

ADEPT Traffic Systems Group (TSG) Committee Meeting
Tuesday 9 June 2020, 11:00 to 13:00
Remote via Teams

Present:

Adrian Gray, Hampshire (Chair)
Dave Kinnard, Cardiff
Gafoor Din, Warwickshire
Gary McCracken, Northern Ireland
Roy Gordon, Northern Ireland
Jayesh Parmar, Leicester
Jack, Pulker, TfL
Michelle Fillingham, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole
Richard Dolphin, TfGM
Richard Ling, Cambridgeshire
Bruce Slattery, CH2M
Sally Gibbons, DfT

1. Apologies:

Cameron Ferguson	Transport for Scotland
Jonathan Flynn	Highways England

2. Minutes of last meeting, 11 February 2020

Agreed

3. Covid-19 measures assisting recovery

Warwickshire. Everybody working at home. All systems have remote access, telephones being automatically transferred. One issue is the lack of printing. Very busy generally. Traffic levels lower but traffic speeds have increased. Working on projects to re-allocate road space, including allowing pedestrians to use part of the road in shopping areas. Some highway schemes being moved forward to accelerate the local economy. No contract issues, but decided not to apply penalties if there were any visits after the required period, Siemens have however worked very well. Some projects delayed with potential for compensation claim.

N.I. Siemens UX system being used remotely, good access to CCTV systems remotely after recent upgrade work. All control staff working at home. Siemens working well as are all other contractors. Instruction from government to not impose penalties if possible. Low traffic levels, was -70% down, speeds have increased, motorcyclist fatalities increased recently. Additional cycle lanes being built. Easier to make TRO than in other UK areas. Parking enforcement has been suspended, except for safety reasons.

Cambridge, very similar to other areas. Pressure to change crossings but taking a sensible approach about making changes, planning for any changes to also have long term benefits. Dynniq also performing well, we agreed to be flexible with them but service have remained high anyway.

Bournemouth. More lamp failures than normal. Schemes still progressing. Working on Covid-19 schemes, including approaches for automatic crossings. Lots of social distancing schemes, priority for pedestrians.

Leicester. Same as Warwickshire, Siemens working well but increase in Siemens lamp failures. Work on new signals contract has been delayed due to Covid. Control room remains open 9-2, good access to work from home. Sunday UTC timetable running. Monitoring traffic levels still well below normal levels. Peak period is now 11am-3pm. City Centre opening 15 June, planning for this. Waste sites opening, initial problems when first opened. Problems with takeaways opening (highway space) but managers are working with authority on TM. University looking only to return Sep 21. Siemens not back to Poole until Jan 20.

TfL. Control Centre open, also working from home. Dealing with protests taking up quite a bit of time.

Social distancing link from TfL.

<http://content.tfl.gov.uk/streetspace-for-london-social-distancing-on-high-streets-tfl-design-and-material-guidance.pdf>

TfGM. Very similar picture to other areas. Siemens working well.

Cardiff. Dynniq have been working very well, sent our own staff home from County Hall. Phased return for front line staff to County Hall. Issue of pinch points around schools.

Hampshire, this situation has allowed us to look at different ways of working. Conflict of where we are now saying not to use public transport where before we were promoting it. People now require more parking as they are using cars. Challenge of people going back to work but not able to use public transport. There is an opportunity here to make things better.

CH2M. Dublin, reducing capacity of network to restrict further increases after lockdown. The use of offices will be very different in the future, especially when the peak will be, we need to plan using good data.

DfT. Changes to how we prepare TROs, changes to advertising in newspapers. Good to see local authorities are using the tools now allowed by DfT. Strong push for walking and cycling from No 10. Review of reallocating road space in August. CCTV enforcement of parking in cycle lanes now possible, not for driving in cycle lanes. Issue of how people are safely waiting at bus stops.

Is DfT looking at modelling how the new mix of people returning will work?
Yes some work started but the picture is quite unclear at the moment. A specific covid-19 team has been pulled together.

4. ADEPT Transport and Connectivity Board

Meeting held last Friday 5th June 2020. Public transport is not being run commercially, being supported by government. Adrian will ask group before next meeting for matters to raise.

5. TOPAS update

Update on the TOPAS TR2500 review. Draft spec has been circulated. Adrian took the committee through the existing comments made and agreed those to respond with to TOPAS board. Lots of additional comments from the south-west group, these will be submitted separately after being pulled together by Michelle (BCP). Adrian noted that this process is to correct mistakes in the document from the past, not to change fundamentally the way we may want the controller to work in the future. Toby in Kent mentioned that on far side signals the new spec allows call/cancel using kerbside detectors, this could be dangerous if somebody crosses from seeing the wait lamp go out. Comment also made from SW area. Feedback from TfL was after trials it has been used and found to be safe. Consensus was to include Toby's comment and discuss at TOPAS board with others submitted.

Discussion about cycle detection and how there have been more issues reported since Covid-19. Suggest more work needs to be carried out to ensure cycles are detected in these low motor-vehicle flow situations. (not TOPAS 2500 related).

References in 2500 about loop detection, maybe needs changing to detection.

Portable spec TOPAS2540 is out again for consultation.

Special conditioning, Mark Pleydell. People use this in different ways. Should we have a group to agree how this should be standardised? Richard Dolphin and Dave Kinnard would like to be involved.

BS8442. Belisha beacons etc. Do we want an input into the DfT review by John Bennett? Not suggested for this group, picked up by other groups.

6. DfT update

Gap between Chapter 6 and high-speed roads. No move forward but many users will not be aware of the issue. Sally is not aware where HE currently sits due to other commitments.

Sally mentioned DfT are working on the sight stopping distance issues. Issues in NI working between Manual for Streets and DMRB, needing lots of

departures. Richard Dolphin mentioned that there needs to be research of how people behave in the 40/50mph gap. DfT looking at revising Manual for Streets. Still lots of outstanding issues here. Gafoor raised the difficulty in how to guide consultants on what to use in their areas, Chapter 6 to 40mph and then DMRB after that?

Putting in, taking out or changing crossings, still need to consult with Chief Constable.

7. Highways England update

None.

8. Round table issues, including up-dates from Regional Groups

No minutes received, suggesting no regional Groups have met recently. East are looking to have a virtual meeting in the autumn..

9. General issues/discussion

No comments.

10. Open Meeting

Postpones. Will be rearranged as and when possible.

11. Future agenda items and dates for next meetings

No comments.

12. Any Other Business

Michelle SW. Risk-assessment for COVID-19? Adrian carried out Risk Assessment, no specific outcome, no additional PPE, suggest keeping this in review. Michelle is making people wear masks due to public not socially distancing.

Warwickshire. Claiming insurance damage. Cardiff use a company to deal with them but they charge 15% fee. Cambridgeshire use a dedicated team, get back all costs (contact details passed to Gafoor). Jay uses a database of costs to cut out the loss adjustor.

Looking to restart the IHE course, needs hotels to be open. looking into 2021. Potentially an online short course.

LTN Cycle design guide release. No date as yet

Cambridgeshire. Red Lamp Monitor fault by Telent. Nothing more heard after letter from Telent, suggest all authorities to chase local maintenance

contractor. The equipment in question is a standalone 3G on older controllers.

Siemens LED lamp failures. Situation ongoing, looks to be issue with specific years.

DfT. Pop-up schemes, need to ensure they are still legal (TRO process) even though there is pressure to install them quickly.

13. Date of next meeting(s) & venues:

Committee Meeting. 6th October from 13:30 provisionally at Jacob's, Cottons Centre, Cottons Lane, London SE1 2QG or via Teams – to be confirmed.

Open meeting, will be next calendar year. Online a possibility, would need to be well managed, suggest these are short (1 hour) sessions, not all day.