

## Executive Summary - Lower Sunbury Crossing – September 2022 Update

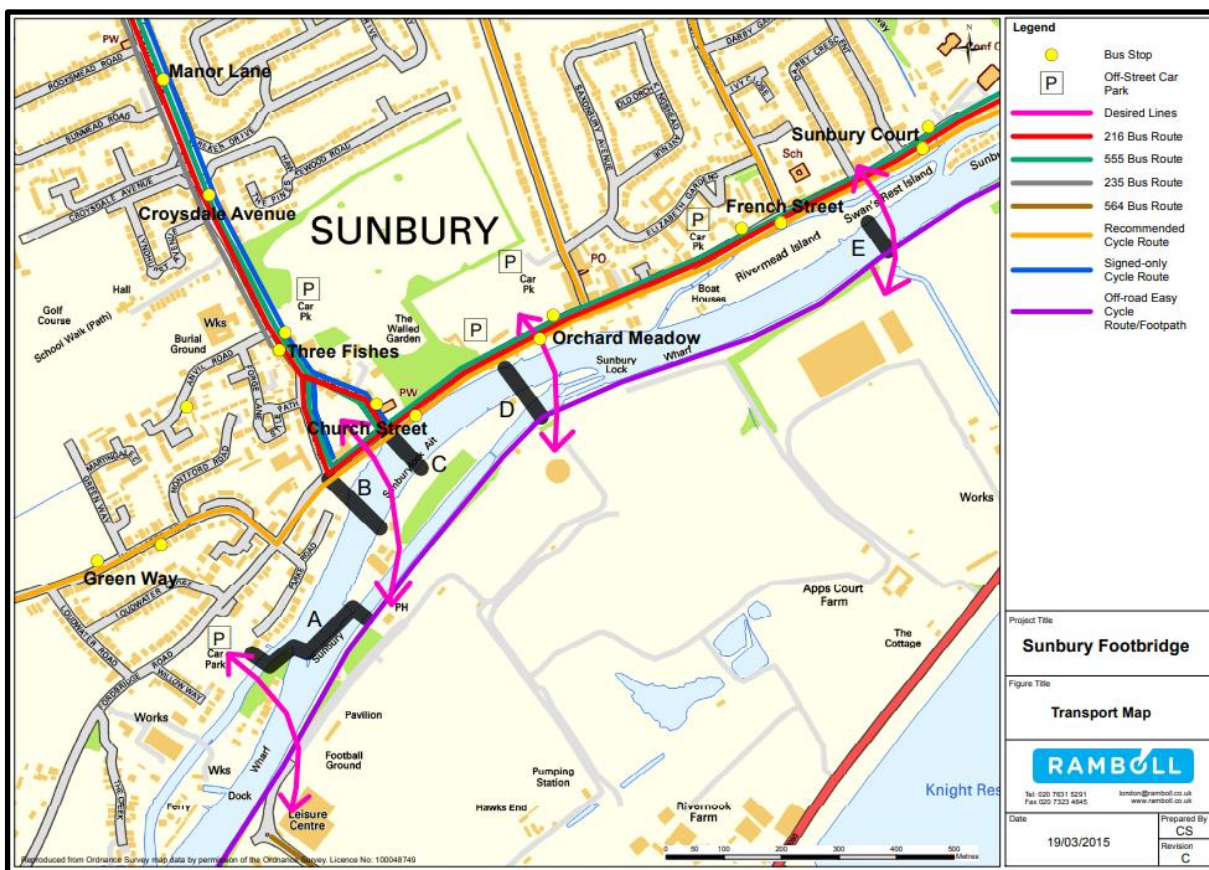
### Background and Summary:

The Lower Sunbury Residents' Association (LOSRA) have been asking for a new cycle and footbridge over the River Thames at Sunbury, for commuter and leisure travel. This is driven by local resident demand for additional river crossings, to promote active travel and improve connectivity and access to facilities in key town centres either side of the Thames. The new bridge would connect Lower Sunbury in the north, to the Thames Path National Trail, Walton, Mosely & Hampton Court on the south bank.

Currently the nearest river crossings to Sunbury are at Walton bridge or Hampton Court bridge.

LORSA commissioned architecture and engineering consultancy Ramboll to complete a feasibility report on the options for a new cycle or foot crossing at Sunbury, published in March 2015. The report identified 5 potential locations to site the new bridge:

- A. Weir Crossing
- B. Flower Pot Green
- C. Church Street
- D. King's Lawn
- E. Rivermead Island



The average cost proposal estimated at the time of the report was £5M, based on the expected rates for the following elements: landscaping, ramps and approach structures, primary and secondary spans, expected design and specialist fees and contingencies. Each proposal was also assessed against its connectivity, buildability, amenity value and visual impact. Sites B & C received the highest scores across the range of criteria, with site B potentially being the most economical due to its buildability.

An internal meeting was held by Surrey County Council in February 2022, with representation from the Major Projects, Infrastructure Schemes, Transport Policy and Area Highways teams to discuss the 2015 Ramboll report. A further meeting was then held with SCC, Elmbridge Borough Council and Spelthorne Borough Council in March 2022, where it was agreed both borough councils were supportive of the concept for a new crossing at Sunbury and the scheme aligned with their own sustainability and active travel initiatives, but potential funding for the scheme would still need to be determined.

The costs in the 2015 Ramboll study report were considered to potentially be low, and it was agreed by SCC to allocate funding from the feasibility budget to enable SCC's partner consultant (Atkins) to complete a review of the report and determine the feasibility of the previously proposed options. The Atkins assessment was instructed to include an evaluation and re-assessment of the estimated cost to deliver each of the 5 site proposals, based on similar project precedence, best practice and current market conditions.

Funding for the project is still to be defined and therefore the updated cost estimates are a critical factor in determining the viability of the project and the decision to progress forward as a CAT 1 delivery scheme. In addition to the scale of funding required for the project, Elmbridge Borough Council and Spelthorne Borough Council will also need to assess other influencing factors, including any planning permissions, site specific complexities (e.g. ground conditions) and land ownership.

#### **Current position and engagement:**

The draft report has been received from Atkins and has been reviewed by the SCC project lead, and a meeting held with SCC officers/Atkins to discuss the findings of the report and feedback any additional comments or queries to Atkins. As a result Atkins are currently updating the report to cover the additional points identified. Once this updated report has been produced and reviewed, a follow up meeting with both Elmbridge and Spelthorne Borough Councils will be arranged, to discuss the findings of the report and agree the next steps to take the project forward. This will include discussion and potential agreement on the funding sources each of the local authority organisations may be able to provide to develop and deliver the scheme and any additional wider project requirements, such as planning permissions, as raised in the Atkins report. Should a source of funding be determined, the project will submit a report to Cabinet as appropriate.

If a suitable level of funding, as stipulated by the Atkins report, cannot be identified or sourced by SCC or the borough councils, SCC will re-evaluate whether the project will need to be paused or if early development of the scheme can progress through consultation and up to the option selection stage. The project will require confirmation funding has been identified and secured prior to progressing to delivery.

#### **Next steps:**

- First assessment of the Atkins report completed by SCC officers at a review meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> August/subsequent follow up meeting. Currently awaiting revised Atkins report anticipated by end September to provide more detail.
- Follow-up meeting to be held with SCC and the borough councils to assess finding of the report and next steps, including determining the source of project funding (planned October 2022).
- SCC to evaluate funding sources for the project and determine the next steps, including whether to take the project forward as a category 1 project or place the project on hold until suitable funding is in place (planned October/November 2022).