

The Norfolk County Council
(Hellesdon and Norwich, A140 Aylsham Road and Cromer Road)
(Bus and Cycle Lane) Experimental Traffic Regulation Order 2024

Statement of Reasons for making the Order

The proposed order is to amend the hours of operation of the existing A140 Cromer Road / Aylsham Road bus lane from 24 hours a day every day to 7am to 7pm everyday on an experimental basis. The original 24 hour bus lane was introduced in 2022 to improve bus journey time reliability on this transport corridor, and that objective has been met. However, there have been persistent complaints from highway users, including local Members, residents and business owners, that the hours of operation of the bus lane have caused a detrimental effect on their enjoyment of the highway due to perceived safety and convenience issues relating to the ease of the passage of vehicles on the highway. However, the extent to which the bus lane is affecting the passage of vehicles and the extent to which reducing operating hours of the bus lane will improve the passage of vehicles is unknown. Therefore, an experimental order is necessary to allow sufficient data to be collected to enable a comparison to be done between data from both a 24 hour operating bus lane and a 7am to 7pm operating bus lane on the lengths of road in question.

In response to these concerns an experimental traffic regulation order is being proposed to amend the hours of operation of the bus lane to 7am to 7pm every day. The purpose of the experiment is to collect data to compare the operation of a part time bus lane with a full time one and to see what the impacts on all highway users are, particularly with regard to safety and journey time reliability. At the end of the experimental period a decision will be made on whether to make the change permanent (via a permanent order) based on whether the evidence collected demonstrates a clear improvement in the passage of vehicles on the highway.

The proposal to make the Order is therefore made because it appears to the County Council that it is expedient to do so in accordance with Sub-Section 1(c) of Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984;

(c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians).