

REGIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM – 30 November 2007

CONGESTION TIF PROJECTS AT CAMBRIDGE AND NORWICH

Report by: EEDET Strategic Transport Sub Group

Purpose of report:

- To advise the Regional Transport Forum (RTF) of current position of the Congestion TIF proposals being taken forward by Cambridgeshire and Norfolk County Councils.

Recommendations:

1. To note the current position of the TIF proposals of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the current position of the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) proposals being taken forward by Cambridgeshire County Council and Norfolk County Council.

2 Cambridgeshire

- 2.1 On 16 October 2007, Cambridgeshire County Council submitted an Outline Proposal for Funding to Government for a package of transport improvements costing £517 million. Of this figure, £465.6 million is sought from Government.

- 2.2 The package includes:

- Segregated public transport routes on key Cambridge radials – improving journey time and reliability
- More and expanded Park & Ride sites
- Significant improvements to bus services and frequencies – inside and outside Cambridge
- High quality, environmentally friendly buses
- Additional rail services
- Highway improvements
- Comprehensive, improved quality cycle network
- A package of Smarter Choices measures
- A weekday morning peak hour Congestion Charge

- 2.3 The congestion charge proposal is for:

- One off charge
- For anyone driving into, out of, or within Cambridge
- Time period
 - 7.30-9.30am (Monday-Friday)
- Level of charge
 - Would be set at a level to reduce traffic by 10% compared to today
 - Proposed charge in range of £3-5

- 2.4 Initial funding is sought from 2008/09, with the intention that the package of measures would be in place before the charge was introduced.

- 2.5 Public consultation on the proposals commenced on 13 November and will run until late February 2008. The consultation involves:
- Discussions with key stakeholders and focus groups with hard to reach groups
 - An online survey
 - Public roadshows and face-to-face surveys
 - A representative household survey
 - Meetings and briefings with Councillors, MPs and Parish Councils
- 2.6 Roadshows are being held in and around Cambridge and in towns and villages in the Cambridge sub-region, including Royston, St Neots, Chatteris, March, Newmarket, Huntingdon, Haverhill, Ely and St Ives.
- 2.7 In light of Government feedback on the Outline Proposal and on the consultation responses, the proposals will be refined as necessary, and the County Council will make a decision on whether to proceed with the TIF proposals.
- 2.8 The proposals can be viewed at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/tacklingcongestion/>

3 Norfolk

- 3.1 Limited technical work has been undertaken using the existing Norwich model to identify potential charging options. In parallel, the Norwich model is being updated with new origin and destination data, income segmentation and variable demand modelling. The new model is almost validated and ready to use.
- 3.2 Focus groups have been held with the general public, discussing congestion problems and possible solutions, and a similar exercise has been undertaken with key stakeholders.
- 3.3 Workshops have been held with Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council members where the whole TIF concept was set out, together with a view of the sort of measures a package might or might not include. More of these sessions will be held on request from cycling groups and parish councils and other key stakeholders and interested parties.
- 3.4 Other work streams have also progressed in preparing a Problem Analysis Report and Existing Data and Traffic Surveys Report and looking at the technological aspects of charging.
- 3.5 The newly validated model will be used to re-investigate charging options and LDF growth strategies so that a realistic investment package can be identified for further discussion with the Department for Transport.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The Forum is invited to note the report and comment on the proposals.