

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
REPORT FOR INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Capital Projects
DATE: 2nd July 2010
SUBJECT: Rochdale Transport Interchange Update
REPORT OF: Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members of the Capital Projects Committee on the progress in respect of this scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:-

- 1 note the contents of this report and the progress which has been made to date; and
- 2 request a further update report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Reports to GMPTA - 29th April 2004, 30th July 2004 and 23rd June 2006.
Report to GMITA – 6th November 2009 and 5th March 2010.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The existing Rochdale Bus Station was designed and constructed in the mid 1970's as part of a comprehensive development comprising municipal offices, a multi-storey car park and a town centre access via a high level walkway. The bus station now provides an unsatisfactory passenger experience in Greater Manchester when compared to other facilities of a similar size.
- 1.2 As part of a wider redevelopment of Rochdale Town Centre, it is proposed to construct a new transport interchange on the Riverside site, on the opposite side of Smith Street to the current bus station facilities, adjacent to the proposed Metrolink stop.
- 1.3 The new transport interchange in Rochdale town centre will deliver a significant improvement in the quality of waiting facilities provided for bus passengers in this location; including the provision of modern waiting facilities, a safe and secure passenger environment, improved pedestrian access, improved passenger information and sustainable design.
- 1.4 The scheme was prioritised in the NWRA's Regional Funding Allocation exercise, confirmed by Ministers in July 2006. This exercise has resulted in DfT resources, up to a maximum of £10 million, being allocated to this scheme with the confirmation in April 2008 of the approved Programme Entry.

2 Progress Update

- 2.1 Since the progress update report submitted to this Committee on 5th March 2010, the detailed design and preparation of tender documentation are almost complete.
- 2.2 The Conditional Approval Business Case was submitted to DfT in March 2010 two months ahead of schedule. Subsequently, a letter was received from DfT in April advising that given the uncertainty of the RFA funding beyond the current financial year they are unable to confirm Conditional Approval or its compliance at this stage. They also advised that they will be reviewing all Business Cases, in order to feed into wider considerations for ministers over the next few months, but unable to confirm how long it will take to complete the review.
- 2.3 A further letter was received from DfT on 10 June advising that Ministers have decided to suspend the Major Scheme's guidance and process at least until the conclusion of the spending review in the autumn. The Department also advised that they cannot give any assurances on their intention to fund any schemes that were previously awarded Programme Entry. This means that, until the Government's spending review is complete, the Department for Transport will not be

making a decision on the Conditional Approval submission made in March 2010.

- 2.4 Meetings have been held recently with Rochdale Development Agency to discuss the impact that the delay in receiving Conditional Approval for the Interchange will have on the wider development of the Town Centre. Further meetings with Rochdale MBC and Rochdale Development Agency will be held to understand further the implications for Rochdale's aspirations following the latest letter from the DfT.
- 2.5 A further report updating Members as more clarity emerges will be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

2 Recommendations

- 3.1 Please see front sheet of report for recommendations.

Michael Renshaw
Interim Bus and Rail Director