

INNOVATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FOR THE TEES VALLEY

More transport funding was confirmed yesterday for the Tees Valley, this time designed specifically to support new housing growth.

The Government has announced £3.9 million of funding towards the first phase of the Network Management Strategy which will see the Highways Agency install traffic lights at five entry slip roads along the A19 and A66.



The traffic lights will operate at peak times when flows along the A19 and A66 are heavy. Traffic is released to join the main carriageway when there is a gap in the traffic flow. This reduces the build up of congestion and improves overall journey times. This technique, known as 'ramp metering', has already been used on a number of motorways across the UK, but this will be one of the first occasions in which ramp metering has been applied on 'A'

roads.

Design work will start on the project shortly, with construction beginning in late 2010,. The signals are planned to be operational in Spring 2011, allowing new housing sites to be brought forward across the Tees Valley as the housing market recovers.

Vanessa Gilbert, the Highway's Agency Divisional Director for the North East said:

"The Highways Agency has been working in close partnership with the Tees Valley to develop a transport strategy that allows much needed development to go ahead. We are pleased to be able to bring forward this scheme, which represents an important milestone in the delivery of the strategy."

Hugh Lang, Chair of Tees Valley Unlimited said:

"The implementation of the new signals will mean improved reliability at peak times as well as allowing the Tees Valley to bring forward some important housing sites. This brings the transport investment planned for the Tees Valley in the next three years to over £100 million, and is a reward once again for working closely with our partners to develop solutions for all road users."

Interested parties can keep up to date with the progress of the proposal through the Councils' websites, or using the new travel information portal found at www.connectteesvalley.com.

NOTE FOR EDITORS: For further information please contact Peter Dodson, telephone 07753 910536.