

COUNCIL: 27 JANUARY 2022

STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT

Bus Strategy Consultation

The Council received more than 3,000 responses to the Bus Strategy consultation, which was open for public consultation for 8 weeks from 18 October 2021. 44% of the respondents travel by bus at least once per week and 43% do so once per month or less. Most of the bus journeys are for shopping, leisure or travel to work. Approximately 13% of the respondents never use the bus, but one in three of them intend to start doing so in the next 6-12 months. Preliminary results indicate at least 70% support for all of the 9 'Big Moves'. There is more than 80% support for the City Centre package, Metro Integration and low emission/zero carbon bus fleet 'Big Moves', with almost 90% support for integrated attractive fares. The Council will be assessing the more detailed feedback to inform the drafting of the Bus Strategy and to input into future business cases for investment in specific bus network improvements and interventions and Welsh Government plans for bus reform.

£1 Bus Promotion Scheme

There were approximately 85,000 bus journeys by people that took up the offer of the Council's £1 bus promotion scheme that operated on 3-16 December 2021 through a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with bus operators who participated in the scheme, including Adventure Travel, Cardiff Bus, Edwards Coaches Ltd, First Cymru and Stagecoach South Wales.

Feedback from the promotion through social media generated a lot of positive reactions and conversation and a large number of post shares. The scheme, along with targeted traffic network interventions by the Council's Control Room Team, made an impactful difference in managing the increased demand in travel over the Christmas shopping period.

The online feedback survey generated more than 300 responses, with preliminary results indicating that 54% of respondents had used the £1 discounted fare. 11% were new bus users and 23% were returning to use the bus. Approximately 85% of users confirmed that their experience was good value for money. Overall, 88% of respondents think there should be similar bus fare promotions in the future.

Further assessment on the outcomes of the scheme will be undertaken. This assessment, in combination with the feedback on the Bus Strategy consultation, will help inform future improvements to public transport and Welsh Government plans for bus reform.

Cycleway Programme Update

Pop-Up Cycleway Tyndall Street

Supply issues with lighting infrastructure have held back the opening of this segregated pop-up cycle route linking Splott and Lloyd George Avenue/Callaghan Square via Tyndall Street. The lighting is due to be installed in the coming weeks and it is anticipated that the route will formally open for use next month.

Cycleway 1.2

Contractors are making excellent progress with the construction of the first section of the segregated cycleway along Cathays Terrace between the Woodville pub and the junction of Crwys Road/Fairoak Road/Whitchurch Road. Early stages of the works have included groundworks for sustainable drainage features, including rain gardens, and new trees. The phasing of the works will then move on to construction of the section of the route along Whitchurch Road between the junctions with Crwys Road and Allensbank Road. New permit parking schemes are being introduced in consultation with residents and ward members in the areas along the route.

Cycleway 2 / Newport Road

Whilst much of this route is open, problems with obtaining supplies of essential construction materials have delayed the opening of this much-anticipated extension to the cycle network between Dumfries Place and Four Elms Road in Adamsdown. Additionally, there have been safety concerns that have needed extensive testing. The works on the signalised junctions are currently being completed, so the route will be opened imminently.

Work to investigate options for the alignment and design of a permanent segregated cycle route extending along the Newport Road corridor to connect with the proposed Cardiff Parkway development (and eventually to Newport) is currently being undertaken. Consultation on initial proposals, including possible options, will take place later this year.

Cycleway 4

Design of environmentally sensitive lighting along the completed section of route through Sophia Gardens and along the Pontcanna Fields spine road (Cycleway 4.1) is in progress. Following the public consultation last year on the next stage of the route connecting Pontcanna Fields with Llandaff (Cycleway 4.2), concept designs of route options are being developed that will be subject to further public consultation later in the year.

Cycleway 5

Following the completion of the first section of this route in 'pop-up' form along Cowbridge Road East and Wellington Street, work to investigate design options for establishing a permanent segregated route along Cowbridge Road East, Wellington Street and Leckwith Road is being progressed. Public engagement on these options will take place later this year. The length of route along Leckwith Road will connect to the stretch of route planned along Lawrenny Avenue (that will ultimately be extended to connect into Caerau and Ely). Progress on the Lawrenny Avenue section has had to be advanced more quickly so that it can tie in with the opening of the new Fitzalan High School in 2023. The report of the public consultation on the Lawrenny Avenue scheme will be published shortly and the aim is to commence construction of the scheme in Spring 2022.

Roath Park Corridor

Work to investigate design options for a segregated cycle route extending north-east of the city centre is continuing. Public engagement on initial proposals around Roath Park will be carried out shortly.

Cycle Hire Scheme

The OVO Bikes/nextbike cycle hire scheme returned to operation in Cardiff on 13 January 2022. The period of suspension has been used to repair and refurbish the fleet, source replacement bikes, and improve the security of the system as much as possible. Significant outreach work has been undertaken and continues, with partners including with the Cycle Crime Reduction Partnership led by South Wales Police. The app has been updated to include a "Report a bike" function for the reporting of abandoned bikes and a new campaign encouraging responsible bike use will be launched soon. Fines for the non-return of bikes (i.e. bikes not returned to official stations) have also been significantly increased. A number of high-risk stations have been suspended subject to future review, with equipment being reallocated to high demand stations.

The return to operation is being carefully phased to ensure that the risk to the fleet and its infrastructure is minimised. An initial re-launch has been undertaken with a smaller fleet of 400 bikes, which is focused on the highest usage stations in the city. It is anticipated that the fleet will be back to full strength on the reviewed network within the next two months, and we will continue to monitor the situation.

Secure Cycle Storage Facility

The Development & Regeneration Team within the Adults, Housing & Communities Directorate has been leading on a project, in partnership with Bike Lock Ltd and the Council's Transport Team, to secure funding and support for the provision of Cardiff's first secure cycle storage facility. The much-needed facilities are set to open on Windsor Place in early 2022 and will include secure storage for at least 50 bikes, as well as shower, locker and changing facilities, and a remote workspace and coffee bar. As the first facility of its kind in Wales, the 'Bike Lock' will help the Council and partners gain a better understanding of customer demand and requirements that will help the future development of other similar and possibly larger facilities elsewhere in Cardiff. By providing a fully secure, cycle-parking facility in the heart of Cardiff city centre, the 'Bike Lock' will help to deliver a key Burns Commission report recommendation relating to the provision of cycle storage at public transport interchanges and within urban centres.

Resurfacing and Localised Repairs

Localised footway and carriageway improvements are ongoing throughout the city, along with footway reconstruction works. Further condition assessments are also being undertaken for future programmes of work to be delivered in 2022. A further programme of resurfacing works commenced this month, which are concentrating primarily on key routes throughout the city. A continuation of the micro asphalt surface treatment is anticipated to recommence in March/April 2022, but this will be governed by weather conditions.

In 2021/22, the total area and length of capital carriageway improvements (combined all treatment types) is 214,403m², with an approximate length of 30km. The total area and length of capital footway improvements (combined all treatment types) is 28,218m², with an approximate length of 10km. Patching works have been delivered covering 26,089m² (carriageway) and 12,359m² (footway). In addition, the total number of highway defects repaired is 16,666 and the number of potholes repaired is 11,932.

Residential Street Lighting Improvement/LED Scheme

The Residential LED Replacement programme continues to be delivered, which will see circa 24,000 standard lighting units upgraded to LED lighting throughout the city. The lighting units will be centrally monitored and controlled so that the Street Lighting Team will be automatically aware of any outages and will also be able to control lighting levels as required. Up until the end of December 2021, approximately 3,000 new units had been installed and four wards have the new streetlights.

Councillor Caro Wild
Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport
20 January 2022