

To: Ashford Joint Transportation Board
By: KCC Highways and Transportation
Date: 14th March 2017
Subject: A2070/Barrey Road junction
Classification: Information only

Summary:

This report updates the Board on progress relating to potential improvements at the A2070/Barrey Road junction

1. Introduction

The outcome of the meeting with businesses and residents on the 16th January identified 3 key actions for Officers from Highways England (HE), Kent County Council (KCC) and Ashford Borough Council (ABC) to investigate further. These actions were:

- 1.1 An option to implement temporary speed restrictions and a speed camera with further information on timescales, costs and an implementable scheme to be reported back to the group.
- 1.2 Early consultation with residents by Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council to seek views about relocating the barrier in Church Road, and that residents in Church Road / Kingfisher Close / Nightingale Close, and Church Road / Osborne Road should be consulted for their views.
- 1.3 A longer-term solution should be either a traffic signalised junction or roundabout at the junction of Barrey Road and the A2070, and that the Highways Agency and Kent County Council be asked to progress the further investigation of this option and how it could be funded.

2. Temporary speed restrictions

- 2.1 Officers from HE, KCC and the Safety Camera Partnership met to discuss the possibility of a temporary speed restriction and associated camera enforcement. HE report that Traffic Regulations dictate that it is NOT possible to install such an operation simply for a speed related matter, there has to be an identified safety issue and as previously reported, Barrey Road is not judged to be an accident blackspot. It would therefore be extremely difficult, if not impossible to introduce an experimental Traffic Order.

- 2.2 The alternative would be to progress a Permanent Traffic Order in light of the fact that the J10a scheme will introduce a 40mph limit. In addition, it would be possible to install ANPR cameras to monitor vehicle speeds whilst the Permanent Order was prepared. Once the Order was in place, the cameras could be switched over to enforcement.
- 2.3 Approximate timeframes for seeing a solution on the ground would be:
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| Seek approval from HE Major Projects to fund Permanent Order and Camera installation | 2 weeks |
| Mobilise and install camera equipment and signage | 2 weeks |
| Monitoring during preparation of Permanent Order followed by switch over to enforcement camera | 12 weeks |
| “Settling in” period | 6 weeks |
- 2.4 It was advised that once a new enforcement camera has been installed, it takes approximately 6 weeks for motorists to identify its existence, hence the settling in period referred to above. This takes the potential time before an appreciable speed difference is identified to **mid/late summer 2017**.

3. Relocation of bollards in Church Road

- 3.1 Internal discussions have been held within KCC and it is agreed that relocating towards Barrey Road would assist with reducing traffic using the junction.
- 3.2 The Operations team are to report back on any additional information that may be of use to an informal consultation and it may be possible to commence the exercise in early March with assistance from ABC Officers.

4. Junction Improvements

- 4.1 Discussions are continuing with Highways England on potential improvements to the junction. KCC are actively working on an estimated cost for either a roundabout or signals so both organisations are better placed to potentially take forward a Business Case for funding to an appropriate body.
- 4.2 The implementation of the reduced speed limit as mentioned in point 2 above will either support a view that traffic from Barrey Road will be able to access the A2070 more easily and therefore reduce congestion or there will be no alteration to the current situation.
- 4.3 It is intended therefore, that realistic costs are identified during the period for the implementation of the permanent Traffic Order and discussions/negotiation will continue during this time on funding streams and which organisation is best placed to introduce any potential improvements.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Progress has been made in the short period of time since the meeting in January although clearly there is more work to be done. Officers remain committed to working with the Members, residents and businesses in order to identify a suitable solution and progress will be routinely reported to the Board at future meetings.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Board note the contents of the Report and the relevant progress to date.

Background documents:

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