

Your Ref:
Date: 17 September 2021

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Dear Resident,

Transport for Norwich: consultation on proposals for Boundary Road

Norfolk County Council and the Transport for Norwich (TfN) partnership are asking for feedback on proposed changes on Boundary Road. The aim of this scheme is to improve crossing facilities on the outer ring road for those walking and cycling in the area. We're writing to let you know how to find out more about the project and how to take part in our consultation.

What's being proposed and why

This project is part of a programme of infrastructure changes in the Greater Norwich area, which was agreed by the county council's Cabinet last year and is funded by the Department for Transport's (DfT) Transforming Cities Fund. As we deliver these projects, we are carrying out a series of public consultations to help identify any issues for consideration when finalising the plans we put forward for construction.

We are consulting on two options to improve crossing facilities. One option is to upgrade the existing junction at the B&Q car park, whilst retaining the existing pedestrian crossing on Boundary Road near the junction with Vera Road. The other option is to install a new cycle crossing connecting Vera Road to Rye Avenue, which would also retain the existing pedestrian crossing on Boundary Road near the Vera road junction.

This table explains what changes we're proposing and the reasons behind them. The enclosed plans show what each option would look like on the ground – the numbered proposed changes below correspond to the relevant points marked on the maps.

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B&Q junction option

	Proposal	Reason for proposal
1	Upgrading the existing junction and reduce the number of islands and crossings	To make it easier and quicker for pedestrians and cyclists to get across the junction.
2	New shared-use path connecting the B&Q junction to Overbury Road.	To provide a more direct route for cyclists to access the junction to and from Overbury Road.
3	Extend the existing shared-use path on the southern side of Boundary Road to join up with Marshall Road.	To make it easier for cyclists to access Marshall Road.
4	Change waiting restrictions on the layby outside Marshall Road from a 30-minute limit to no limit.	To allow residents to park in the layby instead of on the grass verge.

Vera Road Option

	Proposal	Reason for proposal
1	New signal-controlled cycle crossing connecting Vera Road to Rye Avenue.	Those cycling north to south between Hellesdon and the city centre will have a more direct route that avoids cycling on busy roads.
2	New 'no parking' and 'no waiting' restrictions to part of Boundary Road and Vera Road.	To make sure there is good visibility for cyclists using the crossing.
3	Changing part of Vera Road to be one way with no access from Boundary Road.	In order to provide safe cycling facilities this change is an essential feature of this proposal due to the narrow carriageway width available.
4	A short section of 1.5m-wide cycle lane on Vera Road.	To allow cyclists to join and leave Vera Road safely from the new crossing.

Advantages and disadvantages of the options

	B&Q Junction	Vera Road
Advantages	<p>Work can be combined with signal upgrades and resurfacing to reduce disruption and cost.</p> <p>Provides a straight route along Overbury Road for cyclists.</p>	<p>Space available for a direct and segregated crossing.</p> <p>Slightly shorter route for cyclists between Reepham Road and Marshall Road.</p>

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	B&Q Junction	Vera Road
Disadvantages	<p>Slightly longer route for cyclists to get from Reepham Road to Marshall Road.</p> <p>Segregated crossing not possible due to lack of space.</p>	<p>Lack of a straight route along Merchant Way/Vera Road.</p> <p>Vera Road will need to be made one-way, meaning all properties will only be accessible via Reepham Road/Merchant Way</p>

How to comment

There are two ways to comment on the consultation:

- Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/boundaryroad where you can view the enclosed plans in closer detail if required and complete our online survey to share your thoughts on the proposals.
- Ask for a hard copy of the survey by calling or emailing us using the details at the top of this letter.
- Both the survey and plans are also available in large print or other formats on request.

Next Steps

The deadline for comments is **Sunday 10 October 2021**. We will carefully consider all responses and report back to the Transport for Norwich Joint Committee later in the year. The committee, which is chaired by Norfolk County Council and made up of councillors from TfN partners Norwich City, Broadland District and South Norfolk councils, will then decide how to proceed with the project. The webpage above will be kept up to date with the latest progress and information.

Background

The Department for Transport (DfT) has awarded £32m of funding to TfN from the Transforming Cities Fund to deliver a range of schemes across Greater Norwich. These projects aim to improve access to jobs, training and retail by supporting improvements to sustainable modes of transport, while also responding to issues around air quality. More information about our application to the DfT and all the proposed schemes can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/transformingcities. You can also read more about previous, current and future TfN projects by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/tfn

Yours faithfully,



Alex White, Technician