

HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS
WATFORD JOINT MEMBER PANEL
Thursday 19th January, 2012

Item 09 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 27^h October, 2011 the current status of NSIP at Watford Junction is as follows:-

2. STATUS OF NSIP

2.1 Drop Off Facility

London Midland (LM) propose to install 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). LM have indicated that the bays will reduce the total number of spaces in the existing car park and affect a number of existing disabled parking bays. This would require a station change procedure because of current railway legislation and an exemption to current standards may be required from the Department for Transport. If this happens some delay is inevitable, however HCC officers have repeated the decision of Panel Members that the drop off facility must be provided as part of the NSIP scheme at Watford Junction.

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. Progress has been good with both LM and Network Rail and discussions with the land owners of Penn Road are expected to be held before the end of February, 2012.

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. LM is looking at ways of securing a funding contribution for the work from the Department for Transport.

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, however Network Rail have still to legally sign off the document.

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 pay and display waiting in Woodford Road for approximately 9 vehicles has been approved in principle by Watford B.C., Hertfordshire Police and the bus operator affected Arriva.

Hertfordshire Highways have completed consultation on the proposal which requires a Traffic Regulation Order. Panel Members should note that the majority of responses from residents in Woodford Road requested resident parking bays rather than pay and display waiting.

The TRO is expected to be formally advertised on 20th January, 2012. This proposal will be jointly funded between HCC and Watford B.C. and subject to the TRO being made would be implemented when the bus station work is completed in July, 2012. It will not be possible to reduce the bus stand capacity in Woodford Road whilst work in the bus station area is being undertaken.

2.3 Public Information

LM plan to post information at the station and on their website londonmidland.com during February 2012. Further consultation will be undertaken with major stakeholders such as taxi operators and groups representing the disabled. Additional information relating to bus stop allocations and services will be provided by HCC as part of the Intalink service.

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 between LM and Arriva. Discussions on this agreement and the costs involved continue.

2.5 Platform 11 (Abbey Line)

The installation and associated costs of the heated waiting room for Platform 11 has been agreed. The build and installation of the waiting room is expected before the end of March, 2012.

2.6 Programme

The main contractor has been appointed by LM and will be J. Murphy & Sons of Cannock, Staffordshire.

The funding for J. Murphy to commence work is held by Network Rail and is expected to be received and approved by London Midland by 29th February, 2012.

On the basis of this date being met the timing of the works on-site are as follows:-

April 2012--Start

October 2012--Finish

HCC officers have indicated to Network Rail and London Midland that in view of the importance of the scheme and the funding contribution that HCC has made, these programme times should be brought forward by at least one month to avoid further delay. Discussions will therefore continue with Network Rail and London Midland to see if this can be resolved.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION

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