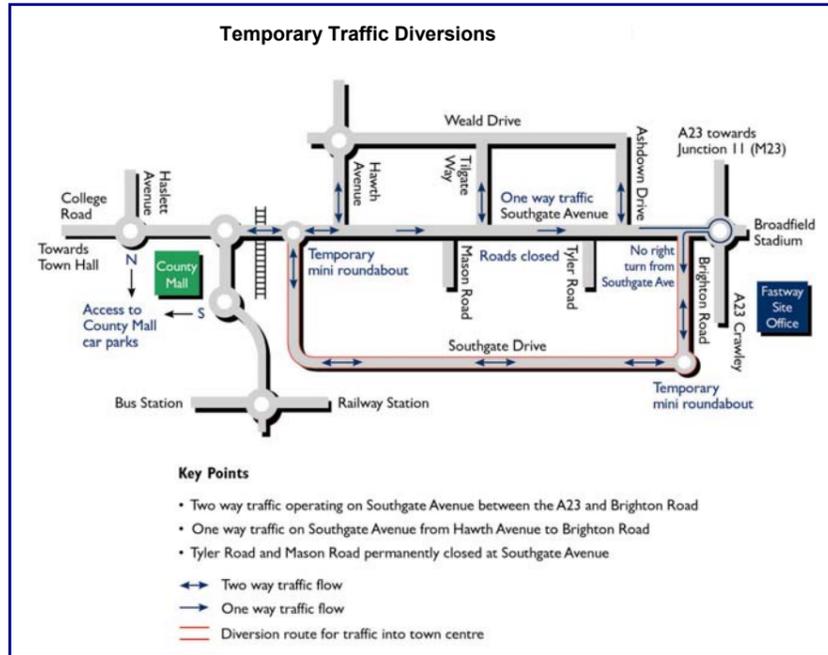


Traffic management during Christmas 2002



Fastway and County Mall management are working together to keep shopping as simple as possible this Christmas.

Roads around Crawley are inevitably busy in December, and the Fastway project team has postponed some of the scheduled works for Fastway until the New Year to ease congestion in Crawley town centre.

The Fastway team hosted an exhibition on Wednesday 30 October to inform County Mall retailers of the traffic measurements that have been put in place to help minimise disruption as much as possible and were on hand to answer questions and alleviate any concerns.

Work to widen Southgate Avenue is

continuing but unfortunately works to divert underground services to clear the way for Fastway has taken longer than expected. However, these works are now nearing completion allowing significant progress to be made on the road widening between Brighton Road and Tilgate Way. In an effort to overcome this delay the project works have been reprogrammed to keep the scheme on

“Roads around Crawley are inevitably busy at Christmas, and the Fastway project team has postponed some of the scheduled works to ease congestion in Crawley town centre.”

cant progress to be made on the road widening between Brighton Road and Tilgate Way. In an effort to overcome this delay the project works have been reprogrammed to keep the scheme on

schedule. Regrettably, this will require the diversion of traffic along Southgate Drive and Brighton Road to continue through the winter period.

Every effort is being made to keep disruption caused by Fastway construction to a minimum, but some inconvenience is inevitable, and the Fastway partners would like to apologise for this.

Cllr Tex Pemberton, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member and Chairman of the Fastway Partners Steering Group said: “There may be some difficult times while all the construction work is carried out, but the long-term prospect will be far brighter for the whole area when it is complete.”

A bus can carry the same number of people as 10 fully occupied cars, or more than 30 cars at typical car occupancy rates.

Anyone requiring further information about Fastway or the traffic management arrangements should contact the Fastway Customer Services Team on freephone 0800 3898 146.

For further information about Fastway, visit the Fastway website:

www.fastway.info

80% of car journeys are less than a mile and 25% are less than 2 miles.

The Fastway Partners would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

To contact the Fastway Customer support team during office hours visit the Fastway site office next to Broadfield Stadium or call the freephone Fastway helpline:

0800 3898 146



‘Smart’ new Fastway fleet unveiled:

The new bus for Fastway, the hi-tech part-guided bus to link Crawley, Gatwick and Horley, has been unveiled.

Potential Fastway users including school pupils from Thomas Bennett School (see picture below), business representatives and passengers with disabilities and special needs, were among those asked to give their views for the choice of vehicle for the service, scheduled to go live in June 2003. Their feedback formed an important part in the selection of the vehicle to be used and the on-board facilities to be provided.

Fastway buses have been given a ‘Smart’, high profile and easily recognisable look designed to meet the needs of the 21st century bus passenger.

The silver and blue Fastway buses will



have well-appointed interiors with comfortable individual seating and plenty of space for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Equipped with the latest ‘smart’ technology, Fastway will have real-time information giving next-stop alerts inside vehicles and next-vehicle route details and arrival times at halts. The service will also enjoy dedicated lanes and priority at traffic lights. CCTV cameras will also be installed on the buses for passenger safety and

driver awareness to ensure that every passenger enjoys the highest standards of passenger comfort and ride quality.



Fastway Facts:

- Fastway is the fast, frequent, reliable ‘smartbus’ part-guided transport system planned for 2003
- Dedicated lanes and priority at traffic lights
- Well-planned, phased-in routes between Crawley and Horley via Gatwick Airport and Manor Royal
- Frequent services up to 20 hours a day
- Easy access boarding with dual doors
- New ‘smart’ shelters and halts with level boarding
- New fleet of low emission, low noise buses
- Comfortable friendly service
- Real-time passenger information at halts and on-board
- Well-appointed interiors with individual seating
- Affordable fares

BAA Gatwick staff 'Start2Day'

As part of its on-going sustainable development communications programme, BAA Gatwick hosted a 'Start2Day' event in September at London Gatwick Airport.

Start2Day was held to inform BAA staff about how they can contribute to sustainable development, by reducing waste and energy, using public transport and volunteering to help in the community. Roger Cato, Managing Director of BAA Gatwick (pictured below) helped promote Fastway at the event by taking part in the Fastway speed test.

BAA Gatwick is investing up to £4 million in Fastway.



Why do we need Fastway?

The Crawley / Gatwick / Horley area is one of the most important economic hubs in south-east England and has, as a main focus of activity, the presence of the UK's second largest airport.

Local authorities and major employers have recognised that the continued economic health of the area depends on the creation of a modern, integrated, sustainable transport network.

Fastway will modernise public transport for thousands of people living and working locally. It is estimated that by 2005, when the core routes are expected to be complete, Fastway could carry more than 5,000 passengers a day. With the introduction of other complementary measures, this could rise to nearly 10,000 by 2008 and future extensions to the routes could in-

"Fastway is the just sort of initiative that points the way to the future for public transport in the UK.

It is an excellent example of the partnership of public and private organisations working together to bring about a good quality, affordable transport solution which is right for the area it will serve.

Our latest research shows that buses will lead the transport change, and a 'smart' bus such as Fastway, which makes use of the latest technology from the outset, will lead a very positive shift away from the private car as the only means of getting around."

Professor David Begg,

Commission for Integrated Transport

crease this further.

It is the highest priority major scheme in the Local Transport Plan for West Sussex for the period 2001-2006. It is included as a major scheme in the Surrey Local Transport Plan and is a major initiative in the Gatwick Airport Transport Strategy to 2008. It is also a highlighted priority in the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan. It was the only major local public transport infrastructure project in the South East fully accepted by Government for funding support in 2001-2.

The status given to Fastway in the respective plans acknowledges the central role the system will play in addressing traffic congestion and land use issues in the area.

Fastway operator confirmed

Metrobus has been confirmed as the operator for Fastway.

Metrobus and its parent company The Go-Ahead Group PLC (the new operators of the south-central rail franchise), have been involved in the Fastway project from the outset, as members of the public / private partnership supporting the scheme.



Alan Eatwell, Managing Director of Metrobus, said: "We're delighted to be appointed as operators of Fastway. It is one of the most exciting new transport schemes in the country. Our aim will be to provide an efficient and reliable service, tailored to meet the travel needs of the 21st Century."

Cllr Tex Pemberton, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member and Chairman of the Fastway Partners Steering Group commented: "We're very pleased that Metrobus will be operating Fastway. They have demonstrated a commitment to quality through the successful Gatwick Direct service and have made it clear their aim is to deliver a top quality service."



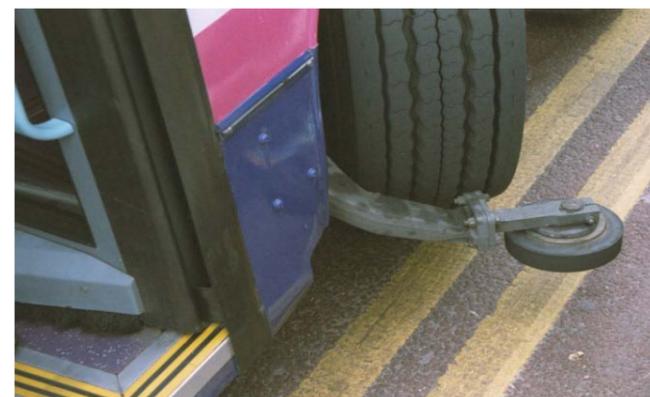
There are currently around 35,000 vehicle movements in or through Crawley during working day peak hours.

The 'smarter' way to travel

Fastway has been specially designed to speed buses past traffic congestion. Phase one will include 2200m of segregated bus lane, 650m of specially-constructed 'guideway' and seven junctions with traffic signals – programmed to give automatic bus priority – along Coachman's Drive, Southgate Avenue, Station Way and Crawley High Street.

The guideways provide an effective means for buses to bypass traffic queues, without causing delay to other traffic. A guideway is a purpose built track formed by two running strips with raised kerbs, which prevent use by unauthorized traffic, and a drainage trough in between.

A guidewheel mounted on the steering mechanism of the bus runs along the face of the kerb, guiding the bus on its journey and resulting in a smoother, faster ride.



New halts on the route are designed for high impact and customer comfort, with improved waiting facilities and real-time passenger information.

New link gets Fastway bus route on the road



Construction is now under way on Phase 1 of the £32 million Fastway smart bus scheme. The project is divided into three phases, concluding in 2005.

"We are now starting the project for real, after a relatively short but intense development period", said Cllr Tex Pemberton, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member and Chairman of the Fastway Partners Steering Group "We need to act now to prevent the further

growth in travelling by car that would otherwise happen."

Edmund Nuttall Ltd have been appointed by WSCC, on behalf of the Fastway partners and work started on 27th May 2002. A key initial section, which will create a new bus-only bridge and link road in Broadfield, South of Crawley town centre, is almost complete. This initial link is designed to save buses up to ten minutes on journeys from the town's south-western neighbourhoods across the A23 to the town centre, via bus lanes and a specially designed guided busway along Southgate Avenue.

The new bus only link involves a bridge over Broadfield Brook, between Coachman's Drive and the

access road to Broadfield Stadium.

The bridge is of portal frame construction, with pre-stressed concrete beams on reinforced concrete abutments, designed with a 7m span as a precaution against future flooding risks. Access to the new link will be by an automatic barrier that will only open for the buses, equipped with Fastway's GPS-based automatic vehicle location (AVL) technology.

