

Cleveland Bridge Traffic Management Plan

Due to essential repairs needing to be carried out on Cleveland Bridge, it is necessary to implement a full closure of the bridge to vehicle traffic for a period of 12 weeks. Traffic counts show that in normal times, the bridge carries approximately 17,000 vehicles per day, but the on-going Covid 19 pandemic (and resulting lock down periods and other measures) has altered traffic patterns throughout the city.

However, when Cleveland Bridge is closed it is anticipated that there will still be a significant element of displaced traffic using alternative routes. The road network within the city will need to be able to absorb this traffic, however with the network already at high capacity during peak periods additional congestion on some routes is expected and accepted. The priority for Bath and North East Somerset Council is to mitigate road safety issues to ensure all users remain safe.

Initial traffic modelling has been undertaken which has highlighted key areas; these have been investigated and the situation will be monitored. We will also be listening to feedback from residents and stakeholders so that measures to manage traffic safely can be installed where necessary. Mitigation measures currently include:

Pre-construction:

Extensive public communications leading up to the start of works, the focus of which is two-fold:

- Encourage behaviour change and modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport in order to reduce car journeys and demand on the road network.
- Promote journey planning, so that road users not requiring the city centre can take alternative routes to avoid Bath.

Engaging directly with key stakeholders including the emergency services, public transport operations, road haulage firms and their associations

Liaising with South Gloucestershire Council and Highways England to agree Strategic diversions suitable for all vehicles over 7.5t to the west of Bath for those travelling from the M4 and Warminster directions.

Additional advance signing on London Road.

During construction:

Ongoing public communications as necessary in response to traffic monitoring.

Implementation of a city centre diversion signed for light vehicles and cars only.

Use of Highways England Variable Message Signs on the motorway network.

Relevant messaging on the Council's Variable Message Sign network.

Ongoing discussion with the Police with regard to enforcement of weight restrictions within Bath, to prevent the use of the city centre by through traffic.

As the use of public transport will be essential if demand on the roads is to be reduced, operating hours of the bus gates in the city centre High Street and Milsom Street will be maintained.

Safety measures to address anticipated increase in traffic on the toll bridge at Bathampton have been discussed with the bridge operators, Bathampton and Batheaston Parish Councils and the following measures will be implemented:

- Temporary waiting restrictions will be added around the junction of London Road and Toll Bridge Road/Mill Lane to help local traffic move more freely.
- Two sets of temporary signal controlled pedestrian crossings will be added on Mill Lane to help people walking, particularly when going to and from the primary school.
- The 'virtual footway' on the canal bridge at Bathampton will be refreshed with new line markings.
- We will also be increasing the number of weight restriction signs on roads leading into this area.

Throughout the course of the works, the above measures will be reviewed on a regular basis, if necessary additional measures which are currently in consideration may be taken to meet safety priorities. This document will be updated accordingly, and any such additional measures will also be communicated via the Council's social media and news feeds.