



Bus Operators and Council working together to deliver better bus services for York

Monday 10th December 2018 14:00-16:30
The Severus Room, West Offices, York

Quality Bus Partnership Meeting Note

Present:

Keith McNally	CPT (Chair)	KM
Marc Bichtemann	First	MB
Colin Booth	Transdev	CB
Bob Rackley	EYMS	BR
Michael Trew	Arriva	MT
Tom James	York Pullman	TJ
Julian Ridge	City of York Council	JR
Andrew Bradley	City of York Council	AB
Sam Fryers	City of York Council	SF

Present for Members' update (items 1-3) only:

Cllr M. Cannon	City of York Council	MC
Cllr A. D'Agorne	City of York Council	AD
Cllr P. Dew	City of York Council	PD
Cllr A. Waller	City of York Council	AW

Present for items 8-11 only:

Tony Clarke	City of York Council	TC
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1. Introductions and apologies

- Apologies: Craig Temple (Connexions); Gary Newby (Reliance); Cllr Fenton.

2. QBP 2018 Review

KM and JR made a power point presentation to Members about changes in bus speeds in York between 1985 and the present day – and then forecasts of changing journey times to 2032 when the housing and transport growth anticipated in the Local Plan has taken place.

QBP 2018 Review

Keith McNally: QBP Chair

Julian Ridge: York Better Bus Area

10th December 2018

The presentation set out how bus speeds had deteriorated in York from an average of 11mph in 1985 to 9mph in 2001 to 6mph now, and that this made services more expensive to operate and less attractive to users. It pointed out that on roads with bus lanes (Tadcaster Road and Fulford Road), but speeds now remained very similar to 1985 speeds. The presentation made the point that the traffic growth associated with the Local Plan was likely to further reduce bus speeds. An example was given for the service between Clifton Moor and York, where Local Plan traffic growth is expected to add 7 minutes additional journey time to services at some times of day. The presentation then asked Council members to engage in the process of identifying how bus speeds could be improved in York through a system of bus priority measures, which would need to be delivered in a phased manner over the next 10 years.

3. Questions from Council Members and open discussion

There was a general discussion between the Council members, operators and CYC officers where it was agreed that declining bus speeds were a threat to the ongoing effective operation of bus services in York. Councillors, operators and Council officers agreed to engage to look at

options in the New Year. It was agreed that JR would work up a list of “delay hotspots” across York for the March QBP meeting” **(Action: JR to identify delay hot-spots for March QBP meeting)**

There was a general discussion of the anti-idling activity in York city centre. Cllr D’Agorne presented an example of a sign used in Sheffield, aimed at car drivers and proposed it be adopted in York.

Cllr Cannon said that she was recently pleased that a driver of a service 1 bus she was on appeared to be switching the engine off when the bus wasn’t moving (including for traffic signals etc) and she felt this was a good development. Cllr Cannon also asked about the impact that the ‘Talk Talk’ fibre-optic broadband works had on the operation of the bus network. In response, MT said that operating through Lindsey Avenue had been challenging during the works.

Cllr Dew said that it was important Councillors and operators achieved a workable agreement about the Clean Air Zone and idling, but that it was most important that it was realistically achievable.

Cllr Waller said it was important that members and operators “move forward together”.

At this point, the Councillors left the meeting

4. Minutes of the meeting in September 2018

- The minutes as presented were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. **Action: AB to arrange publication on CYC's website.**

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the September QBP meeting

The following **updates** were given regarding items in the minutes of the September meeting:

- Item 5: 3 – Tom James confirmed that there had been issues with coaches dropping off in York – for traffic that was not linked to St Nick's Fayre – and this was a problem because the Fayre started in mid-November and coach operators/ tour bookers did not expect Christmas market restrictions to apply at this point in the year. It was agreed that JR and AB will engage with Make it York in the New Year to discuss how this can be better managed in 2019. It was also noted that the discussions should cover the Balloon Festival and how traffic can be better managed at future events after poor traffic management at the 2018 Festival. **(Action: JR/ AB and Make it York)**
- Item 6 (Ouse Bridge area safety): It was reported that that a meeting had taken place between CYC, NYP and First. NYP had looked at all accidents and concluded that very few involved buses and pedestrians and that those which had taken place involved pedestrians who had been drinking. CYC had agreed to review street furniture in the area (in case any impedes pedestrian flows in a way which might push pedestrians into the carriageway). CYC is also undertaking a topographical survey in the area to check levels and gradients (to ensure that slopes on footways etc are not directing pedestrians into the carriageway). At a more general level, it was agreed that a protocol of identifying likely very busy evenings (e.g. when race days coincide with other event) would help inform decisions about whether to keep buses on Ouse Bridge or reroute them (e.g. along Skeldergate) to minimise risks of conflict **(Action: AB to report back to March meeting and propose a list of dates for rerouting buses in Summer 2019)**
- Item 7 (York Central): the group remained concerned, after their objection to the planning application, that many of the issues around bus services to the development, and the impact of traffic generated by the development in York city centre, were still unresolved. JR reported that he is in dialogue with Arup, the consultants undertaking the TA, and would report back the QBP as required. JR confirmed that he understood the intention was to revise the TA for submission

in sufficient time for a Planning Committee decision in March.
(Action: JR to keep QBP informed of progress).

Main agenda items

6. Clean Air Zone/ retro-fit opportunities (Andrew Bradley)

AB gave an update on CYC's evolving Clean Air Zone (CAZ) policies. Key points were as follows:

- In response to concerns about poor air quality resulting (largely) from diesel vehicle emissions, a report had been taken to the Council's Executive in January 2018 seeking approval for the implementation of a local-bus only 'Clean Air Zone'. The Zone would capture the Air Quality Management Areas encompassing the area inside (and including) the York inner-ring road.
- The Executive asked Council officers to undertake a public consultation to better establish the appetite for implementation of such a zone. It was intended that the consultation would capture the views of bus operators.
- The consultation was undertaken in Summer 2018. 254 responses were received with 90% supportive of the introduction of a CAZ.
- A report will be presented to the Council's Executive in January 2019, summarising the results of the consultation and proposing how a CAZ for the City would be introduced. **(Action: all to note)**

7. Anti-idling measures (Andrew Bradley)

There was a general discussion of this, and the measures taken in other parts of the UK – particularly for coaches by Tom James, who said that York Pullman have a great deal of experience of operating in other cities (e.g. London/ Westminster) which already have regulations in place. TJ also said that there were particular challenges for coaches which needed to run air-conditioning units in Summer to avoid unacceptably hot saloon temperatures for passengers (many elderly or young). **Action: AB to continue to engage with coach and bus operators to formulate a workable policy.**

8. Major Projects Update (Tony Clarke)

TC explained that a great deal of work would be going ahead in York over the next few months, specifically:

- The junction at Walmgate Bar was being rebuilt from 6th January (likely duration 6 weeks). This would be accompanied by temporary signals and

some changes to the IRR approaches to the junction to accommodate the works. However, generally the junction would operate as it does now and delay to buses should be minimal. **(Action: all to note)**

- Stonebow will be reconstructed between January and April (starting Jan 7th; break for half term from 18/2 to 25/2), with associated works on Fossgate. Detail of the arrangements for buses would be taken to the December Performance Group meeting **(Action: Sam Fryers to engage with operators)**
- Station Frontage: TC said that the masterplanning process for this scheme was ongoing (particularly with respect to phasing the design) and the intention was to submit a planning application in January or February. **(Action: all to note)**
- York Central: TC reported that there would be a Planning Committee decision about this scheme in February or March. There was a discussion about the level of detail which would be presented at this stage. JR said that he would confirm this with Gary Frost, the Major Projects Manager **(Action: JR to speak to GF and establish this)**
- Outer ring road: TC reported that CYC would be submitting a bid to DfT to attract funding to dual the section of the A1237 between the A19N and Hopgrove roundabout. **(Action: all to note)**
- JR said that as schemes progressed there would be a need for operators to engage with some of the detailed planning issues. **(Action: JR to report back as and when this is required)**

9. QBP sub-group updates

Performance Group: SF said that there were a number of issues emerging from the Performance Group, specifically:

- He had, to date, received no response from the organisers of the Balloon Festival in September about the effect it had on the road network **(Action: SF to chase)**
- Some operators still needed to provide information about their white list vehicles for Coppergate **(Action: operators to provide information)**
- AB reported that the procurement process for the regional RTI system was ongoing – and the intention was to extend the VIX contract for one year to ensure continuity of service **(Action: all to note)**

Ticketing Group: AB reported on developments with the ticketing group, including:

- With the retirement of Geoff Lomax, the group had proposed a new chair, Paul Turner of Transdev. This choice had to be ratified by the

operators at main QBP. Operators agreed to ratify the decision that Paul Turner should become chair of the Ticketing Group **(Action: all to note)**

- AB also reported that NYCC is to introduce hotlisting of missing/ stolen etc ENCTS cards, which would also cover the AllYork smartcard. **(Action: operators to ensure effective briefing to drivers).**

Better Bus Area: JR reported action on a number of schemes, specifically:

- The new bus shelter at Rougier St had now been fitted with real time equipment and flags. New benches and timetable cases would be fitted once the work on the Roman House cookery school was completed **(Action: all to note)**
- The Malton Road bus gates were being repaired, with the first on-line at the end of w/c 3/12 **(Action: all to note)**
- The Wigginton Road scheme would take place from 20th May. There would be a further update to bus operators as it progressed **(Action: JR)**
- The Bus Wardens had now been able to issue parking tickets for around a year now (to vehicles blocking bus stops/ routes and at locations on the bus network) and around 900 tickets had been issued to date, with a corresponding fall in parking activity where this blocked buses **(Action: all to note)**
- There would be a round of tree lopping in January **(Action: all to note)**
- MB and BR noted that they had now received their first invoices and it would be useful to hold a BBA review meeting as the existing agreement expires at the close of the 2018/19 financial year **(Action: JR to organise for January)**

Marketing Group: AB said that the Marketing Group would be holding a bus Surgery on Tuesday 18th December and operators were encouraged to send representatives to this. **(Action: operators to note)**

10. AOB: SF reported that The Environment Agency needed to undertake works at Memorial Gardens during March and April – which would mean the coach pick-up area would be out of action for two months. **(Action: SF/ JR to devise plan and share with operators).**

TJ remarked on the recent power cut in central York and his surprise at discovering there was no emergency lighting or evacuation plan for York Station. It was suggested that options were being developed to prevent a repeat of this happening **(Action: All to note)**

11. Date of next meeting: to be 1400 on Monday 11th March 2019.

Items to discuss to include:

- Open data: It was suggested it would be useful to invite Ginny Leonard from Transport for the North.