

South Gloucestershire Council

DATE: 15 February 2013

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR: FILTON ROUNDABOUT RING ROAD WIDENING

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In early 2014 the new Southmead hospital redevelopment is due to be opened to the public. The developers have acknowledged that this development will generate more traffic in the surrounding area as patients, visitors and employees travel to the hospital. To mitigate this, the developers have agreed to provide funding to improve capacity along parts of the ring road corridor that are affected by the increased traffic.

2. Scheme that was consulted upon

- 2.1. Widening of the ring road on the south side of the westbound approach to Filton Roundabout to provide 3 lanes at the traffic signals stop line where there are currently only 2.
- 2.2. Drawing reference number T413-324-24 shows the proposed scheme layout.

3. Summary of the consultation

- 3.1. A Public Consultation for the reduced widening scheme was undertaken from 1st October to 30th October 2012. The consultation consisted of road signs placed at the scheme location inviting the public to view plans of the proposals on the Councils web site. Invitations to comment were also made directly to the emergency services, local members, Filton Town Council and special interest groups including the local bus operators and cycle forums.

4. Results of the consultation

- 4.1. The consultation attracted 20 responses made up as follows:
 - 4 agreed with the proposals.
 - 3 gave comments without expressing a preference.
 - 13 disagreed with the proposals.
- 4.2. A summary of the objections received along with officer responses have been included in Appendix A at the end of this report.

5. Changes resulting from the consultation

- 5.1. The greatest number of objections received were based on the grounds that the existing cycling facilities were being removed or reduced particularly in relation to the off road cycling facilities.
- 5.2. While it was not the intention of the scheme to remove any existing cycling facilities, the Council has drawn up a revised proposal that maximises the level of off road cycling provision that is 2.5m or greater in width. The revised proposals can be seen on drawing numbered T413-324-28 deposited within this consultation.

6. Next steps

- 6.1. The Council intends to proceed with the revised scheme starting Construction in Summer 2013

Appendix A – Objection Summary

Filton Roundabout Ring road widening

OBJECTION SUMMARY

OBJECTION:	OFFICER RESPONSE:
On road commuter Cyclists should be able to travel to their existing destinations without loss of service or object to loss of on road cycle lane. 3 Respondents	These proposals include for the provision of an on road cycle lane and an off road shared use footway/cycleway. It is not intended to remove these existing facilities under this scheme.
Request 'cycle friendly' ring road right turn into shield retail estate and following access across A38 1 Respondent	The scheme is funded by a legal agreement with Southmead Hospital North Bristol Trust. The terms of the agreement limit use of the funding to specific routes that directly benefit travel to the hospital. The signal alterations at the roundabout entry will however enable improved infrastructure to be installed at no extra cost making future cycling upgrades easier.
Cycle access to Airbus UK site needs to be incorporated into design 1 Respondent	The scheme is funded by a legal agreement with Southmead Hospital North Bristol Trust. The terms of the agreement limit use of the funding to specific routes that directly benefit travel to the hospital.
Extend widening back to Shield centre lights by moving central reserve over and occupying Lane 2 eastbound. 1 Respondent	Closing down the ring road eastbound exit from Filton roundabout to one lane would create congestion on the exit and not clear traffic exiting the roundabout quickly enough. This would also lead to decreased stacking capacity on the roundabout circulatory leading to overall capacity problems.
Objection to removal of existing wide off road cycle path at Filton roundabout westbound approach. 5 Respondents	The proposals retain the existing off road shared use ring road cycle path. As a result of comments received during the consultation, the design has been modified to maximise the length of off road shared use footway/cycleway that is 2.5m or more in width.
Existing Traffic queues down A38 southbound to Kellaway Av. Hospital traffic will just join this queue 1 Respondent	The scheme seeks to improve the capacity of the roundabout by increasing the throughput of the Westbound approach. The Hospital traffic for which this scheme is intended will be directed down Southmead Road. Traffic modelling undertaken for the roundabout shows that improvements can be made without compromising existing conditions.
Request to construct flyovers or underpasses to bypass roundabout 1 Respondent	The Council does not have the necessary land or funding to undertake this option.
Request to Dual Carriageway Southmead Road. 1 Respondent	The Council does not have the necessary land or funding to undertake this option.
Request extend the off road cycle lane round corner and down A38 Southbound. 1 Respondent	The Council has identified this as an area for improvement and is currently investigating options where this could be funded from.
Request relocation/redesign of bus stop on A38 southbound opposite pub (The Air Balloon). 1 Respondent	The funding for this scheme is to be directed at reducing congestion on the ring road traffic heading towards Southmead Hospital. Additionally, the setting back of bus stops on busy roads makes it very difficult for the buses to pull out after stopping.
Request that Signing and lining is improved to clarify lane destinations. 3 Respondents	The signing and road markings will be reviewed as part of the scheme.
Request to ensure adequate provision is made for cyclists. 1 Respondent	None of the existing cycling facilities are going to be removed as part of this scheme. However, in response to comments received during the consultation, the design has been modified to maximise the length of off road shared use footway/cycleway that is 2.5m or more in width.

Waste of money for such a small amount of additional road space. 1 Respondent	The road widening scheme has been computer modelled and it shows significant improvements in traffic flows compared to the current arrangement.
Request signals to be considered for 'peak period operation only' 1 Respondent	Signalised roundabouts that operate under part time signals have a significantly higher accident count. Current guidance is that part time signals operation is avoided for this reason. The conversion to part time operation would also result in the loss of pedestrian crossing facilities. Finally, different road geometry is used on un-signalised arms to control vehicle speed entering the roundabout. Part time operation would compromise the safety of this roundabout.
Request for signals systems to be linked up to provide 'green waves' 1 Respondent	Linking traffic signal junctions often results in wasted green time when vehicles have many opportunities to turn off. Additionally, linking traffic signal junctions often holds 'green waves' to the detriment of pedestrian crossing phases.
Consultation on road widening should have formed part of the planning consultation of the Southmead Hospital Development 1 Respondent	The detailed design of a road traffic scheme was not available at the planning stage for the Hospital development.
Oppose loss of Filtons Green space. 1 Respondent	All of the road widening for this scheme takes place within the existing highway boundary. There is no loss of green space under these proposals.
Request investigation of improving capacity on Southmead Road approach to Filton Roundabout. 1 Respondent	Unfortunately, there is not enough funding or land available to undertake significant works on the Southmead road approach to this roundabout. Recent improvements in the signalling control of this roundabout should see capacity improvements and improvements in the roundabout's ability to cope with heavy traffic loads.
Request to improve northbound A38 approach and increase gaps for traffic to enter roundabout. 3 Respondents	Early indications from the recent upgrades to the signal controller for this roundabout show that this approach has improved greatly from these works.
Scheme needs to consider / take into account all the additional traffic generated by the Airbus development. 2 Respondents	The scheme has been modelled with the traffic figures predicted from the Airbus development.
Capacity on whole roundabout needs improving. 2 Respondents	Recent upgrades to the signalling control of this roundabout should see capacity improvements and improvements in the roundabout's ability to cope with heavy traffic loads.
Request to install technology to stop vehicles jumping red lights. 1 Respondent	Our records of accidents involving personal injury are supplied by the police. There has been only one recorded injury accident on the westbound approach to the roundabout in the last 3 years and this involved a car and cyclist on the same traffic signal phase. The accident statistics for each camera site must now be published. Without any reported injury accidents involving vehicles driving through red lights for this site, the Council could be accused of installing this as a money making exercise.
The needs of pedestrians and cyclists should be prioritised over the needs of motorists. Additionally giving health and environmental benefits. 1 Respondent	The Councils infrastructure needs investment in both road projects and pedestrian / cycling projects. Certain funds are prioritised to one particular group such as Cycle City. However, when allocating funding for projects, a balance needs to be struck between promoting cycle / pedestrian projects and road improvement projects.
Request for cycle lane between lanes 1&2 westbound approach to avoid conflict between Ahead / Right Turn cyclists and Left turning vehicles. 1 Respondent	Unfortunately there is not enough road space available to fit an additional cycle lane in.