



**Joint Committee for Transport for Norwich
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 October 2021 at 2pm
on Microsoft Teams (virtual meeting)**

Present:

Cllr Martin Wilby (Chair)
Cllr Barry Stone (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Emma Corlett
Cllr Kay Mason-Billig
Cllr Mike Stonard
Cllr Ian Stutely
Cllr Brian Watkins

Representing:

Norfolk County Council
Norfolk County Council
Norfolk County Council
South Norfolk District Council
Norwich City Council
Norwich City Council
Norfolk County Council

Officers Present:

Chris Andrews
Alexander Cliff
Amy Cole

Durga Goutam
Jonathan Hall
Stuart Payne
Jeremy Wiggin
David Wardale
Andrew Wadsworth

Title:

Project Stakeholder & Engagement Manager
Highway Network Digital Innovation Manager
Project Engineer (Infrastructure Delivery), Norfolk County Council
Senior Engineer - Major Project Team, Norfolk County Council
Committee Officer, Norfolk County Council
Project Engineer – Norfolk County Council
Transport for Norwich Manager, Norfolk County Council
Project Engineer, Norfolk County Council
Project Engineer, Norfolk County Council

In attendance:

Cllr Ben Price Norfolk County Council

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Peter Joyner and Cllr Sue Lawn.

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 No interests were declared.

4. Items received as urgent business

4.1 No urgent business was discussed.

5. Ipswich Road Active Travel Fund

5.1.1 The Joint Committee received the report setting out proposals to improve the

environment for walking and cycling along the stretch of Ipswich Road from Harford Manor School to the St Stephens Road junction. This is a key route for people walking and cycling from the city centre to City College and beyond. The main objectives of this scheme were to improve the environment for walking and cycling along this busy route.

5.1.2 The Transport for Norwich Manager introduced the report to the Joint Committee and advised:

- The scheme included imposing mandatory cycle lanes and associated parking restrictions on Ipswich Road.
- An existing pedestrian refuge would be replaced by a zebra crossing making Ipswich Road easier to cross.
- An 20mph speed limit would also be introduced on Ipswich Road.
- A consultation exercise was carried during August and September 2021 which favoured the 20 mph speed limit and zebra crossing but saw majority opposition to the introduction of cycle lanes and parking restrictions on Ipswich Road.
- Town House School have been engaged to discuss the changes to pick up and drop off arrangements.
- Norwich City College whilst broadly in favour of the scheme principles have concerns that the college site will be used as an area for drop off and pick up for Town House School.
- The arrangements for coach parking along Ipswich Road have been moved elsewhere.
- The proposals in the report had been amended following late feedback from local members and residents.

5.2 2.11pm Cllr Kay Mason Billig joined meeting.

5.3 The following points were discussed and noted:

- Local member Cllr Corlett expressed disappointed that the new recommendations did not include safety measures for Town Close Road, and requested that these were added to the proposals.
- Members were reassured by the Transport for Norwich Manager, following concerns raised by cumulative disruptive effects of many schemes in the area, in that all schemes have weather allowances built into the project timetable, as well as extensive planning and organisation to reduce traffic delays and inconvenience to local residents as much as is possible. Material supplies were also purchased in advance to expediate schemes.
- All road schemes currently on the network are going to plan but will be suspended over the busy Christmas period.
- The Transport for Norwich Manager committed to provide members with a timeline/schedule of proposed works on the network.
- Whilst the number of young people who participated in the public consultation was very low, much work had been undertaken with Norwich City College who had in turn engaged their students.
- The scheme will return to the committee in January 2022.

5.3 The Joint Committee consider the scheme and **RESOLVED** to agree to the amended proposals as follows:

- 1) Approve elements of the scheme that were supported in the consultation (the 20mph speed limit, replacement of a central island with a zebra crossing, continuous footway across Cecil Road and moving the car club bay) and to commence any statutory processes regarding Traffic Regulation Orders
- 2) Ask officers to review whether there is an alternative option whereby segregated cycle lanes remain on both sides of the road but that further consideration is given to concerns raised, particularly around loss of on-street parking, and safety issues on Town Close Road.

6. Kett's Hill Roundabout / Bus Lane

6.1.1 The Joint Committee received the report which aimed to deliver improvements to bus journey times along Kett's Hill and at the roundabout.

6.1.2 The Transport for Norwich Manager introduced the report to the Joint Committee:

- The scheme proposed introducing an 80m long bus lane on the approach to Kett's Hill roundabout, where buses experience delays of 90 seconds at the busiest times.
- This scheme follows on from another safety-related scheme on Kett's Hill roundabout which would reduce circulatory traffic speed.
- To provide room for the proposed bus lane the time limited parking spaces on the opposite side of the road would be removed.
- Alternatives to the removal of the parking spaces would involve felling a row of mature trees on the opposite side of the road.
- To compensate for the parking spaces lost, alternative parking would be provided for up to 6 vehicles on Spitalfields with restrictions limited to 2 hours.
- The scheme represents high value for money in government appraisal terms.

6.2 The following points were discussed and noted:

- Local member Cllr Ben Price raised concerns that air quality would be reduced in the area, as the left hand lane turn in to Bishop Bridge Road would become a bus lane creating traffic delays. However, traffic modelling undertaken only reflected a six second delay for general traffic at the busiest times.
- Concerns were also raised concerning cyclists' safety, at the roundabout merging with general traffic. However, a separate local safety scheme being undertaken deals with the issue to improve safety on the roundabout.
- The bakery located on Kett's Hill had been engaged and officers were actively working on resolutions to their concerns of passing trade being affected by the reduction in parking spaces. It was thought better signage to the new parking spaces on Spitalfields would help.
- The accumulative effect of bus lane schemes on the network has reduced bus journey times and this scheme added to the journey time savings providing a more reliable and effective service for users.
- The scheme produced an 80 second decrease in bus journey times and these type of time savings for buses aligned with local policies on improving air quality.
- Good baseline air quality data will be established in the location prior to the scheme.

- 6.3 The Joint Committee **RESOLVED** to:
1. To proceed to public consultation on the proposals for Kett's Hill Bus Lane as shown on the plan contained in Appendix A.
 2. To commence the statutory procedures associated with the new legal Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and any amendments to existing TROs.
- 6.4 An additional meeting on 9th February 2022 has been added to the schedule. Details would be provided by the Committee Officer to members in due course.

The Meeting ended at 2:43pm

Next meeting: 18 November 2021

**Cllr Martin Wilby, Chair,
Joint Committee for Transport for Norwich**



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