

Consultation on A426 Bus Corridor Project

(Leicester Road, Lutterworth Road,
Aylestone Road and Oxford Street)

We are interested in hearing your views.

Please complete and return the pre-paid response card.

The consultation period ends on Friday 26th October 2012.

The Problem

The A426 (from Lutterworth through Blaby and Glen Parva to Leicester City) is one of the major traffic routes into Leicester City Centre carrying around 18,500 vehicles per day. Road users regularly experience congestion, especially during week day mornings and afternoons when they are travelling between home and work. Buses regularly get held up in this congestion, which leads to increased journey times and less reliable services. This has a negative impact on the local economy and the environment.

Background

In December 2011 the Department for Transport made a £50 million Better Bus Area Fund to support local authority projects aimed at increasing bus usage, boosting the economy and improving the environment by reducing congestion and making bus services more reliable. Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council submitted a joint bid for a share of this fund towards a range of bus route improvement proposals along the A426 from Blaby into Leicester City Centre. This bid was successful and in March 2012 £2.56 million was awarded with the condition that it be used by March 2014.

Complementary funding for the project is being provided by Leicester City Council (£1.542m), Leicestershire County Council (£0.596m) and Arriva (£0.290m) as the main bus operator on the route.

When developing the proposals for the project we:

- Used the previous A426 bus corridor route improvement proposals consulted on in December 2009 as a starting point
- Studied traffic data and comments received in previous consultation and used this information to focus proposals where there is a clear need and measurable benefit
- Included Information and Behaviour Change initiatives and Quality Bus Improvements as additional elements to the bus infrastructure proposals to provide a full range of improvements, make buses easier and more attractive to use

Please refer to the bid document (www.leics.gov.uk/A426_Bus_Corridor_Project) for full details and analysis of benefits.

Project Aim

This project aims to help grow the local economy with reduced congestion and improve the environment by encouraging more journeys by bus.

(The proposals will not increase the journey time for those choosing to drive by car.)



The Proposals

Bus Infrastructure Improvements

This element of the project is targeted at the known points along the A426 where buses are delayed. These proposals are illustrated on the plan adjacent and consist of:

- Bus lanes to allow buses to bypass traffic queues on congested sections of the A426
- Bus Lane Traffic Signal Controls to allow buses to get close to the front of the traffic queue at junctions
- 24 hour/7 days a week operation with No Waiting and No Loading at Any Time restrictions proposed to be applied to all bus lanes (proposed and existing) wherever possible (a Traffic Regulation Order for these proposed hours of operation and restrictions will be formally advertised following this consultation)
- Bus lane enforcement building on new city centre enforcement to improve journey time and reliability along the route into and out of the city centre
- Junction improvements to improve safety, increase capacity and reduce delays for all users
- Road maintenance (including resurfacing) to improve ride quality

There will be some local road widening required to fit some of the bus lanes in, but this will all be within the public highway. No private land is needed. Some footway widths will be reduced but the minimum national standard width for a footway of 1.8 metres will be maintained throughout and in some locations footways will be widened. The lengths of bus lane where widening is proposed are shown on the plan. Greater detail of the proposed widening will be available on the City and County Council's websites and at the planned exhibitions (see overleaf for website addresses and exhibition dates and venues).

Proposals (continued)

Information and Behaviour Change

To complement the bus infrastructure improvements, help increase bus usage and help raise awareness of the benefits of using the bus, potential new and existing bus users would be targeted through:

- Focussed promotion and marketing, bus route information and improved timetable displays at bus stops to increase information and awareness of bus services
- Personalised Travel Planning to help inform people about their travel choices
- Smart and Integrated ticketing using the OneCard allows passengers to use a prepaid smartcard ticket to board buses using wireless technology, without having to use cash - providing quick and easy access onto buses
- Travel to work grants which provide subsidised bus fares for people attending interviews, training or the first few weeks of employment
- The provision of real time passenger information (bus travel information via the internet and mobile technology including a journey planner and web site)

Quality Improvements to Existing Bus Services

This element of the project would help to encourage a move to bus use away from the car to reduce congestion by making bus services more attractive and easier to use, proposals include;

- Bus stop improvements (new bus shelters, seating, lighting etc) along the route
- Refurbished higher quality buses and daily vehicle cleaning
- Arriva City Centre presence to monitor service reliability and provide passenger information in person
- Customer care training for drivers

Additional Proposals

A number of additional proposals (as shown on the plan) have been identified as further enhancements along the A426 to assist bus users, cyclists and pedestrians. Subject to further feasibility checks and funding we would look to incorporate these into this project.

Benefits of the Project

Overall this project would deliver;

- Reduced and more predictable journey times along with improved reliability and punctuality of bus services
- Increased bus usage due to journey time improvements, information provision, marketing and quality bus improvements
- Reduced congestion as a result of the move from car to bus use and improvements at junctions
- Reduced carbon emissions due to a reduction in congestion
- Benefits to businesses of better journey time reliability for both employees and delivery vehicles
- Improved access to work and training opportunities

Wider Benefits

- Improved pedestrian crossing points
- Proposed speed limit reduction between a point just south of the (A563) Soar Valley Way junction and a point just south of the Woodbank junction to improve safety for all road users along that section of the A426
- Improvements for cyclists – bus lanes will enable safer cycle use along the A426
- Safety improvements at junctions – the scheme would also be addressing one of the City Council's high priority accident sites at the Soar Valley Way (A563)/Lutterworth Road (A426) junction
- Better emergency vehicle access

What Next:

If you would like to see the proposals in more detail you can:

- Visit one of the public exhibitions, see below for the dates, times and venues:

Tuesday 2nd October, 2pm to 7:30pm
at Leicester Tigers Rugby Club Underwood Suite

Thursday 4th October, 2pm to 7:30pm
at Leicester Tigers Rugby Club Underwood Suite

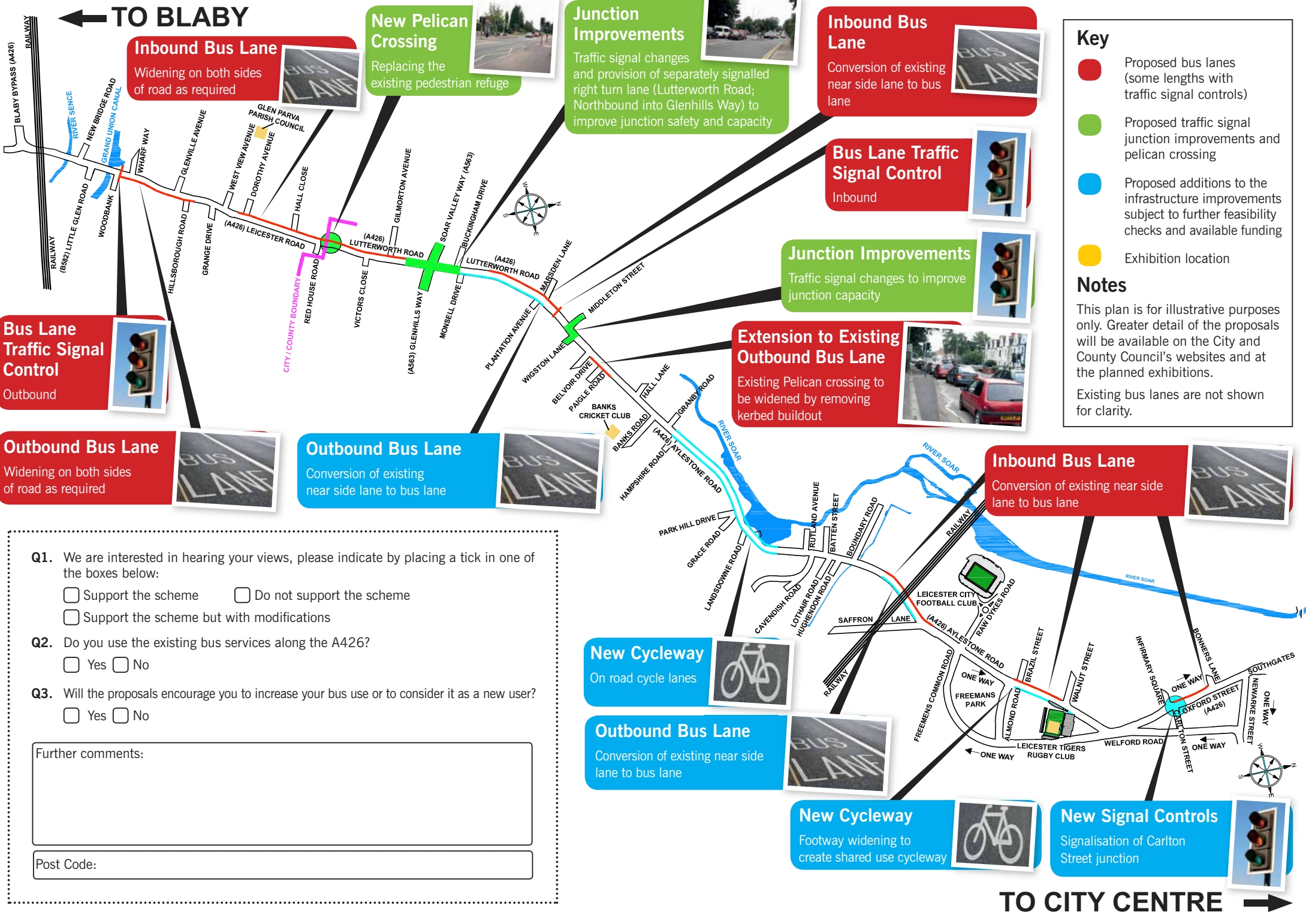
Saturday 6th October, 12noon to 5pm
at Glen Parva Parish Council Offices

Tuesday 9th October, 2pm to 7:30pm
at Banks Cricket Club, Banks Road, Leicester

Officers will be there to answer any queries or questions you have about the project.

- Visit the City and County Council offices
Leicester City Council, New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester, LE1 6ZG
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield Leicester, LE3 8RA
- Visit the City and County Councils' web sites
www.leicester.gov.uk
www.leics.gov.uk

The Traffic Regulation Orders for the proposed and existing bus lane hours of operation (24 hour/7 days a week) and restrictions (no waiting and loading at any time) as well as the speed limit change will be formally advertised following the consultation.



Inbound Bus Lane

Widening on both sides of road as required



New Pelican Crossing

Replacing the existing pedestrian refuge



Junction Improvements

Traffic signal changes and provision of separately signalled right turn lane (Lutterworth Road; Northbound into Glenhills Way) to improve junction safety and capacity



Inbound Bus Lane

Conversion of existing near side lane to bus lane



Bus Lane Traffic Signal Control

Inbound



Junction Improvements

Traffic signal changes to improve junction capacity



Extension to Existing Outbound Bus Lane

Existing Pelican crossing to be widened by removing kerbed buildout



Bus Lane Traffic Signal Control

Outbound



Outbound Bus Lane

Widening on both sides of road as required



Outbound Bus Lane

Conversion of existing near side lane to bus lane



Inbound Bus Lane

Conversion of existing near side lane to bus lane



New Cycleway

On road cycle lanes



Outbound Bus Lane

Conversion of existing near side lane to bus lane



New Cycleway

Footway widening to create shared use cycleway



New Signal Controls

Signalisation of Carlton Street junction



Q1. We are interested in hearing your views, please indicate by placing a tick in one of the boxes below:

- Support the scheme Do not support the scheme
- Support the scheme but with modifications

Q2. Do you use the existing bus services along the A426?

- Yes No

Q3. Will the proposals encourage you to increase your bus use or to consider it as a new user?

- Yes No

Further comments:

Post Code:

TO CITY CENTRE →

We are interested in hearing your views. Please complete and return the pre-paid response card. Alternatively you can write to the City and County Councils, email us at BBAF@leics.gov.uk or use the online comment form. The consultation period ends on Friday 26th October 2012.



If you require the attached information in an alternative version e.g. large print, Braille or an alternative language, please telephone 0116 305 0001.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 0001 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા વ્યવસ્થા કરીશું.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 0001 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 0001 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 0001，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 0001, a my Ci dopomożemy.

Blank Page