



VICTORIA STATION UPGRADE PROJECT

Shadow Community Liaison Group

Date: 07 September 2009

Time: 17.00

Location: Grosvenor Victoria, Bessborough Room

Attendees: Cllr Nicola Aiken (NA), Chair
Graham King (GK), Westminster Council
Stuart Carr (SC), Westminster Council
Don Murchie (DM), Westminster Council
Sir John Goulden (JG), VIG
Pascal Bates (PB), VIG
Mary Regnier-Leigh (MR-L), VIG
Rowena Wilson (RW), VIG
Caroline Hanson (CH), Victoria Palace
Felix Collins (FC), Bruce Shaw Partnership (Victoria Palace)
Ben Phillips (BP), Victoria Apollo
Nick Salmon (NSa), Act Productions (Apollo)
James Waite (JW), Land Securities
Peter George (PG), Mace (The Peak Development)
Steve Evans (SE), Heron (The Peak Development)
Peter Lynch (PL), Project Director, LU
Nicholas Street (NS), Consents & Environment Manager, LU
Kirsteen Dickson (KD), Stakeholder Communications Exec, LU
Nigel Downing (ND), Traffic Manager, LU
David Smith (DS), Construction Manager, LU
Oliver Chew (OC), Birse Metro
Adrian Clark (AC), Birse Metro

Distribution: All attendees + Fr Slamowir Witon, Westminster Cathedral
Ruth Duston, Victoria Partnership
Jay Patel, Network Rail



Item		Action
1	Actions from last meeting	
1.1	All actions completed or on agenda for further discussion.	
2	Key Issues	
	<u>Traffic Management – Victoria Street contraflow bus lane</u>	
2.1	<p>DM said that the safety audit had been reviewed by Westminster’s in-house consultants. He stated that they had concerns about the lack of background information but understood that this issue would be addressed and a revised audit produced.</p> <p>He said that CoW had a number of concerns with regard to the signing and carriageway markings. However, he felt that with further work this issue could be resolved.</p> <p>CoW’s main concern is the effect of the proposals on the pedestrian island in Victoria Street and the area in front of the Victoria Palace Theatre. DM said that further work would be required to resolve this issue. CoW will review the revised safety audit and report their findings to the SCLG as appropriate.</p>	See 2.15
2.2	<p>DS said that the contraflow was not necessarily the preferred solution. He explained that a decision from TfL was expected in mid September, either;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Continue with the contraflow and deal with the concerns raised, or ii. pursue the option for a bus diversion. 	
2.3	DS confirmed that if the contraflow was the preferred option, the earliest it could be implemented would be January 2010.	
2.4	<p>DS said that in discussions with TfL the concerns of local residents / businesses had been considered along with new information that had emerged since the last SCLG meeting.</p> <p>LU awaits TfL Surface’s advice on the best solution and will develop the design following their advice.</p>	
2.5	ND said that, notwithstanding the decision, the comments from both VIG and CoW had been noted and these, and the results of the stage 2 road safety audit, would be considered	



	as part of the decision process.	
2.6	DS, referring to an e-mail PB sent to CoW about the Safety Audit, said that there were a number of points made by PB that LUL did not accept. He explained that, whilst PB's points may have had some validity at the time of writing, the process was not yet complete so his criticisms were premature.	
2.7	<p>PB asked about the nature of TfL's decision.</p> <p>DS explained that TfL would provide their expert advice on whether the contraflow or the bus diversion is the best solution. LU would then develop a design, as appropriate, to submit for approval.</p>	
2.8	<p>PB asked when approval would be given to allow for implementation in January. ND described the submission and consultation process prior to approval (see also 2.10).</p> <p>Post meeting note: <i>It is unlikely that this approval would come before November 2009.</i></p>	
2.9	<p>M R-L re-iterated VIG's concern about the effect of the proposed contraflow on pedestrians and the use of crossings in the area.</p> <p>DS confirmed that there would be more information re. pedestrians in the updated safety audit and agreed to provide a copy to attendees when fully formed. ND said that he expected the revised safety report would be available on the 17/09/09.</p>	See 2.15
2.10	<p>JG asked whether there would be a consultation phase for the proposed solution.</p> <p>ND said that TfL would carry out a formal consultation for the proposal and would allow 28 days for comments / objections.</p>	See 2.15
2.11	MR-L stressed the importance of taking account of the residents' viewpoint in the decision making process.	
2.12	PB said that it was not clear that the safety audit process was not complete. He asked that, in future, the appropriate status of documents be made clearer i.e. preliminary / draft / final. LU agreed that this would be helpful and would in future add the appropriate designations would be applied to documents before circulation.	See 2.15
2.13	CH said that VPT had asked LU whether a shorter bus diversion had been considered. DS said that he thought it had but would check, and if it had been considered and set aside	See 2.15



	he would let VPT know the reasons.	
2.14	<p>CH said that they still had concerns about the contraflow proposal with regard to access for disabled and less able patrons.</p> <p>A table detailing the number of taxi drop offs at a series of performances was sent to all attendees by VPT earlier on 07/09/09.</p>	See 2.15
2.15	<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>LU to provide a copy of the updated safety audit to SCLG attendees prior to the next meeting (<i>post meeting note: superseded by events</i>).</p> <p>CoW to review revised safety audit and report their findings at the next SCLG meeting (<i>post meeting note: superseded by events</i>).</p> <p>LU to let SCLG members know the start date for the consultation period for the contra flow scheme if proposed (<i>post meeting note: superseded by events</i>).</p> <p>LU to check with TfL re. VPT’s suggested shorter bus diversion and report back to VPT (<i>post meeting note: letter sent to VPT 29/09/09</i>).</p> <p>LU to provide VPT with a contact in TfL’s equality and inclusion team (<i>contact details sent to VPT by e-mail 23/09</i>).</p> <p>LU to ensure that the status of documents circulated to the SCLG is clear by applying the appropriate designations (e.g. draft, preliminary / final).</p>	<p>LU</p> <p>CoW</p> <p>LU</p> <p>LU</p> <p>LU</p> <p>LU</p> <p>LU</p>
	<u>Stage 5 utilities works</u>	
2.16	<p>DS explained that the Stage 5 works involved diverting a 760mm diameter water main on Wilton Road. This will require a restricted flow of buses and taxis and a diversion for all other vehicles over Eccleston Bridge. However, Network Rail is planning to impose an 18-tonne weight restriction on Eccleston Bridge, which would be problematic for the proposed diversion.</p> <p>TfL, who would implement the restriction, has indicated that it may be possible to restrict heavy vehicles to either side of the bridge.</p>	
2.17	NA asked how the restrictions would be policed.	



	DS said that further work was required but certainly signage and possibly a physical barrier would be considered.	
2.18	OC said that, assuming the weight restriction problems were resolved, work would start in January 2010 for a period of 16 weeks. ND confirmed that following the Stage 5 utilities work, Wilton Road would re-open to all traffic until a further closure during the main works.	
2.19	PB, referring to the closure of Hammersmith Bridge, asked how TfL would prevent a similar occurrence. DS said that it was up to TfL to make it work but there would always be a contingency.	
2.20	GK said that there was a general concern about the weight capacity of bridges over railways. He cited Paddington as an example, and explained that traffic calming features had the effect of reducing the number of heavy vehicles able to travel over the bridge at any one time.	
2.21	SE asked if the Stage 5 works would be going ahead in January 2010. DS said that, subject to resolving the weight loading issue, this was when the work was scheduled to start.	
2.22	ND said that, subject to a further meeting with TfL on 16 th September, he would be in a position to provide more details of the traffic management plans to the Apollo Theatre and Abford House (the Peak).	See 2.24
2.23	SE asked when the Wilton Road closure would be required for the main works. PL said that he was not in a position to give a date until the main works contractor was appointed.	
2.24	ACTIONS LU to provide details of proposed traffic management plans to Apollo and Abford House (the Peak) following the meeting with TfL on 16th September (post meeting note: ND to provide update at meeting on 02/11/09).	LU
	<u>Pedestrians</u>	
2.25	Nothing further to add.	
	<u>Noise</u>	
2.26	PB said that VIG had received LU's summary report re. compliance with BS5228 but they were still digesting its contents.	See 2.28



2.27	PB asked LU if the utilities works helpline signs could be increased in size and make it clear that the works related to the Victoria Station Upgrade. KD said that this should be possible and would make the necessary arrangements.	See 2.28
2.28	<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>VIG to respond to LU’s report on BS5228 at the next SCLG meeting.</p> <p>KD to make arrangements for new helpline signs (<i>post meeting note – signs are being produced and should be on display by w/c 02/11</i>)</p>	<p>VIG</p> <p>KD</p>
	<u>Air Quality</u>	
2.29	Nothing further to add.	
3	VSU Project / works update	
	<u>LU funding update</u>	
3.1	<p>PL said that the Finance Committee had approved the funding for VSU on 15 July 2009, but the subsequent TfL Board decision had been postponed until the next Board meeting on 21 October.</p> <p>PL explained that TfL was facing a number of funding pressures and was reviewing its investment programme including VSU. If the Board’s decision in October is positive, the award of the main works contract would be made soon after.</p>	
	<u>Secretary of State’s Decision</u>	
3.2	<p>NS said that LU had received the decision letter on 23 July from the Department for Transport confirming that the Secretary of State had decided to approve the TWA Order for VSU. On the same day LU received a letter from the Department of Community and Local Government granting listed building consent.</p> <p>NS stated that the TWA Order was ‘made’ on 28 August and, apart from some minor drafting changes, it was essentially “as applied for”. Deemed planning permission was also granted on 28 August. The Order will come into effect on 18 September 2009.</p>	
4	Update from other agencies	



	<u>CoW to report on Victoria Area Planning Brief</u>	
4.1	<p>GK said that a revision of the current VAPB (2006) would be ready for public consultation later this year.</p> <p>He explained that two key documents were being developed that could influence the content of the draft VAPB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The London Plan, which includes Victoria as “an area of opportunity”, is currently being reviewed by the Mayor; and 2. CoW’s replacement for the UDP the “Core Strategy” is going out to public consultation shortly. <p>The draft planning brief would therefore be completed in the light of these documents.</p> <p>GK hoped that timing of the draft VAPB would also enable it to reflect the positions of LU, Network Rail and Land Securities with regard to their respective developments.</p>	
5	Agenda items for the next meeting	
5.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project finance 2. Contraflow decision / revised safety audit 3. Ecclestone Bridge weight restrictions <p>KD to add to the above items to the standard agenda.</p>	KD
6	A.O.B.	
6.1	<p>JG said that, whilst VIG had no objection to the new members of the SCLG, the decision should be made by the Chairman.</p> <p>NA said that LU had contacted her (around two weeks previously) to ask whether she had any objections to representatives of “the Peak” development attending the SCLG. She confirmed that she had no objections.</p>	
6.2	<p>KD announced that she would be leaving LU at the end of October. She said that she would let everyone know once a replacement had been confirmed.</p>	KD
7	Date of next meeting	
7.1	2nd November at 5pm in the Rembrandt Suite of the Rubens Hotel, 39 Buckingham Palace Road.	



7.2	LU report to be sent to all attendees 23/10/09 Additional issues to be raised to be sent to CoW by 28/10/09	
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