

# **Press Conference**

**5 January 2007 at 11.00am**

**held by**

**the Boston & District Bypass Pressure Group (BBPG)  
and the Boston Bypass & Economic Growth Pressure Group (BBEG)**

We have called this Press Conference in advance of the Highways Policy Development Group (PDG) Meeting to be held on 8 January and the Executive Decision that is due to be made the following day, on 9 January, by Martin Hill's Executive Group at Lincolnshire County Council.

We are now in receipt of the Transport Strategy for Boston 2006 to 2021 and beyond.

We would like to say that our reaction to the report and associated papers is one of huge disappointment, but of no surprise. Given what we have witnessed during the whole study process, the result is exactly what we anticipated: We accept that Lincolnshire receives less funding per capita than anywhere else in the country, but we do not accept that the funds available are disproportionately distributed, favouring primarily Lincoln and those schemes which will enhance Lincoln's case for two bypasses.

The whole process has been constrained politically and financially as confirmed in the Jacobs report. There was never any serious intention to deliver in the short term a major road scheme for Boston; had there been Boston would have been included in the Local Transport Plan and in the options given to the public for consultation, which we requested. The Government Office for the East Midlands has confirmed to us that Lincolnshire County Council failed to bid for Government funding in July 2005 for a major road scheme for Boston. If you don't ask, you don't get. LCC didn't ask.

From our involvement and observations, the Boston Transport Study, we consider to be seriously flawed in the following areas:

## **Study Process**

- Did not comply with the original terms of reference.

## **Data Collection**

- Financial constraints resulted in severely restricted monitoring.
- No Economic Assessment has been carried out for Boston.
- Inappropriate and unreliable methods of data collection.
- Post Code methodology used which ignores cross town journeys.
- SATURN model used to analyse data is no longer recognised by the Department for Transport.
- No consideration or projections given for known future developments within the area.

## **Public Consultation Exercise**

- Poorly advertised.
- Complicated and misleading questionnaire, with no mention of short term, medium term or long term options.
- Not written in plain English. Jargon!
- Options presented excluded part of a major road scheme but included schemes already rejected by the people of Boston.
- Designed to enable misrepresentation and maximise the ability to manipulate.

## **Recommendations**

- Short term option suggested will increase congestion, pollution and gridlock, having a major effect on the retail economy of Boston.
- Short term option will not resolve the bottlenecks.
- No specified description of what type of distributor road is proposed for the long term.
- Central Trains have recently announced major investment in the Sleaford to Skegness line, increasing the number of trains. The present 34 trains per day will rise having an exponential effect on traffic congestion.

We appeal therefore to the Members of the Highways PDG, the LCC Executive and Boston Borough Council to reject the recommendation to improve the A16/A52 main roads and to recommend an examination of the feasibility of building the first part of a major road scheme.

We also make the following appeal directly to Cllr Martin Hill: “This is your last chance to show that Lincolnshire County Council is listening, Cllr Hill. The only solution to resolve Boston’s dire traffic congestion is a major road scheme.”

The people of Boston are already despondent and frustrated, so should this recommendation be accepted, they will show their feelings, as will we, at the ballot box in May.

Given the major flaws within the study we believe the whole exercise has been a complete waste of public money and valuable time.

We are also to hold a Public Meeting on Monday 29 January 2007 at 7.00pm at the Haven High Technology College in Boston to consult once again with the general public about the way we take our campaign forward.