

CYCLING PROJECTS UPDATE

Note to Members of Cambridge City – South Area Committee

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

Date: 14 December 2015

1.0 HILLS ROAD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY SCHEME

- 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 make cycling safer, and thus more attractive, between key employment, education and residential centres. It also seeks to improve the pedestrian experience by segregating cyclists from pedestrians, whilst also improving bus stop infrastructure to aid bus users. 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.
- 1.2 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 a generally poor start by the sub contractor who had been appointed relatively late on. It was apparent early on that the original works programme of 37 weeks would be difficult to achieve, and clearly the programme provided was over optimistic, reflecting the client's original deadlines for completion associated with funding deadlines, rather than a realistic construction programme.
- 1.3 County Council officers and representatives of Skanska (the principal contractor) attended the South Area Committee meeting in October 2015 to update on progress, explain some of the problems that had been encountered, and to answer a range of questions.
- 1.4 In the weeks that followed the Area Committee meeting traffic congestion in the city seemed to get much worse than normal partly due to works taking place at Station Road/Hills Road junction. A number of activities took place to substantially complete the city bound side of the works, but a decision was taken to delay the commencement of the Addenbrookes-bound side in the interests of keeping traffic flowing, and conscious of the fact that works would

have to pull off in December anyway for the 'Christmas Embargo' on works in the city.

- 1.5 The activities completed since the last Area Committee meeting include the sedum vegetation strip, road markings, red surfacing, reinstatement of side road verges and consequent removal of the extensive length of traffic cones that were in place. Some outstanding street lighting works were also completed. County officers made themselves available to residents on Friday mornings until the decision to postpone works was undertaken – a letter drop was carried out to explain the decision.
- 1.6 Works to commence the Addenbrookes-bound side will commence in January, with completion expected by the summer. The programme is yet to be confirmed.
- 1.7 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 .

2.0 CITY DEAL - CROSS CITY CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

- 2.1 The Greater Cambridge City Deal Board agreed in August to take five cycling infrastructure schemes forward to public consultation. The consultation starts on 4th January 2016 and includes proposals for Long Road/Hills Road junction and its Hills Road approaches, as well as a scheme to improve cycling facilities on Fulbourn Road between Robin Hood junction and Yarrow Road.
- 2.2 There will be a letter drop and extensive publicity, with a number of drop-in exhibitions showing the proposals. The proposals will also be available on the City Deal website.

3.0 CHERRY HINTON HIGH STREET

- 3.1 Proposals to remove traffic islands and install 1.5 metre wide cycle lanes will be considered by the County Council's Economy and Environment Committee on January for approval. The £250,000 S106 funded scheme will also be coordinated to include complete road resurfacing of the High Street, the introduction of the 20mph speed limit and urban realm streetscape improvements developed by the City Council.

4.0 THE TINS

- 4.1 The Tins has been closed for a number of weeks to allow the path to be widened between Kathleen Elliot Way and Orchard Estate. This £180,000 scheme is S106 funded and works have been completed by The Anderson Group. The path is due to reopen on Friday 11th December, with a public opening/ribbon cutting at 1pm.

5.0 QUEEN EDITH'S WAY AND CHERRY HINTON ROAD

- 5.1 There was a very good response to the consultation that took place earlier in the year into improved provision for pedestrians and cyclists on these routes. The responses are being analysed to allow the development of a number of options for further public consultation in 2016.

6.0 TRUMPINGTON ROAD

- 6.1 The County Council's Economy and Environment Committee approved a scheme to improve cycle safety in Trumpington Road in September 2014. The detailed design is very nearly complete and discussions are ongoing with a contractor with regards to programme and working methods.
- 6.2 A 'pre construction meeting' has been organised for invited stakeholders, but open to the public. This will give an opportunity for the Project Team to explain the programme, to introduce key staff and to answer questions. The event will be held on 11th January at the Botanic Gardens, 10.15am to 12 noon.