

Business Bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 12 September 2024

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
Councillor Stephen Jenkinson (Convener)	Councillor Aston Councillor Booth Councillor Dijkstra-Downie Councillor Faccenda Councillor Glasgow Councillor Hyslop Councillor Lang Councillor Munro Councillor O'Neill Councillor Whyte	Alison Coburn Operations Manager Natalie Carter-Osbourne Committee Services Carolanne Eyre Committee Services

Recent news	Contact for further information
<p>Corstorphine Connections</p> <p>The Corstorphine Connections project aims to create a safer and more comfortable environment for residents walking, cycling and wheeling, as well as spending time in the local streets and outdoor spaces of Corstorphine.</p> <p>On 19 August 2021, Committee agreed to implement the project on a trial basis under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). The trial commenced on 24 May 2023 and can last for up to 18 months.</p> <p>As part of the ETRO process, there is a six-month public advertising and consultation period, which ran from 24 May to 23 November 2023. However, as detailed in the Business Bulletin on 11 January 2024, a second six-month consultation period was subsequently undertaken from 8 January to 7 July 2024.</p> <p>Since the scheme commenced, monitoring information has been gathered on traffic levels, traffic speeds, noise levels, air quality and levels of active travel. Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A decrease in traffic on the streets around Corstorphine Primary School of up to 9.2% at peak times, but an overall increase in traffic across the project area of up to 6.5%;	<p>Andrew Easson</p> <p>Wards Affected:</p> <p>6 - Corstorphine/ Murrayfield</p>

- Traffic speeds have fallen overall in the project area, whilst air and noise quality have seen small overall improvements;
- Overall levels of cycling have increased by 3.6% and walking by 2.2%, though this will be somewhat influenced by seasonal variations and post-covid travel patterns; and
- The overall level of active travel to primary schools in the area has increased by 3%, resulting in 71% of children using active travel to get to school.

The data was gathered in May and June 2024.

As part of the monitoring, an independent market research survey was undertaken to help understand the views of local residents who might not otherwise respond through the ETRO consultation process. This indicated that 50% of residents support the project and 24% oppose. The survey also reports very high levels of support for changes involving planters, seating, footway widening, and artistic improvements to school entrance. There are also high levels of support for the improved crossing opportunities.

During the trial, 95.3% of bus gate contraventions have been by vehicles from outside the project area and 84.6% have been by vehicles from outside the wider EH12 area (EH12 extends from Haymarket to Wester Broom, and north to East Craigs). 26.1% have been by vehicles from outside of the Edinburgh postcode areas.

Further information on the monitoring data collected and market research undertaken to date will be published on the project website in advance of Committee - [Corstorphine Connections – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

A full report on the monitoring, market research and the results for the ETRO consultation will be submitted to the next meeting of the Traffic Regulation Orders Sub-Committee, with recommendations on the next steps for the project.

Travel Tracker Update

Council officers continue to work closely with Lothian Buses to integrate their real time data onto the new on-street signs. A test sign has been set up within Lothian Buses' Annandale Street depot to replicate real time

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Wards Affected: All

information at a selected number of bus stops within the city. This enables further testing of Lothian Buses' real time departure information by monitoring the times against their real time information system, a separate GPS tracking service and live CCTV. During this time, officers and contractors will also analyse on-street data as well as back-office logs to check the validity of data. As soon as all project stakeholders agree that the data is accurate and reliable, real-time information for Lothian Buses' services will be displayed on all on-street signs at stops served by Lothian Buses' services. A verbal update on progress will be provided at Committee.

As stated in previous Business Bulletins, on street signs will not display disruption data initially (e.g. operational incidents and diversions). Initial disruption data is expected to be available from the end of September 2024, though the team will continue to develop this element in response to learning.

All other operators throughout the SEStran area using the Travel Tracker system continue to show high percentages of accurate real time departure information.

Forthcoming Activities

A costing exercise for 100 new travel tracker sites across Edinburgh is currently underway. This follows surveys of each location. The survey and costing information will identify any restrictions (e.g. lack of available power)/additional costs which would impact on the ability to rollout travel tracker signs at each of these locations. This will be presented to Committee after live disruption information has been successfully rolled out.

Supported Bus Services

Supported bus service contracts for Service 13, Dumbiedykes and Lady Nairne have been tendered and submissions assessed for quality and price. Preferred bids have been confirmed and associated contract awards will be progressed (under Delegated Authority to the Executive Director of Place.

The contracts will provide:

- A renewed Service 13 linking Craighleith to Lochend, following the same route as the existing service;
- An entirely new service from Holyrood to Tollcross, providing a direct connection for the Dumbiedykes community with the south side; and

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Wards Affected: All, particularly:

- 1 – Almond;
- 2 – Pentland Hills;
- 11 – City Centre;
- 14 –
Craigentinny/Duddingston
- 17 –
Portobello/Craigmillar

- An entirely new service from Lady Nairne to Bingham, providing essential connections to Portobello and The Jewel.

Confirmation of contract routes, frequencies and operators will be confirmed by Business Bulletin in October.

In response to the questions from Committee on the supported bus services in the west of the city, the following information has been prepared:

Committee asked about the potential for dividends from Lothian Buses to be reinvested to help widen the range of supported services, including a direct Ratho-city centre link. Any dividends received would form part of the Council's wider medium term financial planning and therefore would be considered as part of the budget setting process.

Committee asked for investigations into the possibility of a combined bus/tram through ticket from Ratho to the city centre via A8/Gyle and combined bus through ticket via Hermiston Park and Ride that will only cost £2. A through ticket is currently offered by Lothian Buses as part of the daily or weekly capped products, though not at a cost of £2 (which would not be commercially viable for the company). Therefore, any such ticket would have to be subsidised by the Council (for which there is currently no budget available). However, it is likely that other communities also served by a bus/tram or two buses to the city centre would seek a similar arrangement should a subsidised ticket be introduced for the west of the city.

Options are currently being explored with both the Lothian Buses' Service 32 and the HcL Service 68 for options to alter the Cramond – Balerno bus timetable to account for children traveling to Maybury Primary School

Engagement with Lost Shore Surf Resort, RBS Gogarburn HQ Campus and Edinburgh International Climbing Arena regarding bus services has included.

- Officers have met with representatives from Lost Shore in recent weeks and a further meeting and site visit have been agreed. Extending the Lothian Country Service 70 to directly serve the new facility when it opens is being considered.
- RBS and the operator of their existing shuttle service were consulted prior to the Service 70 specification being finalised. It was decided that provision of a stand-alone service was in the best interest of the Ratho community to ensure that they were provided with a consistent and reliable public transport service with a contract administered by the

Council meaning that it could be monitored and subsequently improved or amended as required.

The procurement process has involved developing a Dynamic Purchasing System with input from colleagues in procurement. This provided a framework of bus operators who could then submit bids for contracted routes. Route specifications were developed following engagement with communities and operators, whilst also being mindful of limited budget availability. Tender specifications were issued with frequency options and noting that alternative bids were welcome, where operators could offer better value, enhanced level of service, or improved reliability based on their experience and available resource. Bids were assessed on the basis of price and quality (70% price 30% quality).

Edinburgh City Centre Transformation (ECCT) Delivery Plan Update

The first phase of the 10 year Edinburgh City Centre Transformation Strategy (ECCT) includes several key city centre projects, which continue to progress to delivery, alongside development of other proposals set out in the spatial framework. ECCT is now embedded within the City Mobility Plan's spatial vision and supports a net zero, climate ready Edinburgh by 2030.

In February 2024, Committee approved the Future Streets Framework (FSF) / City Centre Circulation Plan (CCCP) which provide a framework for rethinking the city's streets and key travel corridors to prioritise sustainable travel and placemaking.

The CCCP presented an enhanced plan for ECCT, expanding the pedestrian priority network with traffic removed from several key streets including Cowgate, Canongate and the Bridges Corridor.

Whilst early progress on ECCT delivery was slowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme is now gaining greater momentum. The City Centre West East Link (CCWEL) project was completed in March 2024 with the City Centre Low Emission Zone (LEZ) also coming into operation during June 2024. Melville Crescent Public Realm is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024 and the North Bridge Refurbishment is scheduled for completion during 2025.

[Ruth White](#)

[Phil Noble](#)

Wards Affected: 11 – City Centre

Of the six catalyst areas (including Waverley Calton, Lothian Road, Haymarket and Innovation Mile) identified as part of ECCT, the main areas of focus to date have been the First New Town and Old Town. A range of major projects are now at an advanced stage of design development, including the George Street remodelling, the First New Town Cross Streets, Charlotte Square and the Meadows to George Street project which will provide a strategic link between the Old and New Town via the Mound.

Reusing Items

There are currently three projects underway, at different stages, with one third sector partner:

- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Reuse – a pilot is underway at Sighthill HWRC. Items are being brought to the site and if deemed suitable for re-use, are being stored for uplift by the charity partner;
- Special Uplifts – discussions are underway as to whether the partner could take on a small-scale trial of delivering special uplifts on behalf of the Council with a view to reusing/resale of items suitable or recycling of those unsuitable. The technical detail of how customers contacting the Council can be passed over to our partner is being discussed and developed; and
- Re-use facilities – early discussions have taken place regarding the potential to host a re-use facility at a Council depot. Proposals are subject to ongoing discussions around business case and potential third-party funding. Should discussions prove successful, finalised proposals will be reported to Committee.

[Andy Williams](#)

Wards Affected: All