

**REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
24 JUNE 2002**

**REPORT ON: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – CITY CENTRE – WHITEHALL STREET/
UNION STREET**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 475-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- to inform committee of a proposed design competition to provide high quality public transport facilities in the City Centre as part of the 'Bringing Confidence into Public Transport' project.
- to commence the Traffic Regulation Order process necessary in Whitehall Street and Union Street to protect the structural condition of the carriageway in Union Street and enhance public transport operations in the Whitehall Street area.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the preparation of Traffic Regulation Orders for restrictions to traffic in Union Street and Whitehall Street.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The costs of implementing the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders and design competition are estimated at £15,000 and these will be met from the Public Transport Fund budget of £924,000 in 2002/03 for 'Bringing Confidence into Public Transport'.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The aims of Local Agenda 21 will be taken into consideration throughout the 'Bringing Confidence into Public Transport' project. The components of the project will all be designed and extensive consultations continue to be undertaken to ensure that sustainable public transport is at the forefront.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The City Council acknowledges the dominance of the private car within its transport network. The promotion of public transport, walking and cycling routes by measures included within this report aims to move towards redressing the balance for large numbers of the city's population who do not have access to the private car or who choose to undertake travel by other means.

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 Overview

- a The structural condition of the carriageway in Union Street is poor and without action may become unsafe. In order to protect its condition, scheduled bus services are to be prevented from using Union Street. The bus services that currently use Union Street are to be moved to Whitehall Street.

- b To achieve suitable operating conditions for buses in Whitehall Street a Traffic Regulation Order restricting general traffic is required. The proposed outcome is that general traffic only will use Union Street (ie no scheduled buses), while Whitehall Street will be for buses and vehicles servicing commercial properties only. The majority of parking spaces removed in Whitehall Street will be replaced in Union Street where currently the bus stances are located.
- c In addition, the waiting environment for bus users in Whitehall Street is to be substantially improved as part of the 'Bringing Confidence into Public Transport' project funded by the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund. The historical significance of Whitehall Street and its importance to the City Centre is recognised and it is proposed to hold a design competition for the public transport infrastructure improvements engaging high quality design companies to address all architectural, environmental, planning and conservation aspects of the Whitehall Street streetscape.

6.2 Union Street

- a The structural condition of the carriageway in Union Street has been giving cause for concern for some time with road failure, settlement and distortion occurring in three locations over the past five years.
- b A technical report assessing the surfacing failure has identified that the surfacing that has failed largely corresponds with the routing of public transport vehicles and that continued heavy loading could induce further settlement with associated risk to pedestrians and services. The report goes on to recommend that public transport services should be removed from Union Street.
- c It is therefore proposed to promote a Traffic Regulation Order on grounds of safety and protection of carriageway structure to prohibit scheduled public transport services from traversing Union Street.

6.3 Whitehall Street

- a The scheduled bus services prohibited from using Union Street will move to Whitehall Street as part of their route. To facilitate suitable operating conditions it is proposed to promote a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict Whitehall Street to scheduled buses and vehicles servicing commercial properties only. To complement this, new facilities are to be provided for bus users in Whitehall Street.
- b A Committee Report (Report No 384-2001) approved at Planning and Transportation Committee on 25 June 2001 detailed a bid for funding to the Scottish Executive from their Public Transport Fund (PTF) for improvements to public transport interchanges in the City Centre and at Ninewells Hospital and for a 'step change' in information provision. The project is titled 'Bringing Confidence into Public Transport' (BCPT) and was successful in gaining £2.31 million from the PTF.
- c A key element of the BCPT project is the recognition that currently the standard of passenger waiting facilities is poor at key interchanges in the City Centre – Whitehall Street, St Andrews Street and Victoria Road. In particular, whilst there is basic bus stop provision in Whitehall Street, there is not the facilities or image of a major interchange for the city.
- d Through consultations with various organisations and representatives – such as the bus operators, City Centre Manager, Overgate and Wellgate Managers, bus user groups, Chambers of Commerce, Pedestrian Association, Friends of the Earth – the concept emerged for high quality waiting facilities provided under linked canopies that will be

purpose made to fit in with the historical streetscape of Whitehall Street whilst providing a new high quality image for bus services.

6.4 Design Competition

- a The highly sensitive nature of the Whitehall Street, its historical significance to the City Centre and the need to protect the quality streetscape is recognised.
- b For this reason it is proposed to hold a design competition between a shortlist of four specialised companies for the design of the Whitehall Street public transport infrastructure improvements. The shortlist has been drawn up from recommendations made from a number of sources including the project managers JMP Consultants Ltd and the chosen companies are recognised as leaders in their field of expertise. The companies are:
- c The chosen design will address all architectural, environmental, planning and conservation aspects of the Whitehall Street streetscape.

7 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning and the Chief Constable have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Committee Report No 384-2001, Public Transport Fund Bid 2001-2003.

Mike Galloway
Director of Planning and Transportation

Iain Sherriff
Roads and Transportation Manager

14 June 2002

IFS/SA/EES

Dundee City Council
Tayside House
Dundee