

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**REPORT FOR RESOLUTION**

COMMITTEE: Bus Network and GMPTE Services
DATE: 13th November 2009
SUBJECT: Bus Shelter Requests
REPORT OF: Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the provision of shelters at specific locations in line with agreed policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Committee are recommended to:-

1. note the outcomes of the latest patronage surveys as set out in this report;
2. endorse officers' proposed actions as a result of the patronage surveys at the locations identified in this report;
3. ratify officers' recommendations on the shelter requests resubmitted as part of the appeals process; and
4. request a further report in due course.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Information held on file in GMPTE offices including previous reports.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of specific cases which have been referred back to the Committee, in order to seek endorsement of officers' recommendations. The report also sets out the non-QBC shelter requests that have been received over the past three months and acquire determination by the Committee.

2. STOPS SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE APPEALS PROCESS

2.1 St Albans Avenue – EH2061

In August 2008, residents at house number 13 St Albans Avenue requested that the existing lamp post, on which the bus stop plate was attached, be relocated from outside their property.

Tameside Local Authority installed a new lamp post on the boundaries of properties 13/15 St Albans Avenue. As a consequence, residents at house number 15 objected verbally to the local council concerning the relocation of the lamp post and the possible movement of the bus stop. However, GMPTE, unaware of the complaint, subsequently relocated the plate onto the new lamp post.

Following the receipt of a number of objections, numerous site visits and consultation with residents, a decision was made to leave the bus stop in this revised location on the boundary of properties 13/15.

Since making this decision, further concerns have been raised by the resident of number 15, and an appeal submitted.

Due to the contentious nature of this stop, Members of the Committee requested that a site meeting was convened with local councillors and GMPTE officers. Subsequently, a site visit took place on 4 September, attended by GMPTE's Service Infrastructure Manager, GMPTE's Route Development Officer and Councillor Smith. Full details are included within Appendix A for consideration.

A number of options were discussed on site, including the advantages and disadvantages for each.

The options are as follows:

Option 1

- To leave the stop in the current position, on the lamp-post on the boundary of 13/15 St Albans Avenue

Option 2

- To install a bus stop pole at the front of the footway, in line with the lamp-post outside of 13 St Albans Avenue

Option 3

- To install the bus stop pole at the back of the footpath, at the gable end of 13 St Albans Avenue

Option 4

- To install the bus stop pole on the boundary of 11/13 St Albans Avenue

The representatives who attended the site visit have considered all the aforementioned options and it is the recommendation that option 4 is the most suitable. The decision is based on meeting accessibility needs and Tameside Council have agreed to fund the hardstanding required, following which the bus stop would be DDA compliant.

This recommendation is submitted for ratification by the Members of the Committee.

- 2.2 In light of the above situation, it is imperative that, when districts are considering applications for the provision of dropped kerbs to accommodate vehicular crossings, consideration is given to any impact this may have upon passenger waiting facilities within the affected area. Subsequently, this issue is to be raised at the next meeting of Greater Manchester Association of District Engineers (GMADE), on 13 November. Following the receipt of comments/views from GMADE, the current policy in respect of the provision of bus stops and shelters is to be updated and submitted to January's meeting of this Committee for Members' approval.

3. PATRONAGE SURVEY UPDATE

- 3.1 Since the last Committee meeting on 7 August, six patronage surveys have been undertaken, of which three have achieved the minimum passenger criteria. A breakdown per district is as detailed below.

District	Total No Surveyed	Surveys above Passenger Criteria	Surveys below Passenger Criteria
Bolton	1	1	
Bury	0		
Manchester	3	1	2
Oldham	0		
Rochdale	0		
Salford	1	1	
Stockport	0		
Tameside	0		
Trafford	1		1
Wigan	0		

- 3.2 The above figures reflect that one in two sites met the required patronage level. This differs from surveys carried out since the introduction of the revised policy in January 2006, which indicate that approximately one in three sites meets the passenger criteria, rendering it eligible to pass through to the

next (public consultation) stage of the process. It has been concluded by officers that the increase in this is due to the bus stops meeting the minimum passenger criteria are located close to large facilities, such as a school, supermarket and on a main road.

4. SHELTERS/STOPS REQUIRING COMMITTEE DETERMINATION

4.1 At stops where the required passenger numbers have been achieved, the PTE's Service Infrastructure Manager has assessed all relevant issues and made a recommendation for endorsement by the Committee.

4.2 To enable a full appraisal to be undertaken (for those sites which are submitted for endorsement) additional information such as the number of request(s) received, the frequency of services using the stop and an indication of the surrounding location has been compiled. Full details are attached as Appendix B to enable Members to factor these considerations into their deliberations.

4.3 Stops Meeting Passenger Criteria

STOP REF	MAIN ROAD	TOWN	DISTRICT	RECOMMENDATION
WA2199	Bolton Road	Waters Nook	Bolton	Approve for consultation
SB3188	Alexandra Road	Whalley Range	Manchester	Approve for consultation
WF2105	Manchester Road East	Walkden	Salford	Approve for consultation

4.4 Stops Failing to meet Passenger Criteria

STOP REF	MAIN ROAD	TOWN	DISTRICT	RECOMMENATION
EB3529	Hulmes Road	Brookdale Park	Manchester	Do not proceed
SB3251	Wilbraham Road	Whalley Range	Manchester	Do not proceed
SJ4727	Northenden Road	Sale Moor	Trafford	Do not proceed

4.5 Installation of Shelters to the Oldham/Rochdale Loop Line Metrolink Replacement Service

In addition to the above mentioned shelter locations it is proposed, due to the current implemented bus replacement service on the Oldham/Rochdale loop line, to increase bus shelter provision along the affected route.

A desk top assessment of all bus stops along the route has identified possible locations. Site surveys will be undertaken by officers of the PTE with representatives of the Police and Highways to establish the most suitable locations for proposed shelter installations.

As it is anticipated that shelters will only be provided for a two year period, and classified as temporary, a letter of intention to install the shelters will be sent to all properties within 25 metres of the proposed site.

Following completion of the Oldham loop line works, an assessment of all shelters installed, taking into consideration patronage levels and any comments received, will be carried out with a recommendation made for approval to Members of this Committee to retain or remove the shelters installed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 A full set of recommendations appears at the front of this report.

Michael Renshaw
Interim Bus and Rail Director