

TRANSPORT DECISIONS COMMITTEE – 26 NOVEMBER 2009

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR A34 (RESULTING IN A CLOSURE)

Report by Head of Transport

Introduction

1. Enterprise Mouchel on behalf of the Highways Agency have developed a contingency plan for the A34 through Oxfordshire. This will only happen once Thames Valley Police have deemed a closure necessary due to a traffic accident or incident. The Highways Agency on behalf of the Department for Transport supports the diversion routes for the A34.

Routes

2. Enterprise Mouchel has consulted local authorities and Thames Valley Police to identify the most appropriate alternative route. The Congestion Management Group has consulted internally to assess the implications as the majority of routes identified are 'A' roads. We considered a number of elements including location of schools, hospitals, premium bus routes and freight routes. Upon further investigation staff within the Congestion Management group have identified where changes can be made to traffic signal timings to facilitate the additional traffic flow in certain directions. The proposed routes are attached to this report.

Contact Method

3. Thames Valley Police, through their control room or that of Enterprise Mouchel or from the National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) will contact our Traffic Information Management (TIM) Unit to instigate the contingency plan – TIM will, via its automated system Argonaut (software programme), instigate any necessary changes on our network (e.g. change over timings on traffic signals).

How the Project Supports LTP2 objectives

4. With the implementation of contingency planning and effective working with key partners, we will be better able to tackle and manage congestion, create safer roads by identifying alternative routes, thus improving accessibility during restrictions rather than let traffic find its own way.

Financial Implications

5. There will be minimal impact during normal office hours and a minor overtime, car mileage payment out of hours, which will be covered by stand by teams.

RECOMMENDATION

6. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **approve the proposed contingency plans; and**
 - (b) **support the Highways Agency recommendations for the A34.**

STEVE HOWELL
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Environment & Economy

Background papers: Nil

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