

# Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 15 April 2024, 6.00 to 7.30pm

Zoom

## PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Anna Smaill (AS)	Moorfoot
Alistair Rae (AR)	Tynewater

## IN ATTENDANCE

Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Service Manager, Road Networks and Transport
Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Steven Psihramis (SP)	Midlothian Council - Sustrans Senior Project Officer

## APOLOGIES

None

### 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- i Robert Hogg (Mayfield and Easthouses) chaired the meeting and welcomed those present.
- ii No apologies were received prior to the meeting.

### 2. A7 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STUDY - FORMATION OF COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP

- i. Steven Psihramis (Midlothian Council Sustrans Senior Project Officer) provided information about the proposal to create a Community Steering group to engage with and support the project.
- ii. Group membership will include STANTEC (Project Consultants), Midlothian Council, and the Community Councils whose boundaries are along the route.

- iii.** The study aims to develop active travel improvements, including public transport accessibility, on and across the A7 corridor between the Sheriffhall Park and Ride site and the B6482 junction, and the section of the B6482 from the A7 junction to the junction with Main Street in Newtongrange.
- iv.** It is anticipated that the proposed community steering group will include representatives from the Midlothian Access Forum, MTRaP and the Community Councils within the immediate vicinity of the study corridor, namely:
- Bonnyrigg and District CC
  - Dalkeith and District CC
  - Danderhall and District CC
  - Eskbank and Newbattle CC
  - Gorebridge CC
  - Mayfield and Easthouses CC
  - Newtongrange CC
- v.** Forming a community steering group means that the groups represented will be amongst the first to be updated on project developments and any issues identified can be addressed within a timely and convenient manner.
- vi.** The study will include an evaluation and feasibility of possible options, technical surveys, public engagement, and the development of concept designs.
- vii.** The following objectives have been developed to inform the progression of the study:
- Increase the number of people walking, wheeling, and cycling on and across the corridor to adjoining communities at all times of the day and at all times of the year.
  - Improve walking, wheeling, and cycling access to public transport services.
  - Enhance the priority for the most sustainable transport modes, including walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport.
  - Support future sustainable land use development adjacent to the study corridor by achieving the highest possible level of service for pedestrians and cyclists.

- viii. Discussion is required to seek agreement on how best to make the community steering group work for the representatives. It is anticipated that participation will include a regular (evening) meeting on MS Teams which can be scheduled depending on demand or what stage the project is in (typically once every two months). STANTEC will be organising the meetings and will be in touch within the next month.
- ix. Sherrifhall Grade separation is a Transport Scotland project; however, it is anticipated that links between the A7 and Sheriffhall project will be made.
- x. Dalkeith CC has been included in the proposed steering group and links from Dalkeith to the A7 project will be considered.
- xi. SP acknowledged that there are 'active travel' issues involving travel along the A68 corridor (Tynewater CC area) in Midlothian. It is anticipated that these issues will be discussed as part of the *draft* Active Travel Survey, consultation.
- xii. RH thanked SP for his attendance at the meeting and the information update he provided.

**ACTION: STANTEC to send out invitation.**

**MTRaP members \ Local Community Councils to respond.**

### **3. MATTERS ARISING AND PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **i. Capital Works Programme update.**

AH (Midlothian Council) provided a brief overview of the report circulated to MTRaP members.

- **Carriageway Schemes** – 13 schemes in total were completed under the 2023/24 programme, including 3 Joint Priority schemes. This represents 95% of the available allocated budget.
- **Footway Schemes** – The remaining 2 schemes were completed at the end of March 2024 resulting in a total of 7 schemes completed under the 2023/24 programme, including 4 Joint Priority schemes. This represents 91% of the available budget.
- **Programme for 2024-2025**  
The team are still finalising the programme for the coming year.  
AH anticipates that the final details should be available at the next meeting.

#### **ii. Pothole Pro Information**

Not able to be presented at the meeting (See table on next page)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 23/24	
Total tonnes of material used to fill temporary and permanent potholes (quarterly)	417.16	396.4	433.66	555.36	1,802.58	<b>Q4 23/24:</b> Data only
Total metres squared (m2) of permanent repairs (quarterly)		2020	2514	4679.9	9,213.9	<b>Q4 23/24:</b> Data only The Pothole Pro project equated to 9,213.9 m2 of permanent patching.
Number of potholes permanently repaired using Pothole Pro (quarterly)		866	843	1276	2985	<b>Q4 23/24:</b> Data only Figure includes 4 weeks off non-operation due to festive break and weather events.

iii. **Previous Minutes**

**Proposed:** Brian Farrell

**Seconded:** Judy Thomson

**4. MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS**

- i. PJ had received a request, from a community-based interest group, to become a member and join MTRaP. PJ sought guidance from the group.
- ii. There was agreement amongst those present, that attendance at MTRaP group meetings is limited to Community Councillors and the appropriate Midlothian Councils officers whose responsibilities align with the aims and objectives of the group.
- iii. MTRaP will invite guests to attend on an ad hoc basis to share and provide information.
- iv. The group welcomes issues of interest being raised by community-based groups. However, in the first instance, issues of interest or concern should be raised via their local Community Council whose representatives will then bring these matters to be discussed at an MTRaP meeting.

## 5. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MTRaP

- i. PJ had circulated a *draft* 'Terms of Reference' document for discussion at the meeting.
- ii. Those present agreed that MTRaP members would review the document and provide comments to PJ by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**.
- iii. PJ will present a revised document at the next MTRaP meeting on 3 June.

**ACTION PJ to circulate *draft* Terms of Reference**

**MTRaP members to review and submit comments by Friday 3 May.**

## 6. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

- i. The *draft* Active Travel Strategy will be circulated to MFCC and MTRaP members.

**ACTION: Active Travel Team to circulate draft strategy to MTRaP and MFCC members**

## 7. CORE PATHS

- i. Group members engaged in a discussion about the requirement for the reinstatement of the post of Local Access Officer.
- ii. There was agreement that on behalf of MTRaP, CN (Damhead) will provide information to Justin Venton about the adverse impact to access \ information provision as a consequence of there not being a Local Access Officer post.
- iii. Requests for information about core paths issues of concern should be forwarded to Land Resources Manager, James Kinch – [james.kinch@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:james.kinch@midlothian.gov.uk).

**ACTION: CN to email Justin Venton re Access Officer.**

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. **Damhead area - Burnside Road**
  - CN (Damhead) highlighted the condition of the Burnside Road, noting that drainage ditches are in poor condition that has led severe flooding of the road surface.
  - There are deep potholes - in the previous week, two vehicles had punctured tyres as consequence of hitting potholes that were full of water.
  - CN was advised to submit the photographs, displayed at the meeting, of the faults to WC.

**ACTION: CN to forward photographs of damage to WC**

ii. **Potholes in the Tynewater area**

- AR (Tynewater) highlighted that potholes on the B6367 had been reported but as far as he was aware had not been repaired.
- WC thought that these had been referred for repair but he would investigate to see whether repairs had been made or not.
- He noted that depending on the severity a pothole, the time taken to make repairs will differ e.g Category 1 should be repaired within 24 hours.
- AR commended Midlothian Council for the maintenance work undertaken in other parts of the Tynewater area.

**ACTION** **WC to check progress of work on B6367 & provide update to TWCC - [tccsecretary2020@gmail.com](mailto:tccsecretary2020@gmail.com)**

iii. **Disabled Parking Bays \ Line Marking in Dalkeith**

- ASK highlighted that parking bay markings and signage were not coordinated. The old signage is still in place and the road markings are very feint and need to be redone. WC informed group members that the contact is Senior Consultant Engineer, Rebecca Marr ([rebecca.marr@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.marr@midlothian.gov.uk)).
- WC highlighted that as soon as resources are available, he will be implementing revised procedures that will mean that lining work will be undertaken. As the weather improves and lighting becomes more favourable, the capacity of the team to carry out lining work will be improved. Statutory lining work needs to be completed in the first instance.

iv. **Mayfield – Conifer Road and the D’Arcy Road**

- Work in the Conifer Road area has been reprogrammed for the period 2025 – 2026. WC will confirm the date when he has updated information. **Action: WC to provide update to RH.**
- D’Arcy Road is subject to flooding on a regular basis. AH noted that work has been undertaken but it will be reinspected and further drainage may be required.

v. **Eskbank & Kingsgate**

- BF highlighted that the road is subject to flooding and the top surface is being eroded. AH will arrange for an inspection to be carried out.

vi. **Traffic Lights Danderhall to Millerhill**

- ASK enquired as to how long the temporary traffic lights will remain in situ. AH will investigate and let ASK know.

**ACTION: AH to update ASK**

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

*3 June, 6.00 – 7.30*

**Zoom Meeting details.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88550357848?pwd=MDVSeDI0aE9paFRmV3haOFhnTOZkZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 885 5035 7848

**Passcode:** 646097

Approved 1 July