

HILLS ROAD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY SCHEME

Note to Members of Cambridge City – South Area Committee

From: Mike Davies, Team Leader - Cycling Projects, Cambridgeshire County Council

Date: 30 March 2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Hills Road segregated cycle lane scheme is funded by the Department for Transport (Dft) Cycle City Ambition Grant. The scheme aims to improve cycling between Addenbrooke's, the Biomedical Campus and the new residential areas in the south of the city, and businesses, colleges and schools in the City Centre. The scheme was approved by the County Council's Economy and Environment Committee on 8 July 2014. The detailed design was then completed and construction began on 26 January 2015

2.0 UPDATE ON THE SCHEME

- 2.1 Progress in the initial weeks of the construction works have been slower than expected due to delays in agreeing protection measures for utility services encountered, and some issues arising from co-ordinating the replacement of street lights on Hills Road. The latter is part of the county-wide lighting renewal programme. The consultation has now been completed so Balfour Beatty is proceeding to remove old lighting columns and install new ones, just ahead of the cycleway works. The lighting design must adhere to current UK regulations.
- 2.2 For each new section of the works, the contractors will inform Hills Road residents about the schedule, the arrangements for getting in and out of driveways, and give out contact details. Residents should be aware that if they are temporarily blocked in by the works, they should liaise directly with the on-site contractor who is always happy to speak with residents and resolve any issues.
- 2.3 An assessment is currently being undertaken as to how the cycle lane and associated footpath works can be progressed whilst maintaining a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists through the works. This may require a staggered approach to the construction method ie. when the cycleway works are completed, the footway works will follow on

behind. The footway works are much more straightforward, they require no light-controlled traffic management, which for the main works is restricted to 9.30-15.30hrs.

- 2.4 The site compound area in Holbrook Road is due to be removed before Easter. It will then be moved to another side road location. In urban areas it is always difficult to establish a convenient location for compounds without impacting on residents.
- 2.5 When the scheme is completed, the main carriageway on Hills Road will have been narrowed to 6m - this should reduce traffic speeds. Equally the speeds of vehicles exiting side roads should be slowed by the tighter turning movements required by the new scheme. Traffic and speed surveys were undertaken last October on a number of side roads off Hills Road including Glebe Road. These surveys will be repeated later this year. The County Council will also be carrying out surveys to establish whether, post-construction, cyclist numbers on Hills Road have increased.
- 2.6 Cycle provision at the junction of Hills Road and Long Road will be looked at in the next phase of the Hills Road scheme.
- 2.7 A member of the Cycling Projects team will be available on site (outside no. 254 Hills Road during the month of April) every Friday morning from 8.30 - 9.30am. Details of the scheme are on the County Council website. Officers can also be contacted on 01223 699906 or at Transport Delivery Transport.Delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk