

PROPOSED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH STREET, DEAL

To: Dover Joint Transportation Board - 10 December 2015

By: Tim Read - Head of Transportation

Classification: For Information

Ward: Deal North Ward

Summary: This report provides an update on the progress of a secondary consultation to improve the highway layout on South Street together with installing an extended Bus Stop on the southern side of South Street.

This report identifies the issues raised as part of the consultation together with the Officer responses to the points raised.

1 Introduction

1.1 Existing Arrangements

South Street is an extremely busy area fronted by a number of small businesses generating a high number of pedestrian and vehicular movements all times of the day. South Street is currently one-way travelling East to West and is approximately 15m in width with little designation for its multiple users. The road space is filled with a mix of pedestrians, cyclists, cars, taxis and multiple sized delivery vehicles and buses.

South Street acts as a main focal point for buses in the Deal area with many services terminating and connecting thus laying over here. Given the importance of South Street as 'bus hub', buses (Including Stagecoach, National Express and School buses) often park 2 or 3 abreast in South Street, causing both congestions and concerns to highway safety for all road users. During certain times of the day when multiple buses are in South Street, pedestrians are forced to walk in the carriageway between parked vehicles including buses. The situation in South Street is far from ideal and although the crash record is relatively low, issues over pedestrian safety and the encouragement of sustainable transport use have come into dispute.

1.2 Proposed aims and objectives

The proposals for improvement in South Street can be summarised as:

- Improve pedestrian facilities and reduce the carriageway width
- Improve pedestrian, bus user and general road safety
- Rationalise the conflict between the various users by reallocating road space
- Encourage the use of sustainable travel by providing bus interchange improvements
- Improve on street Bus facilities
- Provide for Taxi's, loading, buses, through traffic and passing trade
- Improvement to the street scene
- To reiterate, the proposals are to improve the services for residents and passengers of Deal as set out in the Dover Quality Bus Partnership Group.

1.3 Proposed alterations to achieve the aims and objectives

Kent County Council has received funding to provide improvements on South Street for all road users. Below is a summary of the proposals that can be seen in Appendix A:

- Maintaining existing flow of traffic on South Street allowing buses to align on the southern carriageway reducing the necessity of buses parking side by side blocking the carriageway
- Footway widening to the northern and southern footways
- Taxi Bays to remain on the northern side of South Street
- Improved Crossing Facilities on South Street for all road users
- Improved Street Scene for South Street including resurfacing of footways
- Provision of a loading bay on South Street to be utilised by local businesses on a daily basis

2 – South Street Alterations Consultation

2.1 Secondary consultation on proposals

Due to the number of objections received during the previous consultation, amendments were made to the design taking into account the objections. It was therefore decided to undertake a secondary consultation allowing consultees to respond to the proposals. The secondary consultation started on 23/10/2015 and ended 13/11/2015. Letters were dropped to the businesses and residents on South Street together with erecting notices on site identifying the proposals to residents, businesses and road users. Traffic Orders have also been advertised to coincide with the initial consultation. Kent County Council also undertook a secondary exhibition on 06/11/2015 held at the Deal Town Hall in Deal allowing residents and businesses to comment on proposals.

Kent County Council has received **4 letters of objection to the scheme**, below is a summary of issues raised during the consultation period together with comments to overcome some of the said concerns.

Bus Stop Length too long on South Street – Residential properties at the junction on South Street/Victoria Road have raised concerns with Double Decker Buses being at the same height as the properties above the shops.

Officer Recommendation – Reduce the length of the Bus Stop to allow a short section of road space to be utilised overnight. Road space from end of Bus Stop to Police Parking Bay, to remain as Single Yellow Lines as existing.

Taxi Concerns regarding accessibility issues – There has been numerous concerns raised at the exhibition with the potential ‘blocking in’ of taxis. The concern is when a taxi not at the front of the queue is called out to a pick up.

Officer Recommendation – Maintain segregation on South Street but use different materials ‘Concrete Setts or different coloured surfacing’ on the carriageway to allow Taxis to over-run the area. Section of kerbing has to be installed to provide safe access to Loading Bay.

Removal of Bus Stand on Beach Street – An objection was raised at the exhibition regarding the location of the Bus Stand due to possible congestion caused by parked buses.

Officer Recommendation – Discuss location with Dover District Council to seek whether existing space for Coaches on Beach Street can also be utilised by Buses. This will be a separate exercise and will not form part of this scheme as it will need a further consultation due to Traffic Orders needing to be advertised.

Deal Town Council supports the amendments based on the recommendations above but still has concerns regarding Bus movements which will be discussed with Dover District Council. The Town

Council have concerns with the number of buses in South Street and have asked for the existing National Express service to be relocated away from South Street on to Beach Street.

They have also asked that the proposed Bus Stand on Beach Street in the vicinity of Regent House be relocated onto the other side of the carriageway. This will involve potentially relocating some parking on Beach Street to accommodate this. This will be a separate exercise and will not form part of this scheme as it will need a further consultation due to Traffic Orders needing to be advertised.

Officer Recommendation – Discuss Bus concerns with Deal Town Council and Dover District Council to utilise the road space in Beach Street.

Kent County Council received **2 responses supporting** the scheme proposals.

The revised drawing taking into account officer recommendations can be seen in Appendix B

3 Finance

Kent County Council has been allocated funding for improvements at South Street. The funding has been allocation through The Local Growth Fund from Central Government. The budget allocated is £200,000 to improve the highway layout and street scene in South Street for all road users.

4 Conclusions

The re-design has taken into account many valuable points identified in the initial consultation. The secondary proposal shows amendments to the highway layout whilst still achieving the objectives set out as part of the scheme. As we have received fewer than 5 written objections, Roger Wilkin – Acting Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste has delegated authority to approve and progress the scheme under delegated powers. Therefore this report is for information only.

As a result of the consultation, Officer Recommendation to proceed with the proposed design taking into account the officer recommendations listed as part of the secondary consultation.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended to proceed to the construction phase inclusive of the amendments shown in Appendix B. Consultation works on Beach Street to be progressed early 2016.

Contact Officers

Ben Hilden – Project Engineer - 03000 413668

ben.hilden@kent.gov.uk

Annex List:

Appendix A – South Street Secondary Consultation proposals

Appendix B – Revised Drawing subject to Consultation responses.

Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment Form