

APPENDIX D - UPDATE ON WATFORD JUNCTION--NATIONAL STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (NSIP)

Progress Update provided by Andy Gipson, consultant to HCC Passenger Transport Unit

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

In view of the importance of this scheme regular updates will now be provided to Members at Panel meetings. Since the last Panel meeting on 12th July, 2011 the current status of NSIP at Watford Junction is as follows:-

2. STATUS OF NSIP

2.1 Drop Off Facility

London Midland will provide 10 marked bays in the long-stay car park near to the entrance to platforms 9 and 10. This will be used by season ticket holders and disabled passengers. Signage indicating this facility will be included in the schedule of new signs to be provided for the short-stay car park in Woodford Road (See 2.2 below).

An investigation into an alternative egress for private cars onto St. Albans Road has commenced and is now subject to preliminary and full design work being undertaken by Hertfordshire Highways. If these proposals are affordable and can be agreed with London Midland and Network Rail, implementation will be sought before the end of 2012/13.

The installation of automatic gates and a ticket vending machine at the entrance to platforms 9 and 10 with CCTV controls are subject to review by LM and will be dependent on funding being sought from the Department of Transport's Minor Access Programme during 2012/13.

2.2 Woodford Road

Network Rail made the Planning Application for the short-stay car park in Woodford Road on 7th March and approval was made by Watford Borough Council on 10th May, 2011.

The lease agreement between Hertfordshire County Council and Network Rail has been agreed.

LM will install a ticket machine for the enforcement of the 20 minute time to park; no charges will be made.

LM will install a real time train arrivals/departures display for car park users. The proposal to review the bus stand and provide limited waiting in Woodford Road for approximately 9 vehicles has been approved in principle by Watford B.C., Hertfordshire Police and the bus operator, Arriva. Hertfordshire Highways have commenced consultation on the proposal which requires a Traffic Regulation Order.

This proposal will be jointly funded between HCC and Watford B.C. and would be implemented at the same time as the short-stay car park becomes operational. This is expected to be around March/April 2012. (See 2.6 below).

2.3 Public Information

LM plan to post information at the station and on their website www.londonmidland.com during November 2011. Members will be provided with this information in advance of the general public.

2.4 Bus Drivers Mess Room

LM has agreed to provide this facility for bus drivers. Currently a parked bus is used by Arriva staff. A licence agreement to agree the level and maintenance of the facility is required with LM and discussions between LM and Arriva continue.

2.5 Platform 11 (Abbey Line)

There has been a delay to the installation of the heated waiting room for Platform 11 because of the allocation of costs between HCC and LM/NR. Discussions with LM/NR continue to resolve this issue.

2.6 Station pedestrian area—gateway design

Agreement has reached with British Transport Police to proceed with a design that complies with anti-terrorist requirements. No soft landscaping will now be included.

2.7 Programme

There has been a delay to the programme because the main contractor will not be appointed by LM until the end of October. A programme of work will then be agreed, which is expected to start with the short-stay car park in Woodford Road.

Times have now been revised as follows:-

January 2012--Start works

July 2012---Finish works

3. FURTHER INFORMATION

If further information becomes available from London Midland this will be reported orally at the meeting.