

# Guildford Quality Bus Corridors

## July 2020 Newsletter

### Overview

This newsletter provides an update on the Guildford Quality Bus Corridors (QBC) project. The project began in early 2019 and construction of the schemes will be completed in phases until mid-2021.

As part of the wider 'Unlocking Guildford' package, the £4.52m Guildford QBC project includes a set of measures to improve bus journey time reliability, on-street infrastructure and on-board experience to encourage sustainable travel. This involves addressing bus congestion points, installing bus priority signal technologies, new electric buses and improving bus stop facilities and accessibility.

The local contribution match funding from Stagecoach of £1.31m was spent in early 2019 on a new electric bus fleet which is operational. The remaining £3.21m is funding from Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, and is split between

- £1m towards bus stop improvements including bus shelters, RTPI, accessibility improvements and improved passenger information; and
- £2.21m towards highway improvements that improve bus journey time and reliability – including new bus lanes, junction improvements and the introduction of smart traffic lights that help buses that have been delayed recover lost time.

Information on the scope of each of the elements can be found on our [web page](#) whilst progress updates can be found below.

Delegated Authority recommendations have been approved through Guildford Joint Committee in [September 2019](#) and [March 2020](#) for the various elements as discussed below.

### Completed work to date (to spring 2020)

#### Progress with design and procurement of bus stop improvements

The bus stop improvements within the project are being designed in packages. The designs for three packages are near completion with Road Safety Audits being carried out. These three packages cover bus stops along bus routes 3S, 4, 5, 36, 37, 300 and 400.

Procurement for real time passenger transport information (RTPI) and bus shelters is now progressing again, following a pause in progress resulting from the coronavirus lockdown.



## Progress with design of highway improvements

### *Woodbridge Road bus lane*

A design has been completed and the scheme incorporates implementation of the Bus Lane Enforcement Project for the Woodbridge Road/Onslow Street Bus Lane within the design. This Guildford QBC project proposes to extend and improve the existing bus lane on Woodbridge Road, and the Bus Lane Enforcement Project (as approved by the Cabinet Member for Transport on [9th June 2020](#)) proposes to remove permission for HGVs and motorcycles to use the bus lane, extend the bus lane hours of operation to 24/7 and introduces enforcement measures via cameras to monitor unauthorised use of the bus lane. For clarity this Guildford QBC project is not funding the cameras, albeit the design will incorporate camera locations.

### *Bushy Hill Drive/Epsom Road junction & Park Lane Roundabout merge*

The junction improvement design has nearly been completed following incorporation of small amendments to address the Road Safety Audit. The Bushy Hill Drive/Epsom Road junction improvement proposes moving the central pedestrian island to the east which provides a longer right turn lane for westbound right turning traffic from Epsom Road to Bushy Hill Drive. This will reduce the likelihood of right turning vehicles blocking vehicles which are continuing towards Guildford. The improvements also include relocating and improving the existing eastern pedestrian crossing to create a reverse-staggered crossing on the main pedestrian desire line across Epsom Road. The northern footway and Bushy Hill Drive pedestrian refuge will be widened to provide greater pedestrian comfort, including for those heading to and from the bus stops nearby.

This will be packaged with the Park Lane Roundabout western exit merge improvement, which involves shrinking the central pedestrian island to create a longer merge for vehicles to reduce congestion back onto the Park Lane Roundabout. The design is being tweaked to incorporate Road Safety Audit recommendations. Both designs will be finalised and provided to our contractor Kier for construction programming.

## Upcoming work over summer 2020

### Consultation on Woodbridge Road bus lane extension

A public consultation for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) changes to facilitate the Woodbridge Road bus lane extension will be carried out from July 2020. The consultation is being undertaken alongside proposed TRO changes for the Bus Lane Enforcement Project which includes proposals for 24/7 bus lanes, removal of permission for HGVs and motorcycle to use the bus lane and the installation of enforcement cameras. The consultation will also include a proposed notice for a new toucan crossing being constructed on Woodbridge Road as part of the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package project. All three projects are being included within one consultation for efficient communication of the proposed changes along Woodbridge Road.

Any comments/objections raised through the public consultation relating to the Guildford QBC Woodbridge Road bus lane extension scheme will be assessed and addressed.

# Ongoing work

## Bus stop improvements

The bus stop improvements will be provided to Kier our framework contractor shortly. The construction will then be programmed and the bus stop civil improvements carried out from late 2020 onwards.

All new bus shelters will be installed by June 2021 and real-time passenger information screens can be installed once the new bus shelters at bus stops have been completed.

## Highway improvements

The Woodbridge Road bus lane extension, Bushy Hill Drive/Epsom Road junction improvement and the Park Lane Roundabout merge improvement will all be finalised and programmed for construction in late 2020 / early 2021.

The project should be completed in mid-2021 subject to any future impacts that may occur.

## Stay up-to-date

Regular updates and plans can be found at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/major-transport-projects>. For further information or to report problems associated with the works please call the Surrey County Council contact centre on Tel. 0300 200 1003.