

Project progress: keeping people informed

With construction work is underway to build Phase 1 of Fastway, the Fastway partners are committed to keeping people informed with clear and open communication about works and traffic management arrangements.



Fastway is another step closer as construction begins

The works currently underway include the creation of dedicated bus lanes and guideways, with prioritised traffic light control at junctions along Southgate Avenue.

In order to carry out the construction as safely as possible and with the minimum disruption to traffic, it will be necessary to introduce a temporary diversion of traffic in Southgate Avenue. Traffic heading away from Crawley town centre will continue to be able to use Southgate Avenue, but traffic heading towards the town centre is to be diverted between Brighton Road and Hawth Avenue, via Brighton Road and Southgate Drive. The diversion is likely to be necessary for up to six months from the end of July 2002.

In order to ease traffic movement and accommodate additional traffic using Brighton Road and Southgate Drive, a temporary mini roundabout will be constructed at the junction of Brighton Road and Southgate Drive, and temporary waiting restrictions will apply along much of Southgate Drive. Special parking arrangements are being made for affected residents.

In addition, to avoid congestion which would be caused by traffic

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queuing behind vehicles turning right from Southgate Avenue into Brighton Road there will be no right turn from Southgate Avenue into Brighton

ton Road from 23rd July 2002. This will be a permanent prohibition.

In order to enable construction work to take place, Tyler Road, at its junction with Southgate Avenue will be closed from 1st July 2002, and Mason Road at the junction with Southgate Avenue will be closed in due course. These will be permanent closures.

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 in advance for this.

Said Lieutenant Colonel Tex Pemberton, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member and Chairman of the Fastway Partners Steering Group:

"There may be some difficult times ahead 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."

Anyone requiring further information about Fastway or these traffic management arrangements should contact the Fastway Customer Services Team on freephone 0800 3898 146, or visit the site office adjacent to Broadfield Stadium.

Further information about Fast-



A major milestone is achieved as work begins on Fastway

A major milestone was reached at the end of May, as the construction programme kicked off for Fastway, the new hi-tech part-guided bus to link Crawley, Gatwick and Horley, due to start running in 2003.

The £29 million Fastway scheme is the first of its kind in the South East. It is also the first scheme of its kind outside a major city; the first being promoted by a number of authorities; the first to involve an airport and the first to incorporate hi-tech intelligent transport systems (ITS) from the outset.

It is an integrated transport system that will be an 'intelligent', comfortable and efficient alternative to the private car. It will give real-time passenger information, run on dedicated lanes, including sections of guideway, and receive priority at traffic lights to help maintain schedules.

Edmund Nuttall Ltd was awarded the construction contract at the beginning of May and began work on the morning of Monday 27th May. They are currently in the process of setting up a temporary site office



Cllr Doug Murdoch of Crawley, Lt Col Tex Pemberton WSCC Cabinet Member; Cllr Kay Hammond, Executive Member for Surrey join Site Manager David Uprichard at the start of works Fastway

and compound on Rathlin Road Playing Fields near Broadfield stadium.

Once the site office is in place, work will begin on the first phase of construction, which will take place over the next twelve months and include 2200m of segregated bus lane, 650m of specially-constructed 'guideway' and seven junctions with traffic signals, programmed to give automatic bus priority.

Work will take place initially to create a new bus-only link between Coachman's Drive and the Broadfield Stadium access road, with other works following over the next twelve months along Southgate Avenue as far as the railway bridge, in Station Way at its junction with Friary Way and in the High Street between the Boulevard and Orchard Street.

For further information...

The Fastway Customer Support team can be reached during office hours in the site office in the Fastway construction works compound adjacent to the Broadfield Stadium or on the free phone Fastway helpline:.

0800 3898 146

Fastway 'fast facts'

- Fastway is a 'smartbus' part-guided transport system
- Fast, frequent, reliable
- Services are planned to run every 10 minutes, up to 20 hours a day
- Well-planned, phased-in routes between Crawley and Horley via Gatwick Airport
- Dedicated lanes and priority at traffic lights
- Comfortable friendly service
- Affordable fares
- Real-time passenger information and halts and on-board
- New fleet of low emission, low noise buses

A commitment to top quality transport



Partners from West Sussex CC, BAA Gatwick, Surrey, Crawley BC, Reigate & Banstead BC and Metrobus Ltd came together in April for the signing of a voluntary Quality Partnership

In April, the partners promoting Fastway signed a 'Quality Partnership' agreement – a voluntary statement of intent which pledges their commitment to co-operative working to improve bus transport services in the area.

The Fastway partners who signed

the voluntary Quality Partnership are West Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council, Metrobus Ltd, Crawley Borough Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and BAA Gatwick.

The main objective of the agreement is 'to increase the proportion of

journeys undertaken by public transport within the Horley – Crawley corridor and surrounding areas through co-ordinated and shared working. It also makes clear how the development of Fastway is 'an essential element in delivering an innovative and integrated transport strategy for Crawley, Gatwick and Horley.'

Lieutenant Colonel Tex Pemberton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Environmental Services and Chairman of the Fastway Steering Group signing the statement on behalf of West Sussex County Council, said:

"The Fastway project is an essential element in delivering an innovative and integrated transport strategy for Crawley, Gatwick and Horley. This voluntary agreement, signed by the partners sets out our collective aims and objectives."

Roger Cato, Managing Director, BAA Gatwick said:

"Fastway is a key element to help us fulfil our commitment to encourage airport staff to use public transport, rather than the private car, for journeys to work."



80% of cars on the road in the peak period have only one occupant

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 4,000 passengers a day. With the introduction of other complementary measures, this could rise to nearly 9,000 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 is also the only major local public transport infrastructure project in the South East fully accepted for 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.

Routes and services

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 – on an alignment along Coachman's Drive, Southgate Avenue, Station Way and Crawley High Street.

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

After the completion and opening of phase one in 2003, the route will be extended as completion of subsequent phases permits, to create the core route network between Crawley and the Airport and on to Horley.

The Fastway service will include:

- A new fleet of modern, high-specification guided buses
- Introduction of bus lanes
- Introduction of guideways
- Modification of road junctions to include traffic light control
- Priority at junctions for buses over other traffic
- New halts with improved waiting facilities



This graphic impression gives an idea of what the Fastway halts will look like

- Services linking key destinations throughout the region
- Services running at greater frequency than present

All about the buses: all on board!



Metrobus MD Alan Eatwell meets a member of the Crawley Town Access Group when passengers were invited to give feedback on the vehicle model for Fastway

In February, the Fastway partners and Metrobus invited future Fastway 'passengers' to give their views on the choice of vehicle for Fastway, when four

of the latest demonstrator vehicles were made available for viewing. Potential Fastway users such as school pupils, business representatives and passen-

gers with disabilities and special needs, were among those asked to complete a questionnaire. The feedback received is forming an important part in the selection of vehicle to be used for Fastway, and the on-board facilities to be provided.

The buses will offer the highest standards of passenger comfort, featuring:

- An attractive, modern design,
- High profile route livery
- Well-appointed interiors with comfortable individual seating
- Low-floor, level boarding Space for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- Dual doors for efficient boarding and alighting
- High standards of passenger comfort and ride quality
- Environmentally friendly low-noise, low-vibration and low-emission engines
- On-trip, real time passenger information
- CCTV cameras for passenger safety and driver awareness