



Your Ref:
Date: 4 April 2024

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Dear Residents and Businesses,

Consultation on proposals for Gayton Road, King's Lynn

Norfolk County Council is asking for feedback on proposed changes to Gayton Road, King's Lynn, including the exit for buses from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital junction. We are writing to let you know how to find out more about the project and how to take part in our consultation.

This project is part of a series of improvements we're making in King's Lynn, Norwich and Great Yarmouth, aimed at improving bus journey times and reliability of services across our public transport network. We're using funding awarded to us by the Department for Transport for our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to invest in infrastructure at strategic locations, relieving specific areas of congestion that affect buses so we can deliver better, more punctual services. Through these changes, along with funding for additional and extended services, the current £2 fare cap and zero-emission buses, we hope that more people will choose the bus for their everyday journeys.

What's being proposed and why

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital exits onto the A1076 Gayton Road, which has a mini roundabout nearby and is a known pinch-point for traffic, including buses. Currently, buses are slowed down when turning right out of the hospital exit due to the positioning of the refuge island, which forms an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing. Site observations have shown that buses move slowly to avoid hitting the kerbs on the refuge island and on the south side of the road. Norfolk County Council has worked with their engineers to develop a design that resolves this issue, improving how buses exit from the hospital and making it safer for people in the area.

We are also taking this opportunity to consult on an upgrade to the existing staggered pedestrian crossing of Gayton Road on the other side of the hospital exit, towards Winston Churchill Drive. The proposal here is to replace it with a Toucan crossing for people walking and cycling – this location was identified for improvement within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to improve walking and cycling routes within King's Lynn. If approved, it is hoped that the two schemes can be constructed at the same time.

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The table below explains what changes we're proposing and the reasons behind them. The enclosed plan shows what the two projects would look like on the ground – the numbered proposed changes below correspond to the relevant points marked on the map.

	Proposal	Reason for proposal
1	New controlled pedestrian crossing facility near hospital service road to replace the existing uncontrolled crossing near the hospital exit.	Provides a much safer crossing for pedestrians.
2	New handrails along the existing footpath linking to the location of the new controlled crossing facility.	To assist pedestrians using the sloped footpath.
3	Extension of the existing guardrail at the location of the proposed Zebra crossing.	To improve safety and encourage pedestrians to use the new Zebra crossing.
4	Existing westbound bus stop to be relocated 70m to the west (off-plan) so it's opposite the existing Elvington bus stop.	To make space for the new Zebra crossing near the hospital service road.
5	50m of new road surfacing on the approach to the new Zebra crossing.	The proposed surfacing type assists vehicles braking on the approach to the crossing.
6	Existing footway (pavement) along the south side of Gayton Road (near the hospital exit) to be removed and replaced with grass verge.	To encourage pedestrians to use the safe crossing facility provided. Verge planting to increase biodiversity.
7	Deterrent paving on the splitter island at the hospital exit.	To discourage pedestrians from using the island to cross at this point.
8	Existing steps and rails near the hospital exit to be removed, verge planting to be put in place.	Facilities no longer needed due to removal of the existing uncontrolled crossing – retaining the steps may encourage unsafe crossing at this point. Also, to encourage use of new Zebra crossing.
9	New narrower splitter island at the pinch point of the hospital exit roundabout.	To help smoother bus turning movements onto Gayton Road. This could also improve the flow of buses and provide potential time savings.
10	Reduction of double-height kerbs opposite the hospital exit to standard kerb height in small section.	To allow the body of buses to overrun without catching the kerb.
11	New Toucan crossing with central segregation island (due to road width) to replace the existing staggered crossing between the hospital exit and Winston Churchill Drive junctions.	Provides a safer crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists.
12	Kerb realignment to allow widening of the shared-use path near the junction of Winston Churchill Drive.	To make sure 3m-wide shared-use path is in place for the proposed Toucan crossing.

13	Removal of existing segregated cycle path opposite Winston Churchill Drive junction and installation of traffic signal maintenance bay.	To allow maintenance of traffic signals with minimal impact for road users. Cyclists will have a choice to use a toucan crossing and shared-use footpath on southern side. The existing segregated cycle path is also not up to current standards and makes it difficult for cyclists to exit onto the roundabout.
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All road markings in the area would be refreshed as part of the scheme.

How to comment

There are two ways to comment on the consultation:

- Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/gaytonroad where you can 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. Large font and other formats are available on request.

Next Steps

The deadline for comments is Friday 26 April and we will carefully consider all responses ahead of any proposed advertisement of the formal notices needed to deliver 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 the county council nearly £50m of funding for its Bus Service Improvement Plan, aimed at improving bus services and infrastructure facilities across the county. The plan includes measures such as integrated travel hubs, new and more frequent services and bus priority infrastructure schemes such as the project at the hospital exit on Gayton Road. You can read more about our work on the Bus Service Improvement Plan by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/busstrategy. The new Toucan crossing element is funded by King's Lynn Borough Council.

Yours faithfully,



Niki Park
Head of Passenger Transport



**Funded by
UK Government**