

Traffic Congestion – Scrutiny

Background

- Highway Network operating at or near capacity in many locations at peak times.
- Congestion levels remained static in AM peak over last 5 years.
- Car is the dominant mode of transport, in excess of 50%.
- 2% annual growth in traffic.
- 3% annual increase in journey times (Probably easiest way to understand congestion).
- Reducing revenue and capital budgets in transport.
- Corporate Priority

“To increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport”

Where is congestion in York?

- York is a compact historic city, opportunities are limited.
- Outer Ring Road
- Tadcaster Road
- Wigginton Road
- Fulford Road
- Many junctions around the City

Traffic problems facing York

- 50% of households have 1 car, 25% have 2 cars (or more).
- Minor disruption ie accident, can lead to major congestion.
- Short commuting journeys at peak hours.
- School run at peak hours.
- Insufficient capacity in the network.
- Journey times are increasing.

- Increase in city wide land use development, ie York Central.
- Increasing goods vehicles accessing York.
- Number of taxis and buses.
- Bus Journey times reliability.

What impact does traffic congestion have?

- Detrimental to,
 - Air quality
 - Economic performance
 - Quality of life
 - Accessibility to services, employment, education, health
 - Physical environment
 - Road safety
 - Bus reliability

What will happen if we do nothing?

- Congestion will increase significantly
- Peak hours will extend in length
- Use of residential roads will increase
- Traffic in air quality action areas will increase
- Journey speeds will significantly decrease
- Journey times will increase
- Bus travel will become increasingly unreliable
- Park and ride capacity will be inadequate

What are we doing about it?

- More roads are not the answer, it is not sustainable.
- City Region, Congestion Partnership.
 - Transport Innovation Fund
- Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

- Objectives are,
 - Reduce traffic growth
 - Reduce levels of congestion
 - Improve public transport systems
 - Work in partnership
 - “60% in favour of radical measures”
- Education
 - Smarter choices campaigns
 - Travel plans
 - Car clubs
 - Car sharing
 - Cycle training
- Encouragement
 - A sustainable public transport system that is affordable, principally buses, exceeding 18m passengers annually
 - Improvements to the Outer Ring Road
 - Increase in capacity of the Park and Ride
 - Improved rail services, Harrogate, Scarborough, Leeds/Pennine lines
 - Walking and Cycling, gaps in the network, safety
- Control
 - Parking Measures
 - Effective management of the highway network, traffic signals
 - Bus priority measures
 - Congestion charging

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