

Jamaica considers Fastway for Kingston



Pictured (left to right) David Birks, Owen Williams; David Uprichard, Edmund Nuttall Ltd; Sharon Saunders; Jamaican High Commission; Kay Hammond, Executive Member, Surrey CC; Mayor of Crawley, Cllr Brian Quinn; Jamaican Minister of Transport & Works, Robert Pickersgill; Chairman of Jamaican Maritime Transport, Noel Hylton; Cllr Frank Wilkinson, West Sussex CC; Helyn Clack, Executive Member, Surrey CC; Paul Wreyford, West Sussex CC; John Gowers, Metrobus; Rachel McAllister, Crawley BC.



The Jamaican Minister of Transport & Works caught the Fastway recently when he paid a visit to Crawley to find out more about the new guided bus system. The Minister is currently considering the construction of a guided bus scheme, similar to Fastway, in the Metropolitan area of Kingston, Jamaica, to help ease traffic congestion.

Mayor of Crawley, Brian Quinn and the Fastway Partners welcomed the Minister, Robert Pickersgill, and his colleagues, and took them on a tour of the Fastway route.

Phase Two - construction update

Construction of the infrastructure for phase two of Fastway is half way through its programme.

The work around County Mall is to be completed in the New Year. Temporary mini roundabouts will be removed and be replaced with permanent traffic signal controls.

Construction work on the A23 by the Tushmore roundabout, Crawley will be complete in Summer 2004. Work being carried out includes the modification of the Tushmore roundabout to provide a

southbound bus lane across the roundabout; a southbound guideway down the



centre of London Road on the approach to the Tushmore roundabout and improvements to the London Road / Manor Royal junction.

Work will also be carried out as part of the phase two works in parts of the Manor Royal Industrial Estate, including Faraday Road and Fleming Way. Work being carried out includes improvements to footways and cycle ways, new bus lanes, as well as improvements to the Fleming Way / Faraday Road junction.

For further information about Fastway...

To contact the Fastway Customer Support Team call the freephone Fastway helpline:

0800 3898 146



Fastway on track for Surrey

Fastway, the futuristic guided bus service that offers passengers smarter, faster travel between Gatwick and Crawley is coming to Horley - good news for residents who live and work in the area.

Construction of the extension of Fastway into Surrey got the go-ahead from Surrey County Council's Executive Committee in December 2003. Work on the Horley to Gatwick phase will start this year and the infrastructure will be complete in time for the service to be operational in Surrey by September 2005.

The cost of extending Fastway from West Sussex into Surrey was originally to be funded by contributions from developers as part of the Horley Master Plan but with delays to the proposed developments the County Council will guarantee approximately £1 million to keep the project on schedule. The council will recoup the money later when the Horley Master Plan gets underway.

Fastway Champion, and Surrey County Council Member for Reigate & Banstead, Kay Hammond was delighted when the council voted to secure funding for the construc-



Alan Eatwell, Managing Director of Metrobus (top right) shows Fastway Champion and Surrey CC Executive Member Kay Hammond and members of Horley Town Council around the Fastway bus during a visit to Victoria Road, Horley.

tion of the Fastway route into Surrey, "This marks a major milestone in the expansion of Fastway" she said, "It means that the people of Horley can look forward to a state-of-the-art transport service that is frequent, efficient and reliable and one that offers a real alternative to the private car. With around a third of Gatwick's employees living in the Crawley/Horley area, Fastway will be a very welcome amenity for the Horley area."

Helyn Clack, Surrey's Executive Member for Transportation was equally enthusiastic, especially about the "smart" technology Fastway uses. She said "Satellite links relay data from the buses to a central control and this information is then passed on to the special Fastway bus stops, so passengers know to the minute just when their bus will arrive. The Fastway service is a leader in 21st century passenger transport and Surrey is proud to be investing in this transport for the future."

Fastway passenger numbers exceed expectations



Over 500,000 passengers have used the Fastway bus service since it launched in September 2003, boosted by an average of 5,052

passengers using the service every day in December. Metrobus has also reported a 7% increase in passenger numbers on all bus services across the area since June 2003.

Nick Hill, Operations Manager for Metrobus, said: "We have been very pleased with the levels of patronage on the new Fastway service, which has exceeded our expectations. The figures week on week show that more and more people are choosing to use the bus."

In the New Year, Metrobus will be undertaking an assessment of its Crawley/Gatwick services to see where enhancements can be made to further improve bus services in the area.

The latest figures for Fastway show that Metrobus is on target to reach its projected forecast of 9,000 passenger journeys on Fastway per day by 2008. It is hoped that 5,500 of these will be private car users who have switched to the bus.

For further details about Fastway services, contact Metrobus on tel: 01293 449191

Fastway wins 'best bus' award



The Fastway Scania Omnibus vehicle was awarded the 'best new millennium bus' at the Exclusive First Editions (EFE) Showbus International event at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire on the 28th September 2003. Alan Eatwell, Managing Director of Metrobus, collected the award.

Bus shelters vandalised

Since the launch of Fastway in September 2003, a number of Fastway bus shelters in the Bewbush, Broadfield area of Crawley have been subject to vandalism.

The Fastway Partners and the local police are working together to try and address the issue.

Barrier at Broadfield Stadium

The barrier at the bus only link in Broadfield Stadium has also been vandalised and is to be replaced with a more robust design. One side of the carriageway will be blocked by two rising posts which will be lowered electronically by the driver of the approaching Fastway bus. On the other side of the road another two posts will be locked into vertical position to prevent use of the carriageway. The new posts will be put in place early in the New Year.



A number of Fastway bus shelters have been damaged since installation.

Danger - Misuse of guideways

The Fastway Partners have received reports of cyclists and pedestrians using bus only guideways and bus lanes in Southgate Avenue, Crawley and have advised that this practice is extremely dangerous.

Lt. Col. Tex Pemberton, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and Chairman of the Fastway Steering Group said: "There is no reason why cyclists or pedestrians should need to use the guideways and bus lanes as there is dedicated cycle track and footpath running the length of

the eastside of Southgate Avenue.

"We urge the public to be aware of their surroundings when out near a road and always use cycle tracks, footways and crossings where they are provided."

To protect public safety new cycle crossings have been installed at each traffic light junction on Southgate Avenue, which are on the main cycle track on the east side across Ashdown Drive, Tilgate Way and Hawth Avenue. New pedestrian crossings have also been provided across Southgate Avenue at Ashdown Drive, Til-

In Brief...

- A presentation on Phase Three of Fastway was made to the Horley Chamber of Commerce on 13th January 2004 and to Horley Town Council on 27th January.
- A Fastway liaison meeting was held on Tuesday 20th January 2004 in the Petworth Suite, Holiday Inn, Langley Green, Crawley. The meeting was followed by a public exhibition which showed plans for the later phases of Fastway.
- The Network Management Information Centre (NMIC) that collects CCTV footage and Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) for Fastway is to be officially opened in Leatherhead, Surrey at the end of February. The new centre collects the RTPI and CCTV footage to help to improve the operation of the local road network.
- Work to plant new trees and shrubs along Southgate Avenue and Haslett Avenue East is to start in January to replace all of the ones that were removed in May 2002 to make way for the Fastway works. Planting, which includes two trees for every one that has been felled, will continue for 12 weeks. Landscape contractors, Tilhill Forestry, will carry out the planting. A copy of the plans for the re-planting scheme are available at the Fastway site office.

gate Way and Southgate Drive. A crossing across Southgate Drive has also been installed.

Lt. Col. Pemberton continued: "The majority of cyclists do use the cycle track on Southgate Avenue but there seems to be a small group who are not heeding the signage and are putting themselves at risk. The Fastway buses are very quiet and cyclists and pedestrians may not always hear them and need to be vigilant."

In the driving seat



PROFILE

Name: John Russell

Age: 39

Occupation: Fastway bus driver

Lives: Broadfield, Crawley

How do you travel to work?

By Fastway of course!

What sort of training did you receive in preparation for becoming a bus driver?

I passed my bus driving test in 1987. It took about four or five weeks to prepare for the practical test. After that I spent some time with other drivers learning 'on the job' skills.

How long have you worked for Metrobus?

Since 2001, when Metrobus started operating Crawley's bus services

How long have you been working as a Fastway bus driver?

Since September 2003, when Fastway was launched

Why did you decide to become a Fastway bus driver?

I felt that Fastway gave me the opportunity to expand my experience of driving different bus services.

Is driving Fastway different to driving other buses?

Yes. The buses are newer, more comfortable to drive and are longer, which means I have to be extra careful!

What extra training did you receive to enable you to drive a Fastway bus?

A special training course was provided for the Fastway drivers to prepare us for the route, the guideways and the vehicles which are state of the art modern buses.

How long did this extra training take?

One day.

What time do you usually start & finish work?

We all work shifts so it varies from day to day. The first duty signs at 0333 and the last one signs off at 0049, so there is lots of variety!

How much of the work day is spent driving the bus?

Most shifts are around 8½ hours long, including a break in the middle.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The driving, and working with lots of different people. No two days are ever the same in this job!

How do you see the future for Fastway?

As each phase is completed, and the network expands, Fastway will get better and better!



Interchange 2003

The annual Interchange conference, the UK's only integrated transport and infrastructure event, was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, London on 25-26th November 2003.

Interchange is a two day conference and exhibition that brings together people involved in integrated transport and infrastructure to gather high value

information in the form of policy, best practice, product and service information.

Roger Cato, Chairman and Managing Director of BAA Gatwick, presented a paper on Fastway to delegates. An exhibition with details of the Fastway project was also on display as part of the BAA stand (pictured right)

