

Your Ref:

Date: 7 December 2023

My Ref:

PA017

Tel No.:

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Dear Residents and Businesses,

Consultation on proposals for a new bus lane from Harford Park & Ride

Norfolk County Council is asking for feedback on proposed changes to the Harford Park & Ride area of the A140 Ipswich Road. The aim of the scheme is to improve bus journey times and reliability by increasing the capacity of the road for buses. We are writing to let you know more about the project and how to take part in our consultation.

What's being proposed and why

This project is located to the south of Norwich at the A47/Ipswich Road interchange and runs from the Harford Park & Ride site towards Norwich. Currently, the A140 Ipswich Road can become very congested in this area, particularly during peak hours, which is impacting the bus services using this route.

The proposal for this project is to introduce a dedicated filter lane for buses exiting the Park & Ride site, which will join a new bus lane running along the A140 Ipswich Road as far as the Tesco Superstore, where it will integrate with the existing highway layout before the signalised junction. This will be achieved by widening the verge to accommodate the designated bus lane so there will be no loss of road capacity for general traffic. The project is designed to help improve bus journey times and reliability not only for Park & Ride but also the other services that use the route, including buses from Diss, Harleston and Long Stratton. It is also hoped to encourage more people to use these services due to the resulting improvements. A plan showing the proposals is enclosed.

How to comment

There are two ways to comment on the consultation:

- Visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/harfordbuslane where you can complete our online survey to share your thoughts on the proposals.
- Ask for a hard copy of the consultation material 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 22 December 2023 and we will carefully consider all responses ahead of advertisement of the formal Traffic Regulation Order needed to deliver the project. This will be done in consultation with the local county council member and cabinet member, as appropriate. 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 this project in the Harford Park & Ride area. You can read more about our work on the Bus Service Improvement Plan by visiting www.norfolk.gov.uk/busstrategy.

Yours faithfully,



Niki Park
Head of Passenger Transport