

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting
Monday, 25 November 2024, 6.00 to 7.30pm
Zoom

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Service Manager, Road Networks and Transport
Joe Gordon (JG)	Midlothian Council - Senior Consultant Engineer
Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability

APOLOGIES

Shona Hamilton (SH)	Moorfoot
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1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- i Robert Hogg (MECC) chaired the meeting and welcomed both members and guest speakers.

- ii **Notes of Previous Meetings**

Proposed: Brian Farrell

Seconded: Dougie West

2. A7 URBANISATION PROJECT (Joe Gordon & Wayne Clark)

- i JG advised MTRaP members that the project is part of the wider 20-mph project – I think there has been some misunderstanding here as the Urbanisation Project is not directly associated with the 20mph project but the fact that we will be dropping the speeds on the A7 to 30mph and the link roads which connect to the A7 will all see speed reductions also, means that that the projects will effectively run alongside and support each other.

Phase 1

- ii. Phase 1 of the project involves laying down provision of a 4-metre wide 'shared path'.
- iii. There will be provision for 2, (marked and signed) bus stops (laybys) on both the North and South carriageways.
- iv. There will be 2 Toucan crossings (A **toucan crossing** is a type of pedestrian crossing that also allows bicycles to be ridden across. Toucan crossings are normally four metres (13 feet) wide, instead of the 2.8 metre (9 feet) width of any pelican crossing) and a Zebra crossing on the Lasswade Road.
- v. Bus stops will improve provision for existing bus services.
- vi. Anticipating that as result of this provision, Lothian Buses will extend or increase services to and from Midlothian.
- vii. In addition to improving access to services for residents they will support the free flow of traffic on the A7. Note that the speed limit will be reduced to 30-mph.
- viii. To reduce the possibly of the parked traffic blocking the traffic flow the section may be marked with double yellow lines (and possibly barriers) or could be designated as a 'clearway'.
- ix. Street lighting and a new drainage system will be installed.
- x. The team involved in the initiative are clear that they wish to actively engage with the public and detailed communications will be provided, commencing in the new year.

Phase 2

- I. Phase 2 will be from Tesco to Hardengreen. This will be to install 4m shared use footpaths on this section with links to the National Cycle Network 196.
- II. Development at the 'Dobbie's' roundabout is being considered.

Sun Inn

- i. Intention to have 'spades in the ground' by 1st April.
- ii. Path will be extended from Newtongrange to a new signalised Toucan crossing at the A7 \ Carrington Road junction.
- iii. Traffic on the A7 will 'run' unless the signals are pressed or traffic coming from Carrington Road approaches the signals.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i. Capital Works Programme (CWP) update.

- AH (Midlothian Council) had previously circulated his monthly Capital Works Programme update.

At the meeting AH provided a brief overview of the progress of the programme and noted that if MTRaP members required any further information about the content of the report they could contact him (alan.heatley@midlothian.gov.uk).

4. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, JOINT PRIORITY SCHEMES (2025–2026)

- As agreed at the October meeting, PJ (Midlothian Council) had circulated a proposal to MTRaP and MFCC members.
- PJ highlighted **Monday 13 January** as the deadline for suggestions to be submitted

Action: MTRaP members agreed to promote the initiative and seek suggestions from their local community members.

5. Attendance of Matt Kelly (Group Manager - Recycling and Greenspace – Neighbourhood Services) at January Meeting

- PJ advised members that Matt Kelly has accepted an invitation to attend the January meeting to discuss the work of his team, including a member of the team having a role to address matters relating to 'Access'.

Action: MTRaP members to forward requests for information about the work of the Neighbourhood Services Team to PJ by 13 January 2025.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Mayfield and Easthouses

AH advised that work on the Conifer Road scheme has commenced and is anticipated to last for 2 weeks

ii. CCTV

- WC advised that CCTV systems are in place in Bonnyrigg, Dalkeith, Penicuik and Sherrifhall park and ride.
- Next phase will see systems being installed Danderhall, Loanhead and Mayfield.

- WC advised that it would be possible for MTRaP or CC members to visit the system in operation. However, numbers would have to be restricted to 2 or 3 people at a time due to the small size of the CCTV control room.
- WC advised that all 9 portably deployable CCTV cameras are in use. They have proved to very effective and are used by a range of services including Police Scotland and Environmental Health staff.

iii. Winter Service programme

- WC advised that Midlothian Council shares weather forecasting information with Scottish Borders and City of Edinburgh Councils.
- He highlighted that Midlothian Council has fully deployed its gritting and snow clearing equipment at around 3.00 am on Saturday 23 November. This deployment had facilitated very good access to roads and paths across the county.
- Lothian Buses had cancelled Bus services (due to issues in Edinburgh) even though roads within the Midlothian Council boundary had been perfectly passable.

iv. Tynewater

Kiln Brae

- WC advised that the homeowners whose contractors had undertaken work had been contacted and a request had been made for the work to be completed.
- If the works become unsafe Midlothian Council will take action to ensure that the work is made safe or completed.

Lamppost on A6124 missing

- WC will check with the Council's lighting team to and investigate replacement.

iv. **Reduction of speed limit to 20 mph**

- Phase 2 of the project will be undertaken in early 2025.

v. Flooding on road in the Borthwick area

- A burst pipe had led to unsafe conditions on the road during the recent icy weather.
- W.C. will ask a member of his team to investigate.

vi. Work undertaken on the A703

- On behalf of local residents, CN expressed appreciation of the 'heavy brush' work undertaken to clear the footways along the route.
- WC advised that the use of a JCB will be required to undertake the work required.

vii. Safe Routes to School

- W.C. provided an update on progress of the work to develop paths for the use of parents and children who attend Easthouses Primary School.

Action: WC will investigate the replacement of the lamppost on the A6124.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2024, 6.00 – 7.30, ZOOM

Zoom Meeting details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86957467459?pwd=xdtWwCellPiToJuciwi0rpg7aJu8rV.1>

Meeting ID: 869 5746 7459

Passcode: 281129

Approved 20 January 2025