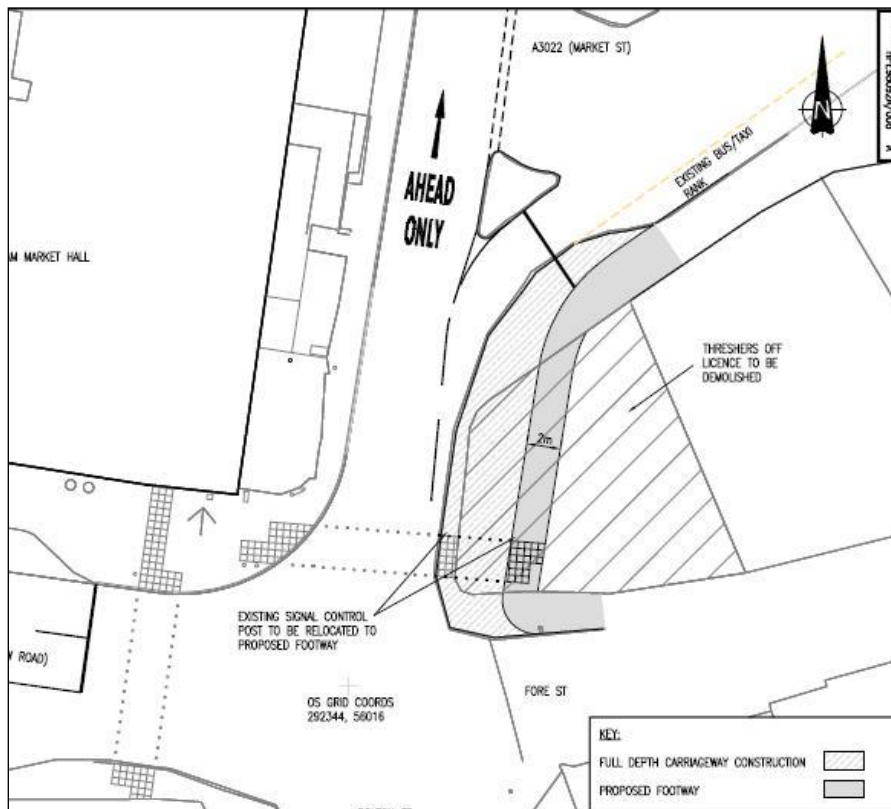
2, Fore Street due to issues delaying the marketing of the residual site. Following a number of requests from stakeholders, the junction improvement is scheduled for implementation in the autumn 2015 with the rebuilding works set to be considered at a later date.

Supporting Information

5. Position

- 5.1 The current Local Transport Plan (LTP3) includes a proposal to implement 'Localised Minor Congestion Relief Schemes and Junction Improvements' as part of its 'Key Elements of Torbay Transport Strategy' to 'Enable Economic Growth and Development'.
- 5.2 The Transport Working Party considered a report titled 'Minor Congestion Relief Schemes' at their June 2011 meeting. The purpose of the report was to establish a strategy to determine priorities for schemes to be funded under the LTP3 allocation for Minor Congestion Relief, based on information gathered from the previous Local Transport Plan and a Development Strategy Report commissioned by the TDA and carried out by consultant 'Atkins' in 2010.
- 5.3 Whilst there is no official definition of congestion, a number of junctions were identified as currently operating at 'over capacity' levels at peak periods or have deemed to be reaching a point where 'over capacity' will be reached within the next 15 years. Some of these junctions are however already subject to either being part of current planned improvements, potential improvement by other sources in the future or have been improved in the interim period.
- 5.4 The Atkins report highlighted congestion issues with Bolton Cross, Brixham. This scheme was not included within the original Minor Congestion Relief report as it was considered under the LTP funding provision for Air Quality Management. Whilst the initial funding has been used to carry out demolition and preparatory works to date, the junction remains unchanged due to land registry issues on the former property and the adjoining property and the requirement for a Party Wall Agreement, which have delayed the sale of the residual plot of land and its requirement for a replacement building. These issues have yet to be successfully resolved to date; it is therefore recommended that the funding provision for Congestion Relief for the current year is directed to the implementation of this scheme.
- The land registry issues with the adjoining property will continue and a recommendation on the future of the residual site will be presented to members in due course.
- 5.5 Members should refer to the report to the Working Party of 26th February 2010, which details this scheme along with other options. The scheme plan is as indicated in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Indicative junction improvements for Bolton Cross using land from the Threshers site



5.9 Other potential congestion relief improvements that may considered in the 2016/17 financial year are as follows:

a) Manor Corner, Paignton

This area could benefit from CCTV coverage to highways to improve the management of the junction. The nearest camera is at Hyde Rd Junction and an additional unit at this location could provide good coverage for the Preston area up to the Torquay Road/Seaway Rd junction.

b) Seaway Road

This site is a 22 year old junction and has a lot apparatus which are failing. A full proposal would require junction improvements at this site to include signals, puffin facilities, controller, poles, etc. At this stage however it would advantageous to incorporate Linked MOVA at this site, this would enable the junction to work more efficiently and also provide co-ordination with the Manor Corner junction.

c) Free text signs

Members may consider that some funding should be used to provide more 'Free Text' signs around the Bay to help inform drivers about major road works, closures, incidents etc. the potential locations proposed are A3022 at Brixham, Dartmouth Road/ Penwill Way Junction and Tweenaway Cross, Paignton.

6. Possibilities and Options

6.1 **Option 1** - That the junction improvement for Bolton Cross, Brixham is progressed as the main priority for Minor Congestion Relief Schemes for 2015/16, and,

6.2 That the schemes in item 5.9 to this report are progressed as the priority schemes for 2016/17.

6.3 **Option 2** – That the junction improvement for Bolton Cross is progressed only

7. Preferred Solution/Option

7.1 That Option 1 is progressed.

8. Consultation

8.1 Full public consultation, followed by a formal planning application has been carried out for the Bolton Cross Improvement.

8.2 The schemes in item 5.9 will only require local consultation prior to implementation with Ward Councillors and affected Stakeholders

9. Risks

9.1 If the current programme of minor congestion relief schemes is not progressed then Torbay Council may not achieve one of the main objectives within LTP3, which may impact on future funding levels.

9.2 To discontinue the programme of minor congestion relief schemes may affect the opportunities for future investment and economic growth within Torbay.

9.3 The construction of a replacement building at Bolton Cross is dependent on obtaining interest from a developer to purchase the residual site of 2, Fore Street, Brixham. There is a risk that the development opportunity is not recognised and the authority may have to consider an alternative use for the area, subject to planning consent.

Appendices:

None.

Additional Information:

None.

Documents available in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

The Local Transport Plan

Issues Paper to Transport Working Party February 2010 (Bolton Cross improvement)

Report to Transport Working Party, June 2011 (Minor Congestion Relief Schemes)

Report to Transport working Party, May 2012 (Minor congestion relief Schemes)