

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 1 July 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
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Anna Smail (AS)	Moorfoot

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

APOLOGIES

Alistair Rae (AR)	Tynewater
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- i Robert Hogg (Mayfield and Easthouses) chaired the meeting and welcomed those present.
- ii **Previous Meetings**
Proposed: Robert Hogg
Seconded: Brian Farrell

2. MATTERS ARISING

i. Disabled Parking in Dalkeith

- ASK highlighted that work is still required to update signage and marking for parking bays reserved for motorists in possession of a blue badge. She noted that the signage is inconsistent.
- ASK noted that a member of the public had been parked in the space for a full day. If possible, CCTV will be used to address the issue.
- WC noted that, currently there is a backlog in work and that the work will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. He will speak to the Roads Operation Team Leader to discuss a site visit. ASK agreed to join the meeting.

Action: ASK and Roads Team members to agree a date to meet.

ii. **Capital Works Programme update.**

AH (Midlothian Council) provided a brief overview of the progress of the programme.

- The team is still awaiting confirmation of the budget allocation for the current financial year.
- AH will circulate the updated Capital Works programme once it has been finalised.
- **Carriageway Schemes** – Work has commenced on the resurfacing of sections of the A701 (Queensway to Mauricewood Road). The section (Mauricewood Road to Beeslack) will be the next resurfacing project undertaken, along with a section of Dalhousie Road and Mansfield Road in Newtongrange.
- Additionally, a section adjacent to the ASDA store (Loanhead) will be next on the programme. ASK noted that there has been working in place for some time. AH noted the works had been related to the development of the ALDI store. They have been utility and drainage work.
- The ALDI construction may involve more works. Midlothian Council can coordinate such works as much as it can.
- AH noted that work to undertake 'surface dressing' of the roads in the Cousland area will be undertaken.
- Surface dressing involves laying down a surface layer of chips and technology has meant the loss of chips has reduced.
- Developments in technology has supported has improvements in the delivery 'surface dressing' work.
- The operation will involve Pothole Pro repairs before the surface dressing work is undertaken.

iii. **Residential Streets Programme**

- The team is considering engaging an external contractor to carry out the some of the work involved in the Residential Streets programme.
- The team has access to funds carried over into this financial year.
- Bonnyrigg - work is progressing in the Waverly estate. The team has had to return to the estate due to problems discovered when the team initially carried out the work.
- The team will be moving on to the Deanburn area in Penicuik, Burghlee in Loanhead and then Gowkshill in Gorebridge.
- Another team is working in Poltonhall and then Woodburn.
- WC informed those present at the meeting that the Roads team is making use of a new initiative using AI to for roads inspection (a 1 year trial). It will assist with the decision making process including the direction of expenditure and support requests for an increase in budget.

- The initiative has the potential to improve the condition of roads infrastructure and reduce expenditure.

iv. Easthouses – Pelican crossing

- Works are underway
- Zebra crossings

v. Mayfield Campus

- RH highlighted some potential issues of concern re the route used by construction vehicles and enquired whether Midlothian Council could influence the route that the vehicles will take through a residential area.
- WC advised that the Council couldn't control the route taken by construction vehicles but could influence the implementation of clearing \ cleaning etc.

vi. Tynewater

- Weeds and work in the area. Need more clarification about exactly where the work is required.

Action: PJ to contact the Tynewater Cc representative to ascertain whether they could provide more detailed information about the location.

vii. Kippielaw - Safe Routes to school

- Road services only recently became aware of requirement for a path to be made available.
- Main challenges are that much of the proposed route is on private land. Landowner has given 'green light' for the path to be constructed.
- Second section will be 450 metres in length and will traverse a water course.
- Road services are trying to deliver something feasible and practical.

3. A7 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STUDY - FORMATION OF COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP

PJ and WC provided an update on the project.

- Due to a limited response, it had not been possible to schedule any workshops at this stage.
- An alternative engagement approach will be used. It is anticipated that this approach will be more convenient for the large number of key stakeholders.
- Instead of a workshop, STANTEC will invite groups to write to them by email, about the issues or challenges which are important to their area and how they might relate to the project.
- 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.

As part of the engagement programme, STANTEC is approaching a number of stakeholders to ensure it reaches informed decisions for the project. It is the beginning of the wider engagement programme that will be conducted in three stages:

1. Initial consultation to establish existing issues and opportunities for improvements (*currently at this stage*).
2. Engagement and workshops around initial concepts (Planned for Summer / Autumn 2024).
3. Public consultation to validate proposed concept designs. (Planned for Winter 2024/25).

- As part of the initiative a pedestrian crossing adjacent to north and south bus stops will be installed.
- Phase 1 will involve a path being constructed along the length of the of the proposed route. It is anticipated that that work will commence in April 2025.
- Work will be undertaken between the hours of 9.00 – 3.00 in order to reduce the impact upon the flow of traffic along the route. It is anticipated that the work will take between 4 and 6 months to complete.
- A traffic light junction adjacent to the Sun Inn is planned

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MTRaP

- PJ has not received any feedback from MTRaP members
- ASK noted that she has some edits and will forward suggestions to PJ

Action: ASK to forward suggestions for edits to PJ

5. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

The 'On the Move Midlothian: Our Active Travel Strategy for Everyone' is open for completion until **Monday 22 July**.

MTRaP and MFCC members can complete the survey using this link:

[Active Travel Survey - Midlothian Council - Citizen Space](#)

Action: MTRaP, MFCC members and Community Councils to consider responding to the survey.

6. CORE PATHS

i. Access

AS (Moorfoot) highlighted concerns about access to paths in the area.

ii. Access Officer

PJ noted that at the April meeting, there was agreement that information to support the reinstatement of an Access Officer post would be sent to Justin Venton. AS noted that Moorfoot Community Council would provide information to support a proposal.

iii. Impact of Planning upon Core Paths

RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) advised that Community Council members check planning applications to see whether there are any proposals for that would have an impact on Core Paths.

iv. Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2)

A 'Call for Ideas and Opportunities' has been opened to provide individuals & community organisations with the chance to put forward ideas, opportunities or suggestions on matters or sites they would like to have included in the new Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP2).

ASK suggested that Community Councils may be able to use the survey to highlight ideas and issues that improve the development of the Core Paths network. See further information here:

[How to get involved | Development plans and policies | Midlothian Council](#)

Action: MTRaP, MFCC members and Community Councils to consider responding to the survey.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Drainage on Path – Tesco – Railway Station

BF (Eskbank) highlighted that are problems with drainage on the path.

WC advised to contact Sarah Fraser.

ii. A7 Junction at Middleton

AS highlighted concerns about the difficulty in exiting the junction from North Middleton on to the A7.

WC advised that a new vehicle activated sign was being installed to replace the existing one on the north bound carriageway.

iii. Road Marking in Carrington

Marking on speed humps is required to be renewed.

viii. Drainage in Vogrie Park

DW (Bonnyrigg) highlighted that drainage in Vogrie Park requires attention. WC advised to report these issues an email can be sent to Matthew Kelly (Land and Countryside).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2 September, 6.00 – 7.30

Zoom Meeting details.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87587655740?pwd=fcbZ7zG9fL6FhVOIk4aQC72irptswy.1>

Meeting ID: 875 8765 5740

Passcode: 819570