TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS AND POLICY SUB COMMITTEE, HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2017 AT GMCA, MANCHESTER

Councillor Guy Harkin Bolton (in the Chair)
Councillor Rhyse Cathcart Bury
Councillor Andrew Fender Manchester
Councillor Mohon Ali Oldham
Councillor Shah Wazir Rochdale
Councillor Robin Garrido Salford
Councillor Roger Jones Salford
Councillor Annette Finnie Stockport
Councillor John Taylor Stockport
Councillor Michael Cordingley Trafford
Councillor James Grundy Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst Wigan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bob Morris Chief Operating Officer, TfGM
Alex Cropper Head of Project Group, TfGM
Jenny Hollamby Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA

CPP17/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Doreen Dickinson, Councillor Peter Robinson and Councillor Howard Sykes.

CPP17/23 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business introduced at the meeting.

The Chair advised Members that TfGM had won the North of England Transport Award for Construction and Engineering project of the Year for the Metrolink second city crossing. The awards were about bringing the industry together to celebrate its achievements in providing efficient, high quality transport services across the region. The awards aimed to reward and encourage innovation and excellence and help disseminate the very best practice throughout the north of England.
The Chair reported that a visit to Wigan bus station had taken place, along with Councillor Eunice Smethurst and the GM Mayor. It was reported that the work that commenced in July 2017 was on schedule and was due to open in October 2018.

CPP17/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

CPP17/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2017

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2017.

RESOLVED/-

Subject to Councillor Shah Wazir being added to those that apologised for the meeting, the minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting, held on 13 October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

CPP17/26 BUS PRIORITY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Projects Group that provided an update on recent progress in respect of the bus priority programme and the Salford – Bolton network improvement programme.

The Head of Projects Group led Members through the report. The main points referred to were noted as:

- A Member raised the following issues about the busway service (V1 and V2) between Leigh, Atherton, Tyldesley, Salford and Manchester; during peak times there was a capacity issue for passengers, particularly those wishing to board on the A580; parking problems and parking restrictions had caused parking issues in other areas; the park and ride facility was in the wrong location and it was suggested a mini facility was required at Ellenbrook; over-crowding issues on the service to Manchester Royal Infirmary had been reported by a resident and traffic management issues, increased congestion, traffic signals and traffic queues onto the A580 were also raised. Officers acknowledged the capacity issues at peak times and advised they were working with the operator to fine tune the existing service. Capital funding was not available for extra buses for the busway. The park and ride facility was reaching capacity at some locations. However, a suitable piece of land at Ellenbrook was not available. In terms of the over-crowding issues on the Manchester Royal Infirmary service, Officers recognised this was unacceptable and would investigate the complaint. Regarding traffic signals, Members were advised that it was a fine balance to keep the A580 flowing and allowing access to/from local roads. Additional pedestrian safety had been added at the junctions limiting the capacity from road traffic. Officers reassured Members that the situation was regularly monitored and adjustments made. However the reality was, the highway was at capacity.
A Member who used the V1 service regularly reassured Members whilst the service was extremely busy no passengers were left behind at bus stops and the Member had never experienced any health and safety issues. It was a terrific service. It was highlighted that both the V1 and V2 services could be used and buses were only minutes apart.

Whilst a Member welcomed the 1 million cycle journeys reported, it was suggested that it was more likely to be 2 million and asked Officers how the undercount would be captured. Officers agreed to investigate the situation and report back.

A Member asked that the cycle route at Ellenbrook be advertised and signposted as he only accidently located it when cycling to Westhoughton. Officers agreed to pass the comments to the local authority.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted and the progress which had been made on the bus priority schemes in recent months.

CPP17/27 INTERCHANGES PROGRAMME UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Head of Projects Group that provided an update on recent progress made in respect of the new interchange facility at Bolton, and the future transport facilities being developed and delivered for Stockport, Tameside, Wigan, Farnworth and Pendleton. The report provided an overview of the progress made since the last update and the work scheduled to be undertaken over the coming months.

Members asked a range of questions, which were noted as:

- In response to a question, it was explained that a changing places facility allowed people with profound and multiple disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis the extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. It was the first facility in Greater Manchester and it was envisaged that they would be introduced at Wigan bus station.

- Regarding the reinstatement of a fifth platform at Bolton Rail Station, a Member asked about disabled access. Officers advised that the platform met with current standards and would have taken disabled access into account. The Officer agreed to provide the Member with more details outside of the meeting.

- A Member asked that all parties came together to address the minor operational issues at Altrincham interchange. It was acknowledged there had been problems and Officers advised that a small project team had been established to work with partners to find a suitable approach.

RESOLVED/-
1. That Members noted the contents of the report and the achievements made in progressing the schemes since the last interchanges update.

2. That Members further noted the work scheduled to be undertaken to continue to develop the schemes over the coming months, in conjunction with stakeholders.

CPP17/28 METROLINK CAPITAL UPDATE

Consideration was given to the Head of Projects Group that presented an update in relation to the Metrolink capital programme.

In terms of the Trafford Park line, a Member was pleased to see that stakeholder meetings were going well. However, a concern was raised about the build-up of traffic towards the Trafford centre during the Christmas period and knock on effects. The Member asked what plans were in place. Officers advised that there were delays on all parts of the roadways during the lead into Christmas but this was exacerbated by the on highway works. Change of travel times and special phases for traffic lights were being considered but the network was at capacity. Fine tuning was undertaken every day to address issues. In addition, radio broadcasts to reinforce behavioural change messages and continued monitoring was taking place.

RESOLVED/-

Members noted the progress made on the tram management system (TMS) programme, second city crossing (2CC), Trafford Park line (TPL) and renewals and enhancements programme.