



NCC contact number: 0344 800 8020
Text relay no.: 18001 0344 800 8020

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My Ref: PAA012/HP/JT/01

Tel No.: 0344 800 8020

Email: transportfor Norwich@norfolk.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Transport for Norwich: Consultation on proposals for Dereham Road between Cadge Road and Norwich Road including improvements to the signalised junction

Norfolk County Council and the Transport for Norwich (TfN) partnership are asking for feedback on a series of proposed improvements for the area around Dereham Road between Cadge Road and Norwich Road, including improvements to the Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane signalised junction.

This project aims to encourage walking, cycling and greater use of public transport by improving the reliability of bus services and providing safe access to local shops etc for everyone travelling through the area. The scheme also aims to improve connectivity between different modes of travel and reduce congestion, particularly on the outbound lanes of Dereham Road.

The aims of the scheme are to:

- Promote connectivity between sustainable transport modes;
- Improve bus links and service timings with the creation of new bus lane;
- Improve traffic flow on Dereham Road through the signalised junction by amendments to carriageway markings;
- Reduce congestion on the outbound lane of Dereham Road for vehicles wishing to leave the city.

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

The proposals relate to three distinct areas:

- Dereham Road on the east side of Larkman Lane which covers the area from Cadge Road to the Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane signalised junction;
- Improvements to the Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane/Dereham Road signalised junction;
- Dereham Road on the west side of Larkman Lane which covers the area from the Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane signalised junction to Norwich Road.

The table below explains what changes we're proposing and the reasons behind them. The accompanying plans show what the project could look like on the ground.

Dereham Road Plan 1 (East side of Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane junction)

Proposal	Reason for proposal
1. New section of outbound (westbound) bus, taxi and cycle lane between Cadge Road and the parade of shops including the removal of an existing pedestrian refuge.	To provide more consistent and reliable bus journeys. There is insufficient space within the highway to retain the pedestrian refuge and provide the new bus, taxi and cycle lane.
2. Provide 'hard' surface to existing informal 'trod' which runs across the grassed area in the vicinity of Dereham Road Service Road.	To improve pedestrian access to existing signalised crossing.
3. Remove existing pedestrian refuge	To facilitate introduction of bus lane. Overall scheme includes enhancement of access to formal crossing facilities either side of this location and provision of a new pedestrian refuge further to the west
4. New bus shelters and 'real time' passenger information displays at existing bus stops.	To improve passenger experience and encourage greater use of public transport.
5. New continuous footway on raised table across Dereham Road (service road) junction.	Making it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross the junction.
6. Carriageway resurfacing of Dereham Road including amendments to road markings.	To repair worn out carriageway and reduce congestion on the outbound carriageway by encouraging vehicles to utilise two lanes when wishing to travel out of the city.
7. Kerb realignment and introduction of a new 'car club' designated parking bay.	To encourage greater use of travel by sustainable means. Improve safety and overall appearance of the area.
8. Existing parking formalised with time limited parking spaces within the parade of shops (2 hours – No return within 1 hour)	To improve safety and ensure a short term 'turn over' of parking spaces.

Dereham Road Plan 2 (Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane junction)

Proposal	Reason for proposal
9. Relocate and widen existing islands to be able to provide toucan crossings on all arms of junction.	To improve the crossing arrangements to enable cyclists to use the crossings and improve safety for all users. Will give cyclists a choice of how they cross Dereham Road, be it on or off carriageway.

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10. Cycle Advanced Stop Lines (CASL's) and 'lead-in' lanes on the Larkman Lane and Marl Pit Lane approaches.	Will provide a degree of priority to cyclists and will offer a safer environment by allowing cyclists to 'move off' more quickly.
11. Remove vehicular right turn lanes from Larkman Lane and Marl Pit Lane.	To provide advisory cycle 'lead in' lanes to the CASL's. Vehicles will still be able to turn right.
12. Carriageway resurfacing and amended road markings.	To repair worn out carriageway and reduce congestion on the outbound carriageway.
13. Realigned kerb lines to create shared use footways around all sides of the junction.	To enable existing footways around the periphery of junction to be converted to 'shared use' facilities for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Dereham Road Plan 3 (West side of Larkman Lane/Marl Pit Lane junction)

Proposal	Reason for proposal
14. Carriageway resurfacing and amended lane markings to provide 'Merge in Turn' which will reduce carriageway to single lane'.	To repair worn out carriageway and improve outbound traffic flow on Dereham Road.
15. Existing right turn lane reduced in length.	To improve outbound traffic flow.
16. New pedestrian refuge.	To assist pedestrians wishing to cross Dereham Road in this vicinity and to stop vehicles crossing the hatched markings to access the Norwich Road right turn lane.

These improvements will be funded by the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund and a contribution from Norfolk County Council's Highway's structural maintenance budget.

To implement the proposed changes, new Traffic Regulation Orders and Notices will be needed in relation to the new bus, taxi and cycle lane, raised table, parking bays and conversion of sections of footway to 'shared use' facilities. These TRO's/Notices will be formally advertised if cabinet member approval is granted following the Transport for Norwich Advisory Committee. Further details and updates will be available on the project webpage detailed below.

How to comment

There are two ways to comment on the consultation:

- Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/larkman where you can view plans in more detail and complete our online survey to share your thoughts on the proposals.
- By calling or emailing us using the details at the top of this letter. Large font and other formats are available on request.
- All comments must be received by **Monday 5 June 2023**.

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Next Steps

We will carefully consider all responses and report back to the Transport for Norwich Advisory Committee later this year. The cabinet member will then make a decision based on the feedback we have received and, if approved, construction would begin in early 2024. 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,

Transport for Norwich