

Cleveland Bridge Traffic Management Plan

Traffic restrictions are set to remain on Bath's Cleveland Bridge as investigations continue into how to solve the complex engineering issues discovered during repairs to the Grade II* listed structure.

The Temporary Traffic Regulation Order which prohibits HGVs from using the 200-year-old bridge but allows pedestrians, cyclists, and cars to cross under signals is being extended following the discovery of hidden, unexpected, severe corrosion on a critical section of the bridge.

Cleveland Bridge current traffic management measures will result in some 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 for the original closure was 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, Wiltshire Council and Highways England to agree Strategic diversions suitable for all vehicles to the east and west of Bath for those travelling from the M4 and Warminster directions.

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.

Renewal and additional signage for the strategic diversion routes east and west avoiding Bath, including the use of Highways England Variable Message Signs on the motorway network.

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

Additional advance signing on London Road.

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 have been implemented:

- Temporary waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) added around the junction of London Road and Toll Bridge Road/Mill Lane to help local traffic move more freely.
- Temporary signal-controlled lights to assist pedestrian crossing the canal bridge during school drop of and finish times

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.