

**Paper to: TPB** **Meeting date: 27/8/08**  
**Subject: Enhanced response management for unplanned traffic delays**  
**Preparer: Duncan Fraser**

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### **Executive summary**

The Council recognises that the increase in sensitivity of the traffic in the city centre resulting from failure of traffic signals (permanent or temporary) now requires a more rapid response for corrective actions to be taken. This paper sets out the steps that have and could be taken to enhance the service delivery for repair to traffic signals, including those caused by damage by contractors.

Additionally it is proposed to develop an escalation strategy with Police and Lothian Buses to enable more effective management and control of unplanned delays on the road network. This proposal is being initiated by the Head of Transport for the Council and proposals will be reported to the Tram Project Board prior to submitting this for approval by the Transport Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

### **Summary of issue and proposed recommendations.**

To inform the TPB of the steps that have been taken within the Council to increase the service delivery for traffic signal repairs.

To seek funding (£40k) for a modified Siemens contract to provide cover from 7pm to 7am Monday to Sunday to make good defect including cable strikes.

To consult with key stakeholders (the Council, the Police and Lothian Buses) on a review of procedures to address short term congestion problems caused by unplanned events.

### **Impact on programme**

The proposed increases in the level of service for out of hours traffic signal cover are targeted at reducing any adverse impact on the traffic including bus services. The improved level of service would impact on public perception and assist in gaining political support and confidence in the management of temporary traffic management. Consequently the main impact on the programme would be the extent to which major temporary traffic management proposals are acceptable so as to facilitate the contractors opportunity to maximise production and efficient construction of the works.

Additionally potential delays to the works would potentially be mitigated by assuring that remedial measures to signals can be made good from 7pm through to 7am and additionally avoid potential delays to the morning peaks.

### **Impact on budget**

The maximisation of tram construction production levels through effective temporary traffic management would enable and support the contractor to meet or recover their programme hence directly support and thus enable BSC to meet their contractual obligations and consequently aid tie deliver the contract on time and on budget.

Additional funds of money of £40k would require to be resourced from risk contingencies. Further funding for call out charges would be directly attributed to the party who caused damage to the signal equipment and also make a contribution to overhead charges to offset the contract cost.

The Council will cover all internal costs for increasing the level of service within the signals team.

### **Impact on risk and opportunities**

It is suggested that the proposals will reduce the potential delay and disruption to the contracts when signals are put out of service by the contractor. Additionally the adverse impact to traffic in the city centre will be mitigated at the earliest possible time, including the opportunity to make good defect at the earliest time and hopefully before the next peak period. This will benefit the reputation risk of the trams as the impact of unforeseen delays and resultant congestion whether caused by the tram or not, will be mitigated

### **Impact on scope**

#### *General Traffic Management*

The Council has put in place improved out of hour traffic signal services.

The Traffic Signal Standby Engineer now has direct access to the Urban Traffic Management Control system both remotely and directly. Further support is also available to the on-call member of staff from other members of the signal team should their specialist skills be required.

DON3, the out of hour general emergency services, will facilitate contacting contractors or their plant hire company when their temporary signals set fail. The Council also welcomes Lothian Buses additional support to facilitate this process by providing the call out telephone number from site and advising the Councils out of hour emergency services.

It is proposed to enter into a new contract with Siemens the traffic signal maintenance contractor for out of hour service (7pm to 7am) and to include within the scope of the work repairing cable strikes, accepting that the contractor will also have to provide civil engineering services support.



*Strategic Management and Control of unplanned delays on the Road Network*

Additionally it is proposed to review the control and management arrangements between key stakeholders, including LB Police, Lothian Buses and the Council. The intention would be to improve and shorten lines of communication as well as provide more effective escalation procedures on a 24/7 basis to minimise the impact of unplanned delays on the road network and put in place remedial measures at the earliest possible time and in the most effective way. The Council intends to appoint a Traffic Manager as one point of contact who has overall responsibility to co-ordinate and control the traffic on the local road network. It is suggested that if a single point of contact is established with Lothian Buses control centre and also the Police then this would facilitate better planning and assist in more effectively resolution of traffic delays, due to uncontrolled and unplanned delays on the road network. It is intended to progress this as a matter of priority and subject to consultation will be reported at the next appropriate TPB then reported for approval at the next appropriate Transport Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

**Decision(s) / support required**

Agreement of the Board to providing the additional funding (£40k) for out of hours (7pm to 7am) services from Siemens.

**Proposed** Name: Duncan Fraser Date: 25/8/08  
Title: Tram Coordinator CEC

**Recommended** Name: Marshall Poulton Date: 25/8/08  
Title: Head of Transport CEC

**Approved:** ..... Date:.....  
David Mackay on behalf of the Tram Project Board