

# The Preferred Strategy - details 4

## BRISTOL - EXETER TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

### KEY PROBLEMS

Congestion on the trunk road network around Bristol, Taunton and Exeter. Particular problems occur around Bristol. At Exeter, the M5 at junctions 29 and 30 is the key location. Taunton is centrally located on the corridor, and experiences regular peak hour congestion at M5 Junction 25.

Seasonal congestion on the M5 is especially acute on summer holiday weekends with significant amounts of traffic heading to/from the holiday resorts in Devon and Cornwall (in particular).

The peripherality of Devon and Cornwall. This corridor is the key link with the Midlands and further north, as well as an important link from the South West to London and the South East.

Unreliability of travel times, on both the road and rail networks.

The low frequency of public transport services (away from the corridor); available services operate at irregular and/or long intervals. Also, there is a lack of connectivity between different travel modes, particularly bus/rail. Interchange is difficult at many locations along the corridor.

### PRINCIPAL MEASURES

A number of additional passenger rail services are proposed for the Bristol-Exeter corridor rail line (including extended London-Bristol services, enhanced direct Paddington-South West services via the Berks & Hants, services centred on Bristol and services centred on Exeter). Services between the South West, the Midlands and further north are already set to improve with existing 'cross-country' franchise commitments. Enhancements to the rail network around Bristol to allow extra services to run.

Major enhancement to the coach network. Despite the focus of SWARMMS on the main corridors through the region (M5 between Bristol and Exeter), the express bus network proposed also provides significant enhancement for connecting movements off the main corridors.

A comprehensive programme of upgrading existing public transport interchanges (both rail and coach/bus).

This corridor will benefit from the rural public transport schemes developed in the Rural Access to the Transport System Plan.

A new Intelligent Transport System (ITS) is also proposed for the M5 corridor. This will particularly assist in reducing the number of accidents along the route as well as providing better information at times of congestion. Minor junction improvements are also proposed.

Targeted improvements to the motorway network around Bristol, including a 'controlled motorway' ITS system.

