

Traffic Management Liaison Group

		MINUTES OF MEETING	REF NUMBER A465/TMLG/051	
PROJECT:		A465 Heads of the Valley – Section 2		
SUBJECT:		Traffic Management Liaison Group – Meeting 51		
LOCATION & TIME:		Microsoft Teams 11.00 - 12.00hrs, 24 th September 2020		
PRESENT:		SEE SEPARATE ATTENDANCE LIST		
APOLOGIES:		Police; Blaenau Gwent CBC; Blaenau Gwent CBC		
DISTRIBUTION:		All attendees, all apologies, iCosnet, A465		
Item	Description	Action	Action By Date	
1.0	Introduction and purpose of meeting			
1.1	[B] welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.	Note		
2.0	Scheme Update / General remarks			
2.1	<p>[J] gave a general update of the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following TM8 traffic switch Brynmawr W/B on slip is now closed. General roadworks operations are now ongoing in this area – formation / excavation, laying of drainage and ducting, concrete channel preparation. - Also following the TM8 traffic switch, works have also begun on the low level section between Brynmawr and the Drum and Monkey, and are progressing well. Works include drainage/ducting, construction of culvert C03 using a temporary platform, refurbishment of Clydach viaduct has commenced with the removal of the surfacing and we have commenced with road formation / laying of sub base at the Brynmawr end. - Structures S26 and S27 are continuing , which are bridges in the vicinity of the Drum and Monkey, on the proposed Westbound Carriageway. - In the remaining area's of site general finishing works are continuing i.e. fencing and landscaping. 	Note		
2.2	<p>Recent/planned TM Switches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removal of Saleyard temporary roundabout and opening of the junction - Removal of the temporary Gilwern site roundabout - Traffic now travelling in correct carriageway (under TM) from Glanbaiden through to Blackrock. - TM8 Switch over the weekend of 15-16 August to switch traffic to the elevated section 	Note		
2.3	RTC's recently as follows:	Note		



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	- None since last meeting		
2.4	Up to 29/08/20 - 1179 breakdowns, since cover commenced.	[J]	
3.0	Forward Plan – Main Line A465 Works		
3.1	<p>Next weekend Road Closure 3rd – 4th October 2020 – closed from 20:30hrs on the Friday until Monday 06:00hrs.</p> <p>Section closed between Brynmawr junction and Glanbaiden but as a consequence of the TM8 switch, Westbound between Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale will automatically become closed. Eastbound exit slip at Brynmawr will function as normal, allowing access to Brynmawr from the West.</p>	Info	
3.2	<p>Future planned road closures for 2020 agreed by WGov:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17/18 October - 14/15 November - 05/06 December <p>Closures will be confirmed closer to the relevant dates. Any closure requirements for 2021 will be submitted later in the year.</p>	Note	
3.3	<p>Permanent VMS Signs</p> <p>These signs are now regularly being used to display notifications of our closures across the South Wales network – M4, A470, A40(A449) etc. This has been positively received by locally elected representatives.</p>	Note	
3.4	<p>Advertising of road closures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We continue to use various forms of social media to advertise the planned closures <p>Facebook followers currently stand's over 12,000 followers and Twitter over 3,100</p> <p>In addition to this we send emails to over 1,900 to individuals and businesses to promote the project and closures.</p> <p>Digital media from the project now has a reach in excess of 146,000 people.</p> <p>Road closures are also advertised on national radio – i.e. BBC Radio 2 & BBC Radio Wales traffic and travel.</p>	Note	
4.0	Forward Plan – Side Road Matters		
4.1	<p>[K] explained that the TM8 switch had gone well and that traffic was now generally free flowing on the A465. The queues that had been experienced through the scheme and in both directions into Brynmawr roundabout were no longer occurring. Traffic levels appear to have returned to almost pre COVID levels, although local lockdowns may reduce these levels once more.</p> <p>Signage and traffic management arrangements had been amended over the initial period after the switch. The amendments followed feedback from local people and the travelling public.</p> <p>Some motorists had diverted onto side roads, but complaints regarding this were very low. With the reopening of the A4046 at Aberbeeg within the next week, this should ease any additional burden placed on the A4047 through Beaufort.</p> <p>[B] explained that Arcadis supervisors were making regular journeys through Beaufort and also on the A465. The checks, which were carried out at different times each day, were all positive</p>	Note	



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	<p>and had identified little congestion in any area since the switch.</p> <p>Police, Fire and Ambulance confirmed that there had been no issues since the traffic switch, with journey times now improved and more reliable. It was noted that the downgrading of services at Nevill Hall Hospital had now reduced Ambulance movements through the area. [A] noted that an additional ambulance response vehicle had been provided for the main TM8 switch, Ambulance confirmed this provision was no longer necessary going forward.</p> <p>[K] explained that MCC had deployed members of their Civil Enforcement Team and a number of their ground workers over the last weekend closure. They had done an excellent job of diverting traffic away from the side roads and had ensured that motorists did not breach the temporary prohibition of driving order. Unfortunately, because of the level of abuse they had received they were not prepared to continue with this activity. Therefore, MCC had proposed to WGov that they should deploy security guards to perform the function as they would be trained to deal with such conflict. [A] explained that this was not an option that WGov favoured, as the individuals would have no powers to regulate the traffic.</p> <p>[A] explained that traffic counters were to be deployed by MCC and BGCBC to monitor traffic flow for two weeks, including the next programmed weekend closure (03-04/10).</p> <p>[A] proposed that a number of sets of traffic lights could be deployed on the side roads leading through north Clydach and Maesygartha, to support the access only order and control traffic volumes entering the temporary prohibition of driving order area. [E], [D] and [F] outlined concerns regarding the legality of this and the potential for motorists to travel through red lights when they could see that no work was being undertaken in the areas. [A] suggested that MCC were investigating traffic light cameras could be installed to detect offenders. Concerns were raised over the legality and practicalities of the suggestion.</p> <p>[D] explained that camera vans could be deployed to deter motorists from entering the area, but they would not be able to enforce the restrictions. This could only be undertaken by police officers. [F] explained that significant time had been spent by his team monitoring and speaking to motorists. There were only a small numbers of motorists breaching the order.</p> <p>The traffic counts planned over the next few weeks were agreed to confirm the impact of the previous Civil Enforcement Officers and Police enforcement of the access only order and COVID impacts. The findings of the traffic counts could inform any further mitigation. The results would be considered before a final decision was taken in relation to any options remaining.</p>		
4.2	<p>Traffic Lights On Side Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dingle Lane, 2 way set of lights, operating 24/7 - Brynmawr roundabout three way lights for duct crossings on successive Sundays over the next few weeks 	Note	
5.0	<p>Traffic Orders</p>		
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TTRO may be required for the closure of Brynmawr roundabout for resurfacing works - TTRO will be required for the closure of Main Road (near Church Road junction) Clydach for resurfacing 		
5.2	<p>Current SWTRA TTRO's are valid until May 2021.</p>	Note	
6.0	<p>Discussion Points</p>		
6.1	<p>Buses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replacement mini bus service continues during weekend closures for residents. This replacement bus only runs on Saturdays and will remain in place for every closure. There is now a requirement for face coverings to be worn as a condition of travel. 	Note	
6.2	<p>HAUC</p>	Note	

	- Meetings currently suspended due to COVID		
6.3	Cycling Events - None notified	Note	
6.4	Events - None notified	Note	
6.5	Emergency Vehicles - - Next full weekend road closure is 03/04 October - There will be full access for emergency services through site, but under escort from Forest - [J] contacts emergency services control rooms at the start of each closure and confirms the access arrangements	Note Note	
6.6	Potholes Regular checks are being carried out, timely response required, where possible repairs carried out using planned TM installations/set up and/or road closures. With the majority of the traffic now travelling on the new road surface this is no longer a real issue.	Note	
6.7	Embargos - Autumn Half Term partial embargo Monday 19 th October 06:00am – Monday 2 nd November 10:00am	Note	
7.0	AOB		
7.1	There is still no 'formal' agreement in place between Costain / SWTRA for the Trunk Road Maintenance requirements and sign off of the maintenance plan Note – To date, there has been no issues / disagreements between Costain and SWTRA over who is responsible for any repairs / damage which as occurred or any maintenance issues.	CL / SWTRA Note	
7.2	Wide Loads – No order is in place but the current informal arrangements are working well. - [J] explained that a request had been made for a 350t, 67m in length and 5.1m abnormal load to travel through sometime in March 2021. The vehicle will be travelling from Newport Docks to Rassau Industrial Estate. [B] requested further details from [J] and he will progress the matter with SWTRA.	[J][B]	ASAP
7.3	[C] advised that they had received a complaint regarding bilingual signing, particularly that the Welsh language was first on the signs. The complainant had been advised of the requirements of the Welsh Language Act. [B] raised an issue with regard an English over Welsh 'queue ahead' sign on the A465 westbound, just after Hardwick roundabout. [J] advised that this is not a sign from this project and was likely to be SWTRA – [C] advised he would arrange for it to be removed.	Note	
7.4	[B] raised an observation regarding tyre marks at Gilwern entry slip road. [J] advised that we were not aware of any specific incidents or complaints and that the area is being monitored by CCTV to ensure the safety of the travelling public.	Note	
7.5	Costain still have use of 10No TVCBs from SWTRA	[J]	
8.0	Date of Next Meeting		
8.1	Next Meeting – Thursday 26 th November 2020 at 10.00AM – Microsoft Teams	Info All	



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9.0	Post Meeting Notes		
9.1	<p>As a consequence of an amber weather warning for the closure weekend of 03-04/10 the closure was postponed.</p> <p>Following discussion with the TMLG members the subsequent request for night closures was approved for 14 & 15/10 (20:30-06:00). WGov have agreed to the night closures to mitigate an additional weekend closure and are notifying the Minister.</p> <p>Closures will be advertised at least one week's notice to the general public.</p> <p>Traffic counts will therefore be extended in the side roads until 07:00 19/10.</p>	Note	
9.2	<p>[B] has made contact with hauliers regards abnormal loads and has directed them to SWTRA for forward queries. Costain to refer matter to the Project Manager should contact be attempted going forward.</p>	Note	