

Key Transport Consultants Information Sheet

No: 3

Topic: West of England Joint Local Transport Plan Update

In the spring of 2006 those interested in strategic transport planning in greater Bristol were treated with the publication of two important documents, the final Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) published by the four Unitary Authorities in CUBA (Counties that Used to Be Avon) and the final report on the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study.

The **JLTP** was published in April 2006 and sets out the four West of England Councils' plans for transport measures for the next 5 years.

Highlights include:

- a major package of 10 Showcase Bus Routes
- a promise of work to complete the Ring Road around south Bristol



- a major scheme package for Bath including bus rapid transit and two new park and ride sites
- a third platform at Bristol Parkway station.

With rail based rapid transit completely out of fashion with central Government, Bristol's tram is nowhere to be seen, but three "rapid transit" routes are promised in Bristol by 2011 linking Ashton Vale to Emersons Green; Hengrove to the North Fringe/Cribbs Causeway; and Bath to Cribbs Causeway.

Bus based rapid transit has appeared from nowhere in the last 18 months to become the flavour of the month, but contributors to the trade press make it plain that the jury is still out on whether bus based systems using congested city centre roads should qualify for the description "rapid".

In my opinion the biggest shortcoming of the JLTP is the lack of commitment to a park and ride on the M32 corridor.

Whether you like it or not, all these measures will cost a great deal of

money and under the current Government ground rules, some of the funding will have to come from a pilot congestion charging scheme which appears likely to be introduced within a five to ten year time frame.



Overall, in spite of my criticisms, it's well done to the Councils for putting a credible JLTP together and securing most of the Government funding that they sought. For the sake of the sub-region, lets hope they can deliver their proposals.

Roger Key