

**HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS  
WATFORD JOINT MEMBER PANEL  
Thursday 22nd March 2012**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012, confirmation has been received from Network Rail to allow London Midland (LM) to proceed with the scheme.

With the exception of the programme dates, the current status of NSIP has seen little change and is as follows:-

**2. STATUS OF NSIP**

**2.1 Programme and Work On-Site**

The main contractor is expected to be appointed by LM during March, 2012. The contractor will be J. Murphy and Sons Limited of Cannock, Staffordshire. The approximate timing of the works on-site is as follows:-  
May 2012--Start  
October 2012--Finish

**2.2 Drop Off Facility**

There has been no change since the last Panel meeting and HCC officers are in urgent talks with London Midland (LM) to request their decision on the proposal to install 10 marked bays in the long-stay car near to the entrance of platforms 9 and 10.

This facility will be used by season ticket holders and passengers with a disability. 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 2.3 below). LM have indicated that the bays will reduce the total number of spaces in the existing car park and may affect a number of existing disabled parking bays. This would require a station change procedure because of railway legislation and an exemption to current standards may be required from the Department for Transport. If this happens some delay is inevitable,

An investigation into an alternative egress for private cars onto St. Albans Road continues with preliminary and full design work being undertaken by Hertfordshire Highways .Access and egress for the car park via Penn Road

is considered to be the best option. Penn Road is not public highway and agreement with the land owners and their tenants would be required. Discussions with the land owners are expected to be held during March, 2012. and if agreement can be reached, together with the appropriate funding, the scheme could be implemented during the financial year 2012/13.

LM would seek to enhance the scheme with the installation of automatic gates, ticket vending machine and CCTV controls at the entrance to platforms 9 and 10. LM is investigating the means of securing a funding contribution for this work from the Department for Transport.

### 2.3 Woodford Road

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

There has been a delay in advertising the TRO but this is expected soon. 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. This is expected during September, 2012. It will not be possible to reduce the capacity of the bus stand in Woodford Road, whilst work in the bus station area is being undertaken.

### 2.4 Public Information

LM plan to post information at the station and on their website londonmidland.com during April 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.

## 2.5 Bus Drivers Mess Room

No change since the last panel meeting.

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 are still outstanding.

## 2.6 Platform 11 (Abbey Line)

No change since the last panel meeting.

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.

## **3. FURTHER INFORMATION**

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