

Lincolnshire County Council

Grantham Transport Study

Technical Note 2:
Summary of SRG Event
14th December 2005

Revision 0
January 2006

BPS 0019836 January 2006

Jacobs Babtie Fairbairn House, Ashton Lane, Sale, Manchester M33 6WP
Tel: 0161 962 1214 Fax: 0161 905 5855

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.....**Project Director**

.....**TSP Project Leader**

Issue History

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Grantham Transport Study is looking at transport problems in Grantham and how to tackle them. In order to fully understand what these problems are and how they could be tackled, a meeting was held. A number of organisations with an interest in Grantham were invited to share their views. These bodies included the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council, the Emergency Services, Bus Companies and the Civic Society amongst others.

A large number of organisations were invited to the meeting, although many were unable to attend for various reasons. This report summarises the meeting and what was said.

Feedback

The main group split into three smaller groups. Each of the three groups talked about what they thought were the problems with transport in Grantham and how they could be solved.

The groups shared many views. They all thought that the low bridges in Grantham caused problems with tall vehicles hitting them. They agreed that there was too much traffic trying to get through the town centre which causes hold ups. They also felt that road signs in Grantham could be improved. Other issues raised included heavy goods vehicles driving through the town centre, poor bus services and the effect of school traffic.

Ways of solving these problems were discussed. Ideas included building a bypass, building a joint bus and train station and providing Park & Ride. Telling people through road signs that a low bridge is ahead was also suggested.

The Next Steps

Following this meeting, the team will continue to look at the transport problems in Grantham and the options for solving them. These options will then be studied and the best ones drawn together into a plan for Grantham. The views of the public and those bodies with an interest in Grantham will be sought. Once these views have been considered, the final plans will be reported in mid-2007.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A study is being undertaken to identify a Transport Strategy for future implementation in Grantham. The aim of the study is to understand and quantify (as appropriate) transport problems, and then develop a transport strategy, consisting of desirable outcomes and a programme of short and long-term interventions.

1.1.2 A Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) event was held on the 14th December 2005 at Springfield House, Springfield Road, Grantham. The purpose of the event was to determine a clear understanding of the transport problems & issues and to suggest options to be considered. Strategic and interested parties in and around Grantham, namely the SRG were consulted to provide feedback to the study team and to gather background information. Information from the SRG would then be reviewed alongside the interview and traffic count data to assist the study team to identify a Transport Strategy for the future of Grantham.

1.1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the SRG event. The event formed an important part of the overall study process and had the following objectives:

- To inform the attendees of the overarching aims, methodology and progress of the study
- To present the Policy Objectives that relate to the Transport Study and any resultant Transport Strategy
- To review the problems and issues identified to date and highlight any additional issues that may be of concern
- To gain an understanding of the attendees' views on these problems, issues and causes
- To identify and discuss potential options or interventions

1.2 Event Format

1.2.1 SRG representatives from a variety of organisations were invited to the event although not all of the organisations attended the event. A list of attendees is provided in Appendix A of this report and the agenda for the event is included in Appendix B.

1.2.2 The format of the event consisted of a series of short presentations prepared and delivered by members of the Joint Officer Group (JOG) made up of Jacobs Babbie, Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council staff. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is contained within Appendix C.

1.2.3 Attendees were then given the opportunity to provide feedback in a workshop session for which they were split up into three groups. Each of the groups had at least one JOG member who acted as a facilitator to steer the discussions and ensure that all delegates were actively involved. A representative from each of the groups (not a JOG member) was elected to present the feedback from their group at the end of the session. A list of the main comments made is highlighted in the next section of this report.

2.0 Feedback Results

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Although each group worked independently, the SRG were generally in agreement with the initial thoughts presented by the study team regarding the problems & issues and possible options highlighted in the presentations.

2.1.2 The main points presented in the feedback from each group are given below.

2.2 Group 1 (Sycamore Room)

2.2.1 The problems and issues discussed by Group 1 were:

- **Congestion**
 - Internal (School Traffic Etc)
- **Bridge Collisions**
 - Wider impact on transport provision (trains etc)
- **Assessment of Traffic Flows and Parking Needs**
 - Cars/vehicles
 - Rail
- **Seasonality Issues – summer vs winter**
- **Existing Rail & Bus Station Site**
 - May not have capacity to cope with new demand
- **Information**
 - Signage for Car Parks etc

2.2.2 The possible solutions discussed by Group 1 were:

- **Park & Ride for School Children**
- **Include GNER/Network Rail in Partnership Working (new routes & bypass etc)**
- **Pedestrian Tunnels**
 - West Side
 - Wharf Road/Canal Basin – in existence
 - Railway Station – into Town - needs updating and securing
- **Transit Hub**
 - Linking (new?) Railway station and bus station
- **Focal Hub – department stores etc**
- **Develop Town Centre – in Tandem with Transport Plan**
- **Better Information Provision**
 - Which is best route to Rail Station from A1?
- **Alternative HGV Routes**

2.3 Group 2 (Poplar Room)

2.3.1 The problems and issues discussed by Group 2 were:

- **Deprived**
- **Need for Bypass**
- **Bridge Problem**
- **Need A1 Improvements at Gonerby Moor**
- **School Traffic/Morrisons**
- **Fine Tuning on Recent Improvements**
 - North Parade hold ups
- **Signage**
 - Town Centre/station/bus station
- **Car Parking generally adequate**

2.3.2 The possible solutions discussed by Group 2 were:

- **Leave car at home**
- **Improve bus service/station**
- **Park & Ride?—Doubtful**
- **Inner Circular service that is reliable and cheap**
- **Need for coordination with buses**
- **Public transport bus/train Hub**
 - relocate bus station near rail station
 - relocate PO sorting office
- **If no bypass-possibility of southbound exit at Great Ponton**
- **Do something with bridges?**
- **Bypass is the only real solution but we must build good case**
 - seek financial support from developers

- **Improve town centre access (pedestrianisation) for cyclists/pedestrians**
- **Possible one-way systems around town**

2.4 Group 3 (Cedar Room)

2.4.1 The problems and issues discussed by Group 3 were:

- **Congestion – Incoming peak traffic expanded (both volume and peak period)**
- **Bottlenecking (ASDA, Brook Street, Gainsborough Corner)**
- **Hemmed in by rail and river - “over or under” solution needed**
- **HGV’s – necessity for business to service and flourish (90% goods travel by HGV)**
- **Buses**
 - Constrained by congestion in town – compromises reliability
 - Difficulty in attracting key workers and affordable housing problems
- **Major East/West routes going through Grantham (especially A52 and A607)**
- **Poor signage**
- **Town Centre core drift because of new development**

2.4.2 The possible solutions discussed by Group 3 were:

- **East/West bypass**
 - North/South (ring road?)

- Route options include Belton Lane, A52→A1 link – Gorse or Whalebone Lane
- Upgrade existing road network rather than new build where possible
- **HGV routes and signage to appropriate industrial areas**
- **Advance warning of low bridges**
 - too late to turn once driver has realised they are on wrong road
- **Bus priority measures - bus lanes, junctions to avoid congestions, better station facilities**
- **Car Parking**
 - Signage and places – availability of spaces and capacity
 - Improve access from car parks to Town Centre
 - Measures to address declining use of Watergate and Westgate car parks
- **Park & Ride into a more open, accessible town**

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 Way Forward

- 3.1.1 In Phase 1 the study will continue to investigate the problems and issues and develop the options. These will then be assessed and preferred options identified. SRG members will be informed of progress at this stage, in the form of a 'Draft strategy'.
- 3.1.2 In Phase 2 of the study data will be collected within the study area. This will consist of a variety of traffic data collection exercises including traffic counts and roadside interviews. This exercise will take place in autumn 2006.
- 3.1.3 The SRG will be consulted again in detail as part of the Public Consultation event (s) in early 2007 where the draft Transport Strategy will be presented and views sought, including those of the SRG. Members of the study team will also be in attendance.
- 3.1.4 The Final Strategy will be reported in mid-2007.

3.2 Additional Feedback

- 3.2.1 Additional comments or feedback are welcome at anytime to:

granthamtransportstudy@lincolnshire.gov.uk
- 3.2.2 Comments can also be sent by post to the following address.

Grantham Transport Study
Technical Services Partnership
Witham Park House
Waterside South
Lincoln
LN5 7JN

Appendix A: List of Attendees

The attendees and their roles at the event were as follows:

Attendees	Organisations Represented
Joint Officer Group	Lincolnshire County Council
	South Kesteven District Council
	Jacobs Babtie
Delegates	Grantham and District Road Users Association
	South Kesteven District Council
	Grantham Investments
	Road Haulage Association
	Lincs Fire and Rescue
	Marshalls Coaches
	SPP Ltd/Grantham Future Ltd
	GNER
	Lincolnshire RoadCar
	Grantham Journal
	Civic Society
	Lincs Ambulance
	Grantham Future Ltd (Town Centre Manager)
	South Kesteven District Council
	St Mary's R.C. Church
Buckminster Management Ltd	

Appendix B: SRG Event Programme

- 1200 - 1300 **Lunch**
Delegate arrival and informal lunch
- 1300 - 1400 **Presentations**
- 1300 Welcome & Study Background
- 1310 Policy Objectives
- 1320 Delivering Transport Schemes
- 1335 Problems & Issues
- 1345 Possible Transport Options
- 1400 - 1515 **Workshop Sessions**
Groups of around 6 people to discuss:
1. Issues
 2. Options
- 1515 - 1530 **Tea & Coffee**
- 1530 - 1550 **Group Feedback**
- 1550 - 1600 **Presentation**
Next Steps
- 1600 **Close**

Appendix C: Presentations

This appendix contains a copy of the various slides used at the SRG event for the presentations given by members of the JOG.