CS10: Transportation and Movement

Scheme: Extended car parking facilities at Nailsea/Backwell Rail Station

Scheme Prioritisation within Infrastructure Delivery Plan: Necessary

Cost Estimate: £500k in Funding Source: Local Transport Plan

2010/11 prices / Community Infrastructure Levy

Expected Completion Date: by 2015

Scheme Description:

Nailsea and Backwell station was originally designed with 112 car parking spaces. Subsequent alterations have slightly increased this number but the car park is regularly at capacity with vehicles overflowing into the local residential area. The station is some distance from Nailsea and parts of Backwell which limits the transport options for travelling to the station and for many the private car is the only realistic way to access the rail network. The proposed scheme would extend the car park to provide space for an additional 200 vehicles.

Scheme Deliverability:

The land required to provide the extension has been purchased by North Somerset Council and detailed designs have been undertaken. The scheme will be put forward for delivery within the 2012 – 2015 LTP programme. The potential to secure funding via the CIL will be explored and there is the possibility of phasing delivery of the scheme to minimise the impact on available LTP funding. Discussions have been held with the Environment Agency regarding the flood risk and mitigation measures have been proposed. Ecological surveys have also been undertaken.

Consultation:

Consultation undertaken with Nailsea Town Council indicates that there is broad support for the expansion of the existing car park. North Somerset Council receives regular correspondence from members of the public and environmental groups who urge the council to expand the existing car park to make rail travel a more attractive transport choice and relieve local congestion. In addition First Great Western has confirmed that they support the car park extension.

Scheme Justification:

Nailsea and Backwell station car park is currently over-subscribed and is regularly at capacity by 7.30am on weekdays deterring people from using the train for their regular commute to work as well as leaving no space for travellers who wish to travel off peak when there is more capacity on the trains. If rail use it to continue to expand and be attractive in reducing the number of single occupancy car journeys it is important that adequate parking facilities be provided at the station. The lack of car parking also results in many people parking in adjoining residential streets and in the nearby lake car park. This overflow parking is a nuisance to local residents.

The Replacement Local Plan Policy T/2 safeguarded land adjacent to the existing car park for a 200 space extension.

Scheme Plan

