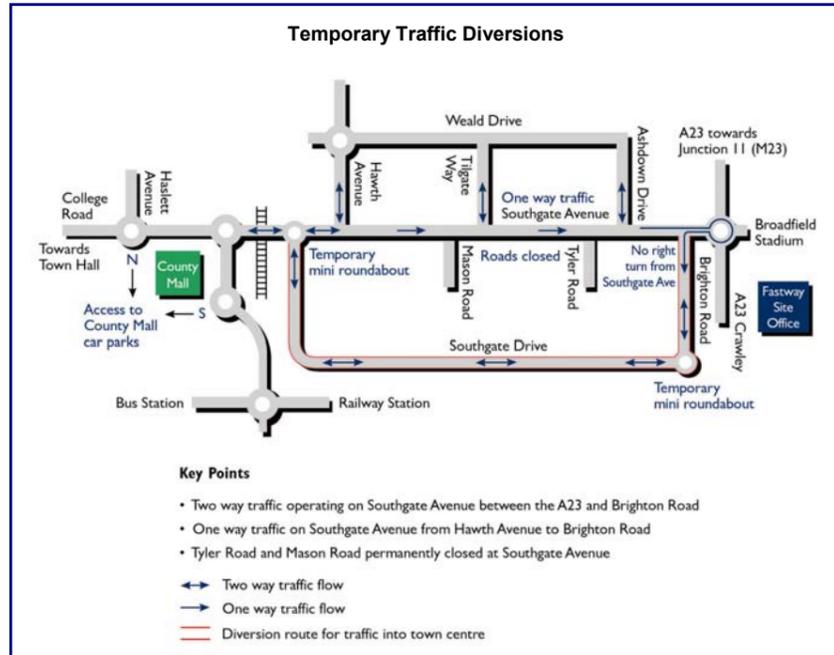


Traffic management



Work to widen Southgate Avenue is continuing but unfortunately works to divert underground services to clear the way for Fastway have taken longer than expected. However these works are now nearing completion allowing significant progress to be made on the road widening on Southgate Avenue. In an effort to overcome this delay the project works have been reprogrammed to keep the scheme on schedule. Regrettably this will involve the diversion of traffic along Southgate Drive and Brighton Road to remain in place until Easter.

The Fastway project team have begun work in Crawley Town Centre at Station Way and the High Street. The Town Centre construction works were due to begin in December but were postponed until January to help minimise disruption to shoppers over the busy Christmas period (pictured).



Work to be carried out at these two locations includes the removal of the

roundabout at Station Way, which will be replaced with a traffic light junction, and the construction of a contraflow bus lane in the High Street, which will enable Fastway buses to go against the traffic flow on the one-way system, thereby reducing bus journey times.

Lt Col Tex Pemberton, WSCC Cabinet Member for Strategic Environmental Services, and Chairman of the Fastway Partners Steering Group said: "We are sensitive to the impact of the Fastway construction on local residents and are working to keep disruption to a minimum. These are difficult times while the construction work is carried out, but 2003 is the year that Fastway goes live and the benefits are not far away."

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

In the meantime the Fastway Partners would like to apologise for any disruption and inconvenience caused whilst these works are being carried out and to thank those affected by the works for their patience and understanding.

Anyone requiring further information about Fastway or the traffic management arrangements should contact the Fastway Customer Support Team on freephone 0800 3898 146 or visit www.fastway.info

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

For further information...

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



Fastway scheme is set for Phase Two



Construction for Phase One of the £32 million Fastway smart bus scheme linking Crawley, Horley and Gatwick, is almost complete.

A key section, which creates a new bus-only bridge and link road at Broadfield Stadium, South of Crawley town

centre, is now finished (see picture). 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.

Construction work at BAA Gatwick for Fastway is due to start in March.

Roads around County Mall are now being prepared for Phase Two of Fastway construction, which is scheduled to start in June 2003. A number of utility companies are working together with the

Fastway team to compete advanced works over a period of six months.

The Phase Two infrastructure will provide a fast link to the Manor Royal industrial estate and Gatwick Airport.

The work in Phase Two will be constructed in stages, with the intention of completing the work adjacent to County Mall before the Christmas shopping period 2003 and minimising the disruption on the main routes into Crawley at any one time.

Advanced technology speeds up construction of Fastway

The construction team for Fastway, led by Edmund Nuttall Ltd, will make use of an advanced technique called 'slipforming' to speed up the construction of the concrete bus guideways. This is the first time that slipforming will be used in the construction of bus guideways in the UK and will enable the team to produce 650 metres of guideway.

As part of Phase One the bus guideways will be constructed in three areas of Southgate Avenue; Northbound from Mason Road to Hawth Avenue, Southbound

from Hawth Avenue to Tilgate Way and a section of Ashdown Drive to the A23.

Lt Col Tex Pemberton, WSCC Cabinet Member for Strategic Environmental Services, and Chairman of the Fastway Steering Group said: "This computer-guided technique enables the construction team to create the bus guideways in just one pass of the machine - a significant time-saving factor compared to doing the same work manually. Slipforming also produces a high specification, durable structure."

The Fastway project team conducted successful off-site slipforming trials last October, to ensure that the machine would produce the desired results.



Fastway Facts:

- The fast, frequent, reliable 'smartbus' transport system commencing 2003
- Dedicated lanes, guideways and priority at traffic lights
- Well-planned, phased-in routes between Crawley and Horley via Gatwick Airport and Manor Royal
- Fast, 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, compatible with other local services

Fastway liaison



The Fastway Partners hold liaison meetings on a quarterly basis to inform people about the progress of the Fastway construction process.

If you wish to attend a future meeting please contact Hayley Thorne, Fastway Customer Support Officer on 0800 3898 146 or email hayley.thorne@edmund-nuttall.co.uk

Laura Moffatt, MP (see above picture) attended the last meeting in November at Broadfield Stadium, where she was able to discuss the designs for the new Fastway bus livery with Bernard Ashley, Fastway Champion and Manager of Transport Strategy at BAA Gatwick.

Students bring Fastway Champions up to speed

Pupils at Hazelwick School in Crawley had the chance to meet Fastway representatives to present GCSE research into the high-tech guided bus system.

"We chose to use Fastway as a topic for our geography coursework" explained Head of Dept John Rook "because it serves as an excellent case-study of an urban development initiative which aims to satisfy national and local concerns for sustainability."

Students considered issues such as over-dependence on private car use and associated problems of pollution and congestion.

Fastway holds public exhibition



The Fastway Partners, including Lt Col Tex Pemberton (pictured), hosted a public exhibition in County Mall, Crawley in November 2002 to inform people about the latest developments underway including the traffic management measurements that have been put in place. The team were on hand to answer questions and alleviate any concerns.

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 increase 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.

These plans acknowledge the central role the system will play.

In Brief...

Transport Minister visits Fastway site.

The Rt Hon John Spellar MP, keynote speaker at WSCC transport conference, takes a tour of the Fastway site this month.

Public exhibitions

A public exhibition will take place on the 20th February at the Council Chambers of Crawley Town Hall as part of Fastway's ongoing communications programme.

Airport staff briefings

BAA Gatwick is currently finalising plans for a series of Fastway exhibitions and briefings for Airport staff from March onwards. The Fastway plans were on display at the recent Gatwick jobs fair, attended by over 4,000 jobseekers.

www.fastway.info

Fastway has a new website address. For further information on the project or for up-to-date news on the construction programme visit www.fastway.info

Phase One services



Details of routes and services are to be featured in the next issue.

'Smart' new Fastway fleet looking good



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 distinctive 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.

The buses will be fitted with guidewheels to enable them to travel in the specially constructed guideway that forms part of the proposals intended to speed Fastway on its way and help it bypass congestion hotspots.

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

The vehicle livery has been developed in conjunction with potential Fastway users.

