

Meeting: EWR/Bedford Borough Council – Traffic Modelling around Bedford St Johns

Held on: Wednesday 18 February (09:00 – 10:00)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Andrew Prigmore (AP)
- Joanne Branson-Budd (JBB)
- Melanie McGuinness (MM)

Representatives also from EWR Co

Meeting objectives: To present Bedford Borough Council (BBC) with the latest traffic modelling proposals around Bedford St Johns and confirm/address previously raised concerns from BBC around traffic.

Meeting minutes:

| Item | Text | Action |
|------|--|----------|
| 1. | Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC were welcomed to the meeting and the agenda was presented • Action: EWR Co to investigate minuting approach with redaction in response to John Kell’s email | 1 |
| 2. | Approach to Transport Modelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWR Co presented the modelling approach, covering forecasting, impact assessments, mitigation considerations, and the need for BBC input on the Base Year model. • Engagement on DD5.1D modelling is expected end March / early April. • Meeting on station demand modelling planned for early March. • EWR Co confirmed engagement on DD5.1D will begin end of March/beginning of April | |
| 3. | Approach to Transport Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWR Co presented the approach for DCO submission, with the Consultation Document due in Spring 2026. • Assessment includes: junction performance, severance, NMU journey times, road safety, and construction routing. • BBC encouraged to flag any locations where modelling does not reflect anticipated pinch-points. | |

| Item | Text | Action |
|------|---|------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JBB queried what happened to previous feedback on Ampthill Road/Cauldwell Street. EWR Co confirmed updates were due to Universal assumptions and new modelling is underway. • Action: EWR Co to provide BBC with updated assessment findings approx. end March / early April | 2 |
| 4. | <p>BBC Traffic Concerns around Bedford St Johns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC raised concerns around Cauldwell Street, Kempston Road, and Kings Place near the MSCP access. • AP highlighted lack of consideration of Ampthill Road junction impacts. • AP noted the Cauldwell St/Kempston Rd junction is already at capacity. • AF confirmed development of a LinSig model for the junction. • Action: EWR Co to capture BBC concerns in their traffic modelling • Action: AP to speak to BBC traffic signal colleague to obtain details of the existing traffic model • EWR Co to send AP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2023 survey data for Bromham Rd/Kempston Rd/Cauldwell St ○ Previous version of the FCM model • Action AP to confirm whether BBC already has its own LinSig model | 3 4 5 6 |
| 5. | <p>Traffic Modelling Overview around Bedford Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWR Co outlined expected traffic distributions into the new Ford End Road car park and the new Ashburnham Road surface car park. • JBB asked whether EWR has data on current car park capacity and traffic movements. • JBB also requested a summary of alternative car park site options considered before Ford End Road was selected. • JBB emphasised value in understanding which parking options were explored and discarded. • Action: EWR Co to confirm what car park options can be shared with BBC • Action: EWR Co to speak with Architects to see if an update can be provided at the Highways Working Group meeting later today | 7 8 |
| 4. | <p>BBC Traffic Concerns around Bedford Station / Wider Bedford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion covered anticipated increases in demand due to Universal, potentially adding 8,000–10,000 jobs and increasing station access. • BBC raised concerns over MSCP impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hurst Grove (existing congestion and rat-running) ○ Prebend St / Brewery access ○ Shakespeare Rd / Ashburnham Rd junction pressures | |

Action log:

| Action | Action Owner |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. EWR Co to investigate minuting approach with redaction in response to John Kell's email | EWR Co |
| 2. EWR Co to provide BBC with updated assessment findings approx. end March / early April | EWR Co |
| 3. EWR Co to capture BBC concerns in their traffic modelling | EWR Co |
| 4. AP to speak to BBC traffic signal colleague to obtain details of the existing traffic model | Bedford BC – AP |
| 5. EWR Co to send AP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2023 survey data for Bromham Rd/Kempston Rd/Cauldwell St b. Previous version of the FCM model | EWR Co |
| 6. AP to confirm whether BBC already has its own LinSig model | Bedford BC - AP |
| 7. EWR Co to confirm what car park options can be shared with BBC | EWR Co |
| 8. EWR Co to speak with Architects to see if an update can be provided at the Highways Working Group meeting later today | EWR Co |
| 9. EWR Co to consider wider western-area mitigation in MSCP option evaluations | EWR Co |
| 10. EWR Co to set up regular 6-week T&T meetings starting April. | EWR Co |
| 11. BBC to confirm whether additional technical meetings are required after data review. | Bedford BC |