



Bus Back Better Support Programme

Support Package 3 – Low Cost and/or Quick Wins

Today's presenters



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Bus Back Better Support Programme

Project Outputs

Improved delivery of BSIPs and EPs, and support to LTAs who have not received government funding in the current round. This will include:

- Enhanced evidence base through research papers on prioritised knowledge gaps.
- Knowledge sharing within and between STBs and their constituent members and between the public and private sectors.
- Better resourced LTAs through prioritised thirdparty support, provided in targeted areas.

Project Outcomes

These outputs will seek results in outcomes aligned to the National Bus Strategy including:

- Increased patronage.
- Enhanced accessibility and social inclusion.
- Reduced carbon emissions and improved public health.
- More commercially sustainable bus networks.

Bus Back Better Support Programme

- Support Package 1: Fares and Ticketing
- Support Package 2: Data Analysis,
 Monitoring and Evaluation
- Support Package 3: Low Cost and Quick Win Solutions
- Support Package 4: Building a Strong Case
- Support Package 5: Infrastructure and Road Space

- Support Package 6: Demand Responsive Transport
- Support Package 7: Rural Hubs and Integration
- Support Package 8: Funding Mechanisms
- Support Package 9: Collaborative Working
- Support Package 10: Marketing
- Support Package 11: Alternative Fuels and Low Emission Vehicles

Contents

- 1. Purpose and objectives of this Support Package
- 2. Structure of this Support Package
- 3. Defining low cost and quick wins
- 4. Framework methodology
- 5. Examples of low cost quick wins



Support Package Objectives

This support package will provide you help by:

Defining what constitutes a quick win and/or a low-cost scheme

Presenting examples for different types of initiatives

Developing a suitable approach to identifying and evaluating lowcost schemes

Developing a template communication strategy that can be applied to a range of schemes



Structure of this Support Package

Support Package structure



One-to-one support will be available following the Webinar

A limited number of one hour long one-to-one sessions will be available for you to speak with our experts regarding a specific issue with low cost and/or quick wins



Defining a low cost quick win

What is a low cost quick win initiative?

Quick to implement

Relatively inexpensive

Potential to increase bus patronage

Low cost and quick win initiatives are not mutually exclusive

What is a low cost quick win initiative?

Opportunities and challenges identified in small group sessions

	Opportunities	Challenges
Quick to implement	 Better enforcement of existing agreements Better publicity of existing initiatives Revisit procurement arrangements Implement schemes where the LTA owns the land 	Staff resourceThird party supportLand ownership
Relatively inexpensive	 Utilising funds from outside transport Incentivising third parties to contribute Creativity with existing budgets to maximise benefits Work collaboratively with other departments 	 Existing budgets can be low / uncertain Ongoing maintenance costs Political system influences funding
Potential to increase bus patronage	 Work with different groups e.g. Visit England to increase leisure trips Undertake trials to test the success of ideas 	 Getting the key people needed to deliver an initiative together Getting someone to take ownership of an idea

What is a low cost quick win initiative?

Bus stop accessibility and

quality auditing

Areas of focus in this Support Package

Branding, communications and marketing

Bus stop improvements and hubs

Service information

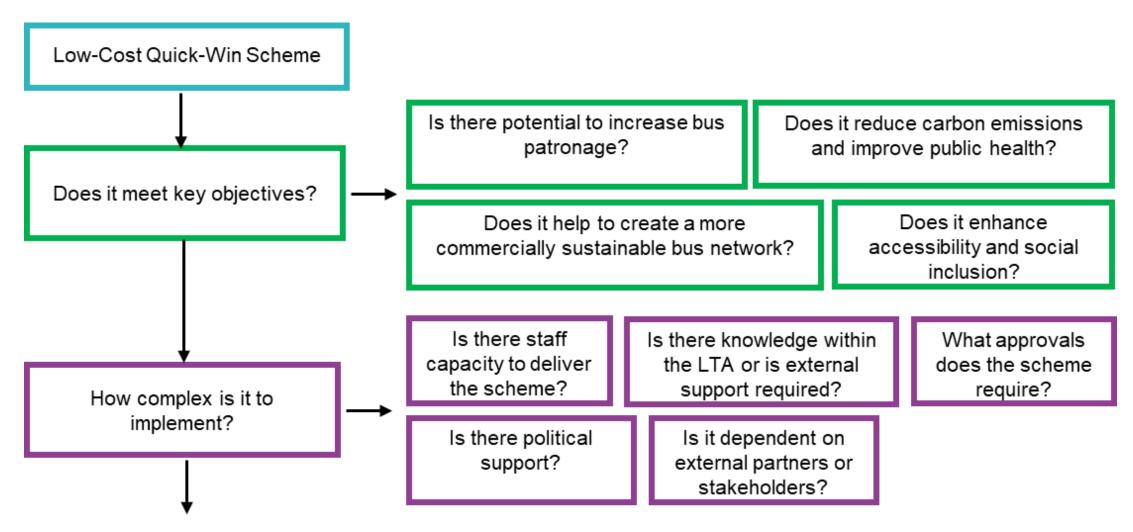
Improving bus journeys



Framework methodology

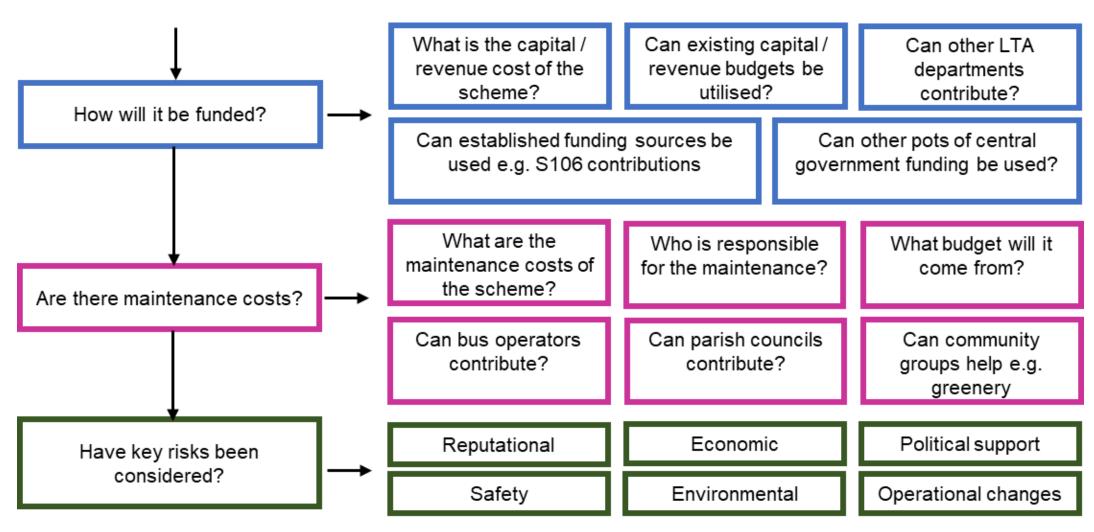
Framework Methodology

Identifying and evaluating schemes



Framework Methodology

Identifying and evaluating schemes



Mott MacDonald | Arup



Getting your foundations right

1.

Having recognisable branding, targeted marketing and a good communications strategy is essential in:

- Maintaining existing bus passengers
- Attracting new bus passengers
- Facilitating a modal shift from private vehicles
- Keeping bus passengers informed of changes



Successful networks have placed communications between service providers, highway authorities and bus users at the core of their activities

Components of a successful branding scheme

Appeal to local interests

Include route branding

Make relevant to the community

Expand over time to reduce costs

Marketing and promotion considerations

Demystify services and attract users

4

Undertake market segmentation

Highlight benefits to users

5

Focus on aspects that appeal to potential users

3

Engage with customers where they spend time

6

Emphasise key features

Developing a communications strategy

What's required in a communications strategy?	Further detail
Establish objectives	Identify why there is a need to get this information (or message) acrossIdentify they desired outcomes
Identify and understand the target audience and stakeholders	Target towards specific audiences and stakeholders
Determine key information and messages	 Create a clear message to ensure accurate and consistent information which can then be conveyed to stakeholders
Have targeted outreach and planned messaging – choose the right channels	 Information must be communicated with the customer or a stakeholder on a platform they are likely to use Customers should be able to respond back to the provider on platforms If using multiple platforms, the message or information needs to be consistent.
Set a timescale	Communicate information or messaging for an appropriate time period
Enable feedback and monitoring	 Rapid responses help build customer confidence and feedback can be requested on multiple platforms Feedback options should be highlighted and marketed on websites, on buses themselves and on social media.

Who to target in a communications strategy

Key Groups	Attributes
Young people	 Do not have access to independent transport Less likely to have a driver's licence Likely to be environmentally conscious Use social media and smartphones
Employed people with limited disposable income	 Likely to have fixed travel habits Concerned about the cost of travel
Households with limited or no car availability	 Urban areas tend to have lower car ownership People in single car households may also be isolated during the day if the car is being used
Older age groups	 Often reluctant to give up driving as a primary mode of transport and likely to travel less frequently May have concerns about safety, security and anti-social behaviour Less likely to access information through smartphones
Major trip attractors e.g. hospitals	Tend to have parking pressures

Attracting new users

Attributes of Bus Travel	Further Detail
Improvements in bus journey times	Such as routes with priority measures or fewer bus stops
Making buses convenient	Increasing services in urban centres where car movement is restricted
Car vs bus price	Marketing prices in comparison to the cost of fuel and parking to show buses as a cost-effective option
Facilities	 Highlighting information about the features on the buses, such as Wi-Fi and charging points which can be used during journeys
Fares	Promoting affordable bus fares and tickets to attract new bus users
Environment	 Promoting green buses, the CO₂ savings, and benefits of buses to incentivise bus travel
Marketing	 A successful marketing and promotion scheme should be informed by data and statistics to support bus information and increase trust and confidence in buses Marketing provides deeper research that influences the offer in a targeted way

Case Study

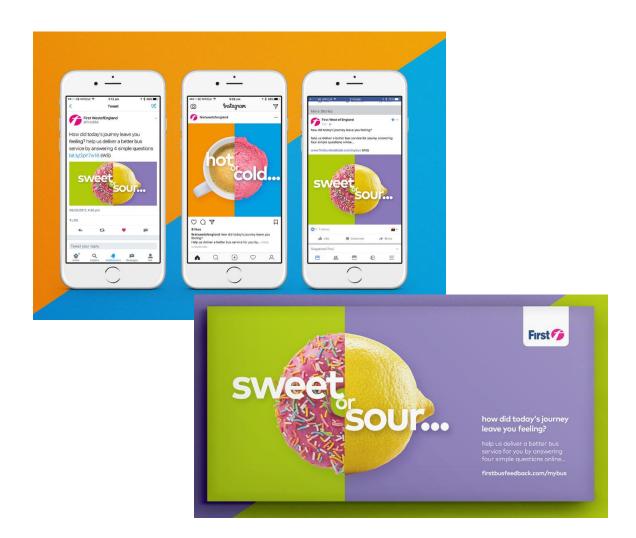
First Bus (Bristol) Customer Feedback Campaign

The scheme aimed to look at 'How was your journey today' and gather surveys results from customers:

- In transit through paper tickets and in bus posters
- Post-journey via social media, and their website

The aim was to ensure that people who used the service that day would be able to give back their feedback:

- What service did you travel on?
- 'How satisfied were you with the journey?'
- 'How likely are you to recommend the service to a friend?'
- 'Why?'



Case Studies

Brighton and Hove

Brighton and Hove Buses, part of the Go Ahead Group, has several components within their communication plan:

- Contact centre open 7 days a week
- Can be reached by email, phone and SMS
- A physical shop within the city
- Various social media platforms from which they can communicate with their customers and vice-versa.

The branding for Brighton and Hove Buses is also important.

The buses are recognisable, colourful and many have the key attractions of the city on the sides of the bus.



Key lessons

1.

Having a communications strategy is important

2.

All strategies should have clear branding

3.

Use a variety of multi-media platforms to communicate with customers

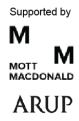
4.

Implement quick feedback systems

5.

Develop marketing suitable for both current and new users

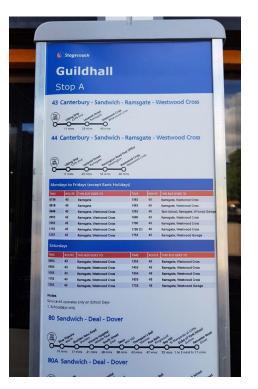




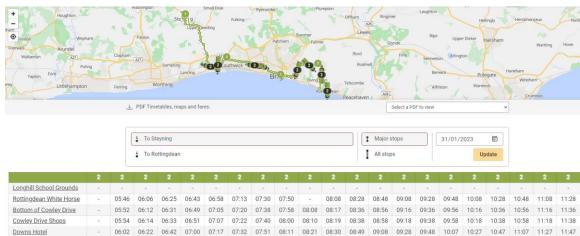
Getting your foundations right

Service information is important in making potential customers aware of the offer:

- Traditional formats timetables as stops and online which are easy to understand and read, maps should be linked to timetables
- Interactive maps customers can find out about services, routes, departure times, journey/arrival times and fares in one place
- New media and digital communications apps include bus information which is accessible on the go, can alert about problems and enable two-directional exchange of information







Legibility

Improving legibility can be a simple win, the first being the level of information presented and the second being the extent to which it can be read and understood



Building on foundations

Traditional formats at bus stops

- Information must be up to date, legible, simple and clear
- Timetables should have distance and timing measures

Websites and online service information

- Must be easy to navigate
- Get feedback from users
- Include links to other operator timetables
- Include live interactive maps
- Provide information on leisure activities and bus routes serving them

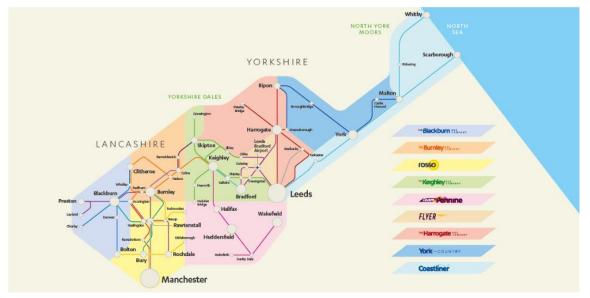
New media

- Apps should be advertised on websites and social media
- Should be consistent with information on websites
- Enable users to search for buses whilst on the move
- Easy to navigate
- Get feedback from users
- Provide live information

Case Study

Transdev

- Transdev provides a variety of service information on its website and app
- Route maps are all colour coded
- Buses themselves have lots of on-board service information, such as next stop information, announcements and countdown timers





Key lessons

1.

Bus stops should be well lit with physical timetables and information 2.

Websites should have a clear timetable, network map and live information

3.

Apps should include live information, timetables, maps, mobile tickets and feedback systems 4.

Updates to in-bus service information can improve the journey and increase patronage **5.**

Customer feedback is useful in understanding what needs to be improved





Bus stop accessibility and quality auditing

Bus stop auditing

Importance and common challenges

People are attracted to high quality services

Having a good quality bus stop that is accessible to all users makes the bus a more attractive option for everyone.

Universal access for all passengers

Bus stops in the UK, especially in rural areas, often lack essential elements to ensure accessibility and passenger comfort.

Establishing a baseline for improvement

Local authorities and bus operators need to measure and rank bus stop quality, to effectively prioritise improvements to their bus stops.

Bridging the gap between urban and rural areas

Rural and suburban bus stops often fall behind the standard of other European countries

Accountability

Access to a standardised bus stop audit template would facilitate a targeted programme to raise the standard of bus stops.

Provide the basics

Ensure all bus stops provide **level boarding**, timetable information and are sheltered.

Bus stop auditing

Key considerations

Three main elements need to be considered to develop a good quality bus stop:

- Access to the bus stop (walking / wheeling / cycling)
- 2. Bus stop surroundings / vicinity / wider public realm
- Actual bus stop design

The bus stop itself is only one part of the picture that must be optimised. Improvements to a bus stop must not be limited to the shelter and boarding area. Clear and accessible routes to the bus stop and inviting public space is equally important. Rural bus stop with no access routes, timetable information, level boarding, or shelter (Staffordshire)



A higher quality rural bus stop, with clear up-to-date timetables, but with no level access routes (Gloucestershire)

Ensuring accessibility to bus stops

1

Bus stops should be visible and well spaced. They should be around 400 metres apart, ensuring as many destinations are within reach as possible 2

Important destinations (hospitals, shopping centres, etc.) and transport nodes should be served directly

3

Adequate crossings near bus stops, with well-lit pedestrian paths and cycle route connections

4

Clear wayfinding to and from bus stops for the surrounding area and destinations. 5

Integration of other modes at the bus stop to allow for access by other means (car, micromobility, cycle parking, etc.).

Ensuring accessibility at bus stops

1

Sufficient road space to allow buses to pull in parallel to the kerbside.

2

Kerb of sufficient size and at correct height to allow for the bus platform to line up and the accessible bus boarding ramp to be deployed. 3

Space available on the footway to endure clear manoeuvrability of a wheelchair. 4

Level access routes extend directly into the bus stop waiting area for seamless journeys.

5

Accessible service information in different mediums (audio / braille / etc.)

Building on your foundations – audit templates

Possible indicators

- Passenger numbers / Catchment area of bus stop / Social importance of bus stop
- Accessibility of stop location for disabled and mobility impaired users
- Service frequency and average waiting time
- Availability of footway, cycleway, crossings to reach bus stop
- Kerbside access / level access
- Level of street lighting
- Connections to other modes of transport (intercity buses and coaches / rapid transit / railways / car sharing / etc.)
- Close to hospitals / schools / other centres of activity
- Primary modes of access to bus stop (walking / wheeling / cycling)
- Type of passenger / typical frequency of bus usage (to inform level of information required)
- Type of road on which the stop is situated (rural byway / 'A' road / urban street / etc.)
- Co-operation with advertising providers / other services to improve bus stop with external funds

Key lessons

1.

All bus stops should meet certain minimum requirements (as far as possible) 2.

Bus stops should be prioritised to help direct investment of provision

3.

A database of bus stops and their features should be created 4.

Collaboration is key for bus stop improvements

5.

Bus stop audit templates could be consistent across LTA and STB boundaries





Importance of improving bus stops and creating hubs

Improvements to the passenger experience at bus stops are essential to growing bus patronage

Opportunity to create bus 'hubs' – providing seamless connections to rail and active modes

Hub locations can increase the reach of bus services, allowing connections from a wider area by other modes

Not all bus stops will require the same level of infrastructure – this will vary with location, ridership - but all stops should aim to provide the following:

- Height and type of kerb that is accessible for all users
- Ample space for pushchairs, wheelchairs and trolleys
- Clear and consistent naming to avoid confusion
- A space that feels and is secure (including lighting / CCTV)
- Shelter and seating where space permits
- Accurate travel information (including timetables and maps)
- Easy to read maps and signage to key local landmarks
- Where possible, co-located seamlessly with other modes

Situational prioritisation for stop improvements

Exemplary bus stop looks different in different contexts. Some amenities are only appropriate at key locations with high ridership.

- Rural locations: shelter and level boarding area
- Suburban locations: better real-time information
- Town centres: visible, welcoming, provide for all passenger needs



Rural bus stop in Germany, with shelter, clear and consistent branding, and timetables.

Bus stop improvements

Financing and justifying bus stop improvements

Know who is responsible for bus stops

Charge operators for using bus stops

Advertising companies can finance shelters

Mandate operators to adhere to certain standards

Integrate with other services

Passenger improvements can have quantifiable impacts

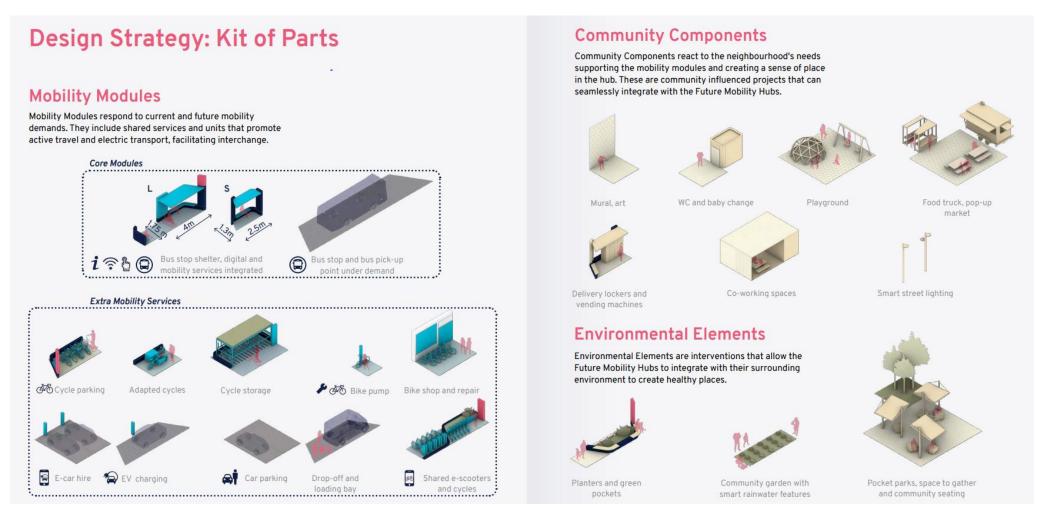
Moving towards hubs

Incremental upgrades can slowly create 'super bus stops' or 'bus hubs' Bus stops can become key destinations

Co-location with services can bring community benefits

Clear branding and better visibility attracts passengers

Moving towards hubs



From bus stop to mobility hub

Integrated into walking and **Combination of modes** cycling routes **Services beyond transport Good street design Enhanced public realm Clear branding**

From bus stop to mobility hub



Phased growth of a simple bus stop into a comprehensive hub for the community

Key lessons

1.

Focus on existing bus stops that already have 'hubtype' features 2.

Many stops already have multimodal elements but are not treated as hubs 3.

Hub systems increase the attractiveness and visibility of buses in rural areas

4.

Co-location with modes and community uses can achieve more

5.

Hubs can be developed incrementally over a longer period



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Bus journey reliability

Importance of improving the bus journey

Bus journeys are important in enticing potential passengers to use services

Any improvements to services in terms of speed or reliability will be valuable

Unreliable timetables could make bus an unrealistic mode of travel

Timetables should account for common areas of congestion and be realistic about journey times Time spent waiting at bus stops is perceived as more taxing than time spent on vehicles

Operators should be aware of congestion hotspots and monitor typical bus performance in those areas

Do you have examples of where you have worked collaboratively with operators?

Improving reliability

Physical priority measures and bus-only lanes can improve reliability - but can be expensive.

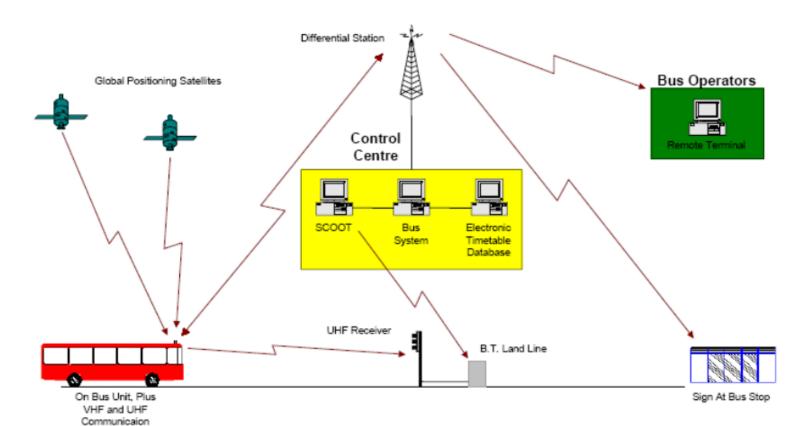
However, substantial gains can still be made via non-priority methods:

- Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) can give buses priority at signals
- Green signal phases can be extended or brought forward

It is noted that TSP is more effective in urban areas, but can still be useful in rural areas, especially areas of tourism congestion.

Improving reliability

Bus Location and Priority



Typical system architecture for a TSP installation

Case Study

TSP Impact

- Significant improvements have been made with respect to:
 - Delay reduction
 - Journey time reduction
 - Patronage levels

City	Impact
Delay Reduction at Junctions	
Aalborg	5.8 sec / bus / junction
London	4 s/b/j
Southampton	9.5 s/b/j
Auckland	11 s/b/j
Journey Time Reduction	
Aalborg	4%
Cardiff	4%
Genoa	8%
Gothenburg	14%
Helsinki	11%
Stockholm	10%
Los Angeles	7%
Passenger Levels	
Helsinki	increase of 11%
Stuttgart	increase of 10%
Los Angeles	increase of 13%

Case Study

TSP in Oxfordshire

- BSIP proposed TSP installation at all 147 signalised junctions in Oxford
- To then be expanded to all junctions in other main towns within the county
- Journey time savings of four minutes estimated on a round-trip
- Alongside other priority measures estimates a 10% overall journey time reduction
- An increase in passenger numbers is expected to cover the cost of TSP installation within one year
- Cost of around £9,000 per junction and £6,500 per signalised crossing.



Image Source: OxLep

Key lessons

1.

Bus journey reliability and journey time reductions are essential to growing passenger satisfaction and patronage 2.

TSP only makes sense where there are established junctions with congestion problems 3.

The greatest impact from TSP can be made in urban centres with many traffic signals

4.

Return on investment can quickly be gained by speeding up services, increasing ridership and reducing scheduling pressures **5.**

Many previous applications of TSP have led to large measurable delay reductions, journey time reductions, and patronage increases



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Conclusions

Branding, marketing and communications

Consider a shared regional resource

Raise the profile of existing schemes

3

Work with third parties

4

Collaborate working

Service information

Better enforce existing Better utilise existing material agreements Adopt a regional approach A national position from DfT Learn from other sectors

Improve the visibility of bus stops

Bus stop auditing

Review bus stop locations

Ensure bus stops are located close to key destinations

Improving accessibility to bus stops benefits all passengers

Bus stops and hubs

Prioritise stops owned by LTAs Try to source maintenance or with existing features funding ere Include standards in bus **Start with simple improvements** passenger charters **Utilise regional authority** Get sponsors for bus stops systems **Build stops around community** Highlight benefits to local buildings businesses and communities

Bus journey reliability

Make real-time information available

Changes to traffic signals

Free streets of congestion

4

Bus-only signals and turning movements

5

Implement non-physical priority measures

One-to-one support will be available following Webinar

A limited number of one hour long one-to-one sessions will be available for you to speak with our experts regarding a specific issue related to low cost quick wins

There are many crossovers with other Support Packages

- SP2: Data analysis, monitoring and evaluation
- SP 7: Rural hubs and integration
- SP9: Collaborative working and bus forums
- SP10: Marketing



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Thank you