

Transport News from the West of England

Weston Package

Work is continuing to bid for extra money to improve transport in Weston-super-Mare.

Known as ‘Weston Package’ the bid is for £11 million, to boost £4 million already pledged, to help fund some significant transport improvement schemes for both car and motorcycle drivers, bus passengers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The scheme includes:

- **Increased capacity at Junction 21**
- **New bus link from Queens Way to the station.**
- **Bus priority along Elmham Way for buses, linking the regeneration areas.**
- **Widening Marchfields way to complete the dual carriage-way into the town and provide new bus and cycle routes.**
- **New car park and bus interchange at Worle railway station.**

When we asked for your views on the proposals in September 2008 you supported the Weston Package and since then we have been working hard to develop more detailed designs and continue to seek funding from the Department for Transport.

You liked the proposals to improve capacity at Junction 21 for traffic coming off the motorway into Weston-super-Mare. We have worked hard to design a feasible scheme at Junction 21 and we hope that improved access will make the area more attractive for visitors and businesses looking to invest in the town.

You also liked the idea of more bus services across the town and so we have kept the bus route improvements which aim to link the original and new parts of town.



Shorter journey times and an efficient and reliable transport network



Travel+ is the badge we are giving to all the transport improvements in the West of England.

The Travel+ plans

- Tackle congestion
- Improve safety for all road users
- Improve air quality
- Improve access to job opportunities
- Help us get to work and school efficiently
- Improve our quality of life

Together they make a transport system that is affordable, safe, secure, simple to use and available to all, whether you live in the city, a town or a rural village.

You asked for more secure cycle parking and so we are now looking to include extra cycle facilities at Worle Station as part of these proposals.

Whilst the key components of the scheme are now fixed, the finer details of the design still need ironing out.

We also need your support if we are to win the funding against stiff competition from other councils across the country.

Over the summer we will be contacting businesses and community groups who are likely to be affected by the proposals. This will include those based in, or very close to, areas where changes are proposed. We will be talking to representative groups to make sure the plans do not cause a problem for anyone because of access or other equalities issues.

In order to get support from the community we will be talking to town and parish councils. If you would like to find out more and offer your support, or comment about details of the scheme please visit: <http://consult.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult.ti>

We also need to make sure our proposals will not cause any problems for fire engines ambulances, or police, so we will be talking to all those organisations.

If all goes to plan we are hoping to win funding by summer 2012 in time to start work in the autumn.

This year the challenge is for us to revisit the designs and look at ways to keep the construction costs as low as possible.



Bus only junctions will make public transport more reliable

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