



Meeting: Transport Working Party

Date: 13th August 2015

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: The Grand Hotel Roundabout, Torbay Road, Torquay

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

**Supporting Officer Contact Details: John Clewer, Senior Engineer - Highways
Development & Traffic**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Following a request from the Mayor's office, Highways were asked to investigate the possibility of replacing the signalised junction at Torbay Road / Rathmore Road, Torquay with a roundabout. The purpose of this report is to confirm the findings of our investigations and seek approval to carry out further detailed design work in readiness to progress to construction, as and when suitable funding becomes available.

2. Proposed Decision

- 2.1 It is proposed that members recommend that Highways continue to carry out further detailed design work, in readiness to progress the scheme to construction, as and when suitable funding becomes available and that the scheme is included within bids for future funding opportunities.

3. Action Needed

- 3.1 It is recommended that members approve the proposals outlined in item 2 (above).

4. Summary

- 4.1 It should be noted that no funding is currently available or approved for this proposed scheme.

Supporting Information

5. Position

- 5.1 The Rathmore Road / Torbay Road junction is located on the coast in Torbay and is situated close to The Grand Hotel and Torquay rail station. The junction has three arms; Torbay Road (northeast), Torbay Road (southwest) and Rathmore Road. The aim of this report is, at the request of the Mayor's office, to establish

whether there is potential to convert the junction from a signalised junction into a roundabout.

- 5.2 A manual traffic count was conducted on behalf of the Authority in January 2015, with vehicles being counted between 07:00 and 19:00.
- 5.3 This information was then sent to our partner consultant Jacobs to analyse. Flow matrices were produced and the AM and PM peak hours were identified as 08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00. The greatest flows were observed for the movement Torbay Road northeast to Torbay Road southwest which accounts for around two fifths of the total traffic. Following this, the flows from Torbay Road southwest are the next highest where the split to the two other arms is of similar order. Flows are higher in the AM peak.
- 5.4 A computer model of the junction was set up to determine whether there is potential for a roundabout at Rathmore Road / Torbay Road to be introduced. This allowed details of the Ratio of Flow to Capacity (RFC), queue lengths and delays to be calculated. A junction that operates within capacity has RFC values of less than 0.85. The results for this junction show that the RFCs are below 0.75 which indicates that the roundabout operates well within capacity. The queue lengths and delay times are also small which indicates that the junction would operate satisfactorily.
- 5.5 The design has been tested, using predicted traffic flows for the year 2026 for these calculations and the results indicate that a roundabout could be introduced at this junction, with the roundabout working within capacity. The Modelling does not however take into account the effects of any adjacent signalised pedestrian crossing.
- 5.6 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to carry out further detailed design work (including the provision of suitable pedestrian facilities) in readiness to progress the scheme to construction, as and when suitable funding becomes available.
- 5.7 No funding is currently available or approved for this proposed scheme. However, should members recommend progression then the scheme will be included within any future appropriate funding bids as a "shovel ready" scheme.

6 Possibilities and Options

6.1 Option 1

It is recommended that members give approval for further detailed design and consultation work to be undertaken, in readiness to progress the scheme to construction, as and when suitable funding becomes available.

6.2 Option 2

Do not approve the undertaking of further design works.

7 Preferred Solution/Option

- 7.1 Members are recommended that item 6, option 1 above, would be the most appropriate option. However, members should be aware that advertising any changes made to the existing Traffic Regulation Orders as part of these works may attract objections, which will have to be considered by the Executive Lead for Community Services.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Consultation will be undertaken with Council ward members and major stakeholders prior to the finalisation of any scheme. Where changes to the existing Traffic Regulation Orders are involved, these will be advertised and should there be any objections these will be presented to the Executive Lead for Community Services for consideration.

9. Risks

- 9.1 Whilst consultation will be undertaken with major stakeholders prior to the introduction of works, it is possible that when the alterations to the existing Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) are advertised (both on site and in the local media), these will attract objections from the members of the public. Any such objections will then have to be referred back to the Executive Lead for Community Services.

Appendices:

None.

Additional Information:

None.

Documents available in Members' Rooms:

None.

Background Papers:

Jacobs Technical Note – Torbay Road / Rathmore Road junction (May 2015 – Ref: B2305026/RATH/R/001)