

Business Bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 2 March 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Scott Arthur (Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillor Aston Councillor Bandel Councillor Cowdy Councillor Dijkstra-Downie Councillor Graham Councillor Lang Councillor McFarlane Councillor Miller Councillor Munro Councillor Work</p>	<p>Alison Coburn Operations Manager</p> <p>Martin Scott Committee Services</p> <p>Emily Traynor Committee Services</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Update on 20-Minute Neighbourhood town centre projects for Gorgie/Dalry and Portobello</p> <p>The Council's 20-Minute Neighbourhood Strategy is about living well locally, giving residents the ability to meet most of their daily needs from within their own community. Town centres provide many of the essential facilities and services that people need easy access to but are often dominated by traffic. This can make it difficult to move around by walking, wheeling or cycling.</p> <p>The City Mobility Plan supports the 20-Minute Neighbourhood concept as a way of underpinning local communities and reducing the need for longer distance journeys. It aims for town centres to be more liveable places with less car dependence, better active travel provision and higher quality public spaces (CMP Policy Measure PLACE 4 – Liveable Places).</p> <p>The Council has been awarded Sustrans Places for Everyone funding to develop concept designs for town centre improvements for Gorgie/Dalry (with an initial focus on Dalry Road) and Portobello. The intention is for any significant interventions to be aligned with planned roads renewal work.</p>	<p>For further information:</p> <p>Ian Tame</p> <p>Wards Affected:</p> <p>7 – Sighthill/Gorgie 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar</p>

Initial engagement has been carried out in [Gorgie/Dalry](#) and is still underway in Portobello.

It is anticipated that concept designs will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee in Spring 2024 following consultation.

The projects will consider the emerging Circulation Plan, the draft Active Travel Action Plan and the draft Public Transport Action Plan, as well as [Public Life Street Assessments](#).

Sciennes Primary Playground on Sciennes Road - Update

On [3 November 2022](#), Committee approved an adjusted motion that set out a series of actions in relation to the section of Sciennes Road outside Sciennes Primary School.

One of these actions was for officers to work with the Sciennes Parent Council to ensure all practical measures are taken to make the current temporary, partial closure of this section of road safe and secure for children, including signage and road painting.

Officers were also asked to consider whether access by pedestrians and cyclists along Sciennes Road could be restricted during school playtimes, including if there was any new legal advice about this brought forward by the school Parent Council or others.

There was a further action that asked Officers to hold an onsite meeting for school Parent Council representatives and Ward Councillors with a view to ensuring that the above practical measures were completed.

Following Committee, proposals for road markings and signage have been developed to guide cyclists away from the parts of the road being used by Sciennes Primary School pupils.

Previous legal advice obtained by the Council was that it was not possible to prohibit access to parts of the road for pedestrians, either at all times or for parts of the day, by means of either a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order or a permanent Traffic Regulation Order. While it is possible to legally prohibit access for cyclists, the need to maintain access for pedestrians meant that there was no practical

For further information:

[Stacey Monteith-Skelton](#)

Ward Affected:

15 – Southside/Newington

way to put in place physical measures that could rigidly enforce this prohibition.

The Parent Council has sought its own legal advice and a copy of this was provided to Council Officers on 11 January 2023. This has been passed to the Council's legal team for review.

In addition, a site meeting took place on 24 January 2023, attended by representatives of the Parent Council, the Convenor of Transport and Environment, Ward Councillors and Council officers to discuss the actions agreed as part of the approved motion.

A further progress update will be prepared for Committee in June 2023. This will include an update on the legal advice provided by the Parent Council.

Electric Scooters – Response to Motion by Councillor Aston

On [6 October 2022](#), Committee agreed an amended motion from Councillor Aston. The approved motion requested that officers contact Transport Scotland and the DfT policy team asking for an update on the potential for legalisation or regulatory change which the Council may have to prepare for and provide a timeline for doing so.

In partnership with Glasgow City Council, officers have since met with the DfT policy team who confirmed that a Bill seeking changes to the UK Road Traffic Act 1988 was planned to be considered by the UK Parliament last year but was delayed due to volume of business. The Bill is expected to be progressed before the end of this year but is unlikely to be imminent.

The Bill sought approval to amend the UK Road Traffic Act 1988 as follows:

- a) Add a new vehicle category '*Low Speed Zero Emission Vehicles*'. This would, amongst other vehicles under that new category, legalise e_scooter use on public roads.
- b) Add powers to create a licensing framework so that public hire schemes can be fully regulated/approved by local authorities under a local licensing scheme.

If the Bill is passed, its enactment will be subject to the drafting and approval of detailed supporting regulations which will be consulted upon before finalisation. DfT have

For Further Information:

[Ruth White](#)

Wards Affected – All

Previous Update:

[2 February 2023.](#)

started drafting the regulations and officers have confirmed the Council's willingness to be involved.

Further updates will be provided to Committee at appropriate stages to ensure oversight and consideration of Edinburgh's response to e_scooters as a potentially formal part of the mix of the city's transport mix.

Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)

On [9 February 2023](#), the Council received a report in response to a motion by Councillor McVey on Tram Extension.

This report provided an update on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) by Transport Scotland.

In addition, the report provided a progress update on the development of Strategic Business Case for a Mass Rapid Transport solution between Granton Waterfront and Edinburgh BioQuarter.

For further information:

[Jamie Robertson](#)

Wards Affected: All

Low Cost Zebra Crossings – Update

On [25 November 2021](#), the Council approved a Motion entitled Call for Action on Zebra Markings for Side Streets.

On [31 March 2022](#), Transport and Environment Committee approved proceeding with a study to monitor the operation of existing low cost zebra crossings in Edinburgh, at locations that are not on the public road network

It has subsequently been identified that Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) are conducting a very similar research project, which includes several of the sites that had been identified for inclusion in the Council's study.

The ENU study is known as "Continental Style Zebra Crossings" and has been funded by the [Rees Jeffreys Road Fund](#).

Given that there is considerable overlap between the ENU study and the Council's intended research, the Council is engaging with the research leads at ENU to identify gaps in their study, which the Council could seek to address through further research work.

There is potential for the Council to provide support to the ENU study (e.g. by providing additional traffic survey data to increase its evidence base and add further objectivity) is also being explored.

For further information:

[Andrew Easson](#)

Wards Affected: All

It is expected that the outcomes of the ENU study will be published in Spring/Summer 2023.

Edinburgh Union Canal Update

While the Union Canal is managed by Scottish Canals, the Edinburgh stretch supported through a partnership between City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Canals.

A Development Officer has now been appointed to focus on supporting Union Canal projects.

In addition, a refresh of the 2011 Union Canal Strategy is planned. This will include updating the content to reflect the Council's net zero ambitions and actions which have been taken canal side. It will also include consulting the wider community on opportunities surround canal development. Other work will include exploring funding opportunities and continued community engagement.

For further information:

[Rebecca Smith](#)

Wards Affected:

1 – Almond

2 – Pentland Hills

9 –
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart

11 – City Centre

Previous Updates:

[14 October 2021](#)

School Travel Plan Review Update

Following a review of the Road Safety programme, it was identified that a systematic review of all School Travel Plans was required, to ensure that resources allocated to improving routes to school are targeted at locations where they have the potential to deliver the greatest benefits.

Work commenced in November 2020 on a review of the School Travel Plans for all 141 secondary, independent and special schools in the city. Work on the review was subsequently suspended between January and August 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The review continues to move forward and engagement with schools is ongoing. A programme showing progress on the reviews that are underway and anticipated dates for those that have not yet commenced is available to view on the [Streets Ahead Edinburgh](#) website and will be updated regularly. School Travel Plans will also be uploaded to the website once an agreed final draft is in place.

A number of schools are currently finding it difficult to prioritise the development of their School Travel Plans. This is delaying the final sign-off of draft Plans and the consequent commencement of work to deliver the improvements identified within them. The Road Safety team is liaising with colleagues in the Schools and Lifelong Learning service to address this issue.

For further information:

[Stacey Monteith-Skelton](#)

Wards Affected: All

Previous Updates:

[8 December 2022](#)

[17 June 2021](#)

[28 January 2021](#)

Motion by Councillor Lang – Petition on Station Road, Ratho Station

On [8 December 2022](#), Committee asked officers to engage directly with ward councillors and the community association on options around a HGV restriction on Station Road within the next six weeks

Meetings have subsequently taken place with ward councillors and a meeting is planned with Newbridge and Ratho Residents' Association. Officers will continue to investigate the feasibility of introducing an HGV restriction on the northern section of Station Road, between the A8 Glasgow Road and Queen Anne Drive.

Updates on the Petition for Station Road, Ratho Station have previously been provided to the Committee on [18 August 2022](#) and [2 February 2023](#).

Update on Phase 3 Tram Cycle Safety Improvements

Following on from the successful delivery of Phases 1 and 2 of the Tram Cycle Safety Improvements (TCSI) project during 2017 and 2018, Phase 3 is now nearing completion.

This Phase has been implemented in several stages since 2019 and has delivered:

- New cycle early release signals at 10 strategic junctions along the city centre tram route, to prioritise people cycling and provide them with more time and space to negotiate the tram infrastructure;
- Improved road layouts at Haymarket Junction (for movements from Dalry Road to Grosvenor Street and West Maitland Street) and the junction of Princes Street and South Charlotte Street;
- An improved road layout for people walking, wheeling and cycling between Cultins Road and QuietRoute 8, including a new off-road tram track crossing; and
- A targeted communications campaign to inform people of the safety improvements and encourage behaviour change in all road users.

The final element of Phase 3 is an improved road layout at the junction of Princes Street and South St Andrew Street. This work is planned to begin on site during week commencing 27 February 2023, with an anticipated six-week construction period.

Further details regarding the TSCI programme can be found on the Council's [Tram Safety webpages](#).

Designs for improved road layouts at Haymarket Station forecourt and on Haymarket Yards at Haymarket Terrace

For further information contact:

[Daisy Narayanan](#)

Wards Affected:

7 – Sighthill / Gorgie
11 – City Centre

Previous updates:

[11 October 2019](#)

[9 August 2018](#)

[9 March 2018](#)

[5 October 2017](#)

were also developed as part of the TSCI project. These were subsequently incorporated into the designs for the City Centre East West Link project, and it is expected that these improvements will be delivered later this year.

Phase 4 of the project, which consists of a review of the road layout at the West End junction will be delivered as part of Edinburgh City Centre Transformation. This has been included in the scope of the Lothian Road Boulevard project, for which an application for funding to develop Concept Designs was recently submitted to Sustrans' Places for Everyone funding programme.

Wardie Bay

A meeting was held to update ward councillors on 31 January. This provided an opportunity to discuss progress towards bathing water designation. Other points were raised including the need to repair the steps down to the beach, a request from the community to plant an area, interest from a concessionaire for a coffee kiosk, and sharing local support for the designation.

A draft heads of terms has been shared with the landowners and some initial feedback has been received on the form of agreement. Legal have begun drafting and refining the agreement along with a plan showing the area proposed to be managed by the Council. This will be shared with ward councillors and interested parties once all the initial feedback has been considered. A letter will be sent to SEPA by the end of February confirming the Council's preparedness to take on day to day management of Wardie Bay and beach to support the bathing water designation. Confirming the Council's support for designation will allow consideration and recommendation to be made to the Scottish Minister in advance of the summer season

TRO/20/07 20mph Speed Limits Update

On [28 January 2021](#) the Committee approved making TRO/20/07, to reduce the speed limits on 17 streets across the city from 30mph to 20mph. Design work then commenced for the changes to traffic signs and road markings required to implement the new speed limits.

For further information:

[Steven Cuthill](#)

Wards Affected –

4 - Forth

For further information:

[Andrew Easson](#)

Wards Affected:

1 – Almond

4 - Forth

Due to the relatively minor nature of this work, it was considered that engaging an external consultant to undertake the designs would be unlikely to provide best value. A decision was therefore taken to utilise an internal design resource. Unfortunately, due to competing priorities for this design resource, the designs have taken much longer to progress than was initially envisaged.

As a consequence, the design work for speed limit reductions arising from the more recent citywide review of 40mph speed limits has been issued to an external consultant to undertake.

As the design process for each new 20mph street has been completed, the designs have been issued to colleagues in the Roads Operations team for delivery.

The current status of the work to deliver the speed limit reductions in each street is shown in the table below:

Streets	Status
Balgreen Road	Delivered
Bo'ness Road	Delivered
Cammo Road, Cammo Walk	Delivery on hold, as road currently closed as part of Travelling Safely programme
Cluny Gardens, West Mains Road, Charterhall Road, Blackford Avenue, Esslemont Road	Design complete, to be issued to Roads Operations by March 2023
Craighall Road	Delivered
Granton Road	Delivered
Greenbank Crescent, Oxfangs Avenue	Design complete, to be issued to Roads Operations by March 2023
Roseburn Terrace, West Coates	Being delivered as part of the City Centre West – East Link project,

- 6 – Corstorphine/Murrayfield
- 8 – Clinton/Fairmilehead
- 10 – Morningside
- 15 – Southside/Newington

	which is currently under construction
Salvesen Terrace, Marine Drive	Design complete, to be issued to Roads Operations by March 2023

Trams to Newhaven Project

The project remains on schedule to be operational by Spring 2023 and within the £207.3m budget approved by Council in March 2019. Two-way traffic is scheduled to return the full length of Leith Walk during February 2023 and the project continues with the installation of overhead line equipment ahead of testing and commissioning beginning during March 2023.

The project continues to work with Edinburgh Tram and colleagues in the Council on preparing for the service to open to the public.

For further information:

[Hannah Ross](#)

Wards Affected:

12 – Leith Walk

13 – Leith