

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

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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 first few months of the construction works was slower than expected due to delays in agreeing protection measures for utility services encountered and some contractor staffing issues which have now been resolved. Additional resources mean the contractors are now working at the pace we expected. We are now co-ordinating well with lighting contractors, Balfour Beatty as they proceed to remove old lighting columns and install new ones, just ahead of the cycleway works.

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 added complication is 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 Glebe Road is due to be moved shortly to Cavendish Avenue. In urban areas it is always difficult to establish a convenient location for compounds without impacting on residents.
- 2.5 One question that is constantly being asked is 'why does such a long length of the new cycle lane appear to be unfinished'. Unfortunately due to the specification of the red asphalt material that is being used as the final cycle lane running surface it's only financially viable for the batching plant to produce approximately 80 tonnes of this material at any one time. This 80 tonnes equates to approximately 200m/300m of cycle lane based on the current widths and thickness of the material being laid. Consequently we have to complete and make ready this kind of length prior to it being surfaced. Regrettably this is the most cost effective method of working. We are now virtually ready to lay the first section of red material but due to the road closure that is in place on Cherry Hinton Road over the next 2 weekends (27th/28th and 4th/5th) we will have to wait until this is completed as the diversion route is Hills Road.
- 2.6 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