

Highways

Highways Commissioning
Block 5, 6th Floor East
Shire Hall
Gloucester GL1 2TH

08000 514 514
socialdistancing@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Our Ref: 11278916

31 July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Cycling and walking improvements on London Road, Cheltenham Road and Estcourt Road

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to let you know about some changes which are happening on the highway near you.

Throughout August, Gloucestershire County Council will be installing upgraded pedestrian and cycle facilities along London Road, both sides of Cheltenham Road and at the junction with Estcourt Road to support social distancing measures, and to build upon the increase in walking and cycling seen across the county.

Why is this work happening?

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic the government asked all councils in England to reallocate road space to cycling and walking activity, both to encourage active travel and to assist social distancing on public transport when lockdown restrictions are eased.

As Gloucestershire recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic, the county and district councils have identified an initial set of schemes which can be rapidly installed. These are focused on delivering schemes which assist with the county's economic recovery and offer greener travel choices that will make it easier for both residents and visitors to access city centre jobs, services, education, shopping and visitor attractions.

The scheme proposals are aimed at encouraging and supporting walking and cycling trips into the city and around surrounding areas, including the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, University campus at Oxstalls and station

To meet the ambitions set by Government to support the county through the challenges presented by the Coronavirus pandemic, the scheme has been rapidly developed and is being installed under temporary traffic regulations specifically brought to respond to and help counter the effects of Coronavirus. The scheme is being implemented as a trial, and we would welcome any immediate thoughts or comments on the proposals which we will try to address where possible.

The scheme will be monitored, and if the trial proves successful, there is the potential for it to be made into a permanent change. Should this be progressed there will be a further detailed consultation which would allow further opportunity for comments and potential amendments to address any challenges the scheme may present. I will write to you again to let you know if this happens.

What we are doing

The scheme includes two additional zebra crossings for pedestrians, upgrading the existing cycle lanes in and out of the city centre to 2 metre wide 24-hour mandatory lanes which will be coloured to make them more visible to all road users.

To allow the two continuous cycle lanes on London Road as well as sufficient safe lane widths along this key bus corridor in the city, the central islands and a number of small footway buildouts will be removed. Additionally, parking spaces on the westbound carriageway will need to be relocated locally into nearby side streets. We have worked hard to ensure that this results in an overall increase in the number of designated

parking spaces in the area compared with the current parking provision. All relocated parking is within a short walk of the parking spaces on London Road that it is designed to replace, as shown in the enclosed plan.

We are providing additional information for properties which we have identified as directly affected by the relocation of the parking bays.

The existing eastbound bus lane on Cheltenham Road between London Road and Estcourt Roundabout will also be suspended to allow the installation of the mandatory cycle lanes in both directions.

The existing zebra crossing near to England's Glory public house along London Road will remain in place and the existing bus stop bays and laybys remain unaffected.

When will the works start and what effects will it have on road users?

The planned works will start on 3rd August 2020 and continue throughout the month.

To minimise disruptions on this busy road, **the current programme is for the majority of works to take place overnight** and under shuttle working or temporary traffic lights ensuring all traffic movements will be maintained. Where possible, every effort will be made to carry out noisier elements of the work at the beginning of the shift to minimise disturbance to local residents. There are no proposals to close London Road at this time, but please note we are planning to close Estcourt Road roundabout for 2 nights in order to install road markings, advance warning and diversion routes will be clearly signed.

Our construction programme is dependent on several factors. It can be affected by things like; heavy rain and other weather events as well as plant breakdown and unforeseen technical issues that arise once work has begun. All this means **scheme dates and details can change at short notice**. We appreciate this is inconvenient, and we will keep our online schedule updated with more details if changes happen.

You can find the more information about the scheme on our:

- Website – www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/london-road
- Signs in the area
- Facebook – Gloucestershire Roads
- Twitter - @GlosRoads

If you do not have access to the internet or social media, you may wish to ask friends or neighbours to help you access our website. If you know of neighbours who cannot access our website, please share this information with them.

We appreciate any road closures are inconvenient, but in order to keep you and the team working on the road safe it is necessary. We have planned the work so we can be in and out as quickly as possible and have tried to do it at a time that will minimise any inconvenience.

Contact Us

Thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation. If you have any queries, please email us at socialdistancing@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

We look forward to your support, we hope you can appreciate that to gain the maximum benefit from the scheme that we need to start works very soon. Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders will be publicised shortly allowing us to install these some of these features.

As noted, where possible we will consider all comments or concerns on this trial scheme that you may have and accommodate any operational issues you may have during the construction phase where appropriate.

Kind regards,

Fraser Reid
Project Manager
On behalf of Gloucestershire County Council