



A82 Inverness Walking & Cycling Improvements

Tomnahurich Roundabout to Longman Road



Issue Four - January 2020

Project Outline

Welcome to the fourth newsletter which provides information and progress updates about the upcoming road safety improvements on the A82 between Tomnahurich Roundabout and Longman Roundabout in Inverness.

Significant progress has been made with the development of the project since the previous update. Designs for the first phase of the project to install a push-button controlled pedestrian crossing at Smith Avenue have been finalised with work due to begin on Monday 13th January.

The project is being carried out by BEAR Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland and will see £400,000 worth of work to improve facilities for non-motorised users on the A82 between Tomnahurich Roundabout and Longman Roundabout. The project aims to provide pedestrian and cyclists with safer crossing points, as well as reducing the number of vehicle collisions.

The locations and details of the A82 safety improvements include:

- The installation of a push-button controlled pedestrian crossing at Smith Avenue, near the Scotmid shop.
- The installation of a push-button controlled crossing between Montague Row and Ardross Street.
- Upgrades to the signal controls at the Kenneth Street and Tomnahurich Street junction.
- The installation of kerbed buildouts at key locations on the footway and the improvement of existing pedestrian islands.

What has happened since November?

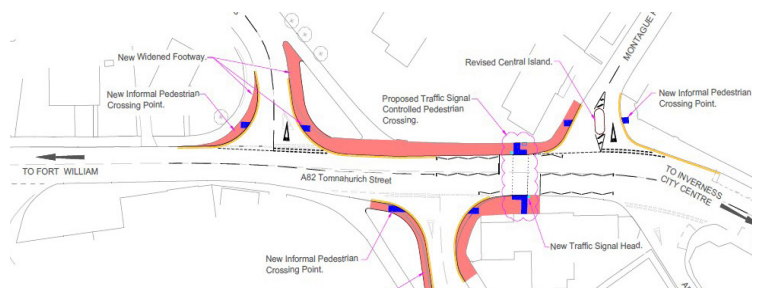
A walking, cycling and horse-riding assessment has been carried out and is going through its final stages of completion. The opportunities which arose to improve the provision for pedestrians and cyclists have influenced the design drawings to include several facilities for non-motorised users which will improve accessibility.

What's Coming Up?

Smith Avenue

The Design team has finalised the preparations for construction of the Smith Avenue controlled crossing and construction is scheduled to start on Monday 13th January. It is anticipated that the construction phase will last approximately six weeks before the crossing is ready to use by the public. The construction works require careful planning and organisation to ensure the safety of both the workforce and members of the public. Works involve the provision of new kerbing, dropped kerbs to improve pedestrian access, resurfacing of some footways, the installation of traffic signal control equipment and resurfacing of the road with high friction surfacing. New road markings will be installed once the surface treatment is applied. This will be a busy site and some disruption to the travelling public is expected. BEAR Scotland will continually review operations to ensure delays are kept to a minimum whilst maintaining safety for all.

Outline proposal drawing for Montague Row as detailed below.



Montague Row

Montague Row is currently in the final design phase and is expected to commence construction in late February with completion due in the first week of April. Consultation with stakeholders is ongoing for this location to ensure residents are aware of the improvements and any potential disruptions. There will be discussions to ensure the project does not have any significant impact on emergency services, bus services and local businesses. Due to the concentration of junctions in the area and to provide a safe environment for the works and the public, there will be a need to restrict movements onto and off the A82 at various times. These restrictions will be signed with local diversions in place. The works at Montague Row will require the road to be closed during the installation of the central island. Local diversion routes will be signed via the A82 and Rangemore Road during work periods. Residents will be notified of the timings of this. These restrictions will only be valid when signs are in place.

Telford Roundabout to Longman Road Roundabout

The current focus of the improvements to non-motorised user facilities has been on the stretch of the A82 between Bught Drive and Telford Road Roundabout. The section between Telford Road Roundabout and Longman Road Roundabout will be investigated in the future and further consultation with stakeholders will be carried out in due course.

Stakeholder/Community Group Consultation - Visually Impaired Working Group

Representatives from BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland met with visually impaired users of the A82 in Inverness ahead the installation of two new controlled crossing points in the area. Road Safety Manager Kevin McKechnie and Engineer Stephen Urquhart, together with Transport Scotland Road Safety Manager Richard Perry, attended the meeting with the Visually Impaired Working Group to discuss the unique needs of visually impaired. The meeting was arranged by Highland Councillor Bill Boyd who had been contacted by local visually impaired residents who had concerns relating to the existing crossing facilities along the A82.

The group discussed the benefits that the new controlled crossings would bring and were delighted to hear that the new crossings would feature the latest audible and visual indicators to enable safe use of the crossings. The visually impaired users agreed that the chosen locations of the crossings would be very beneficial and were also very happy to hear that the Kenneth Street/Tomnahurich Street Junction would be upgraded in 2020 with pedestrian facilities at all locations of the junction. This will improve journeys around this part of Inverness for all road users.

The meeting was useful to gain a first-hand understanding of how visually impaired users travel around the network and the challenges they face. The knowledge gained from the meeting will contribute to increasing accessibility for all road users on the trunk road network in future projects.



BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland met with the Inverness A82 Visually Impaired Working Group to discuss the future crossings project.

Traffic Information

During the construction period of the traffic signal-controlled crossing at Smith Avenue, there will be three-way traffic signals in place while the works are underway. Two of the temporary traffic lights will be in place on Glenurquhart Road with a further set on Smith Avenue. This is required to ensure the safety of road users and the construction teams. The temporary traffic lights will be in place whilst work takes place and removed daily but parking restrictions on Smith Avenue will apply 24-hours a day, seven days a week whilst some of the construction works are underway. When deemed safe to do so, the traffic lights will be removed to reduce the impact on the travelling public. We aim to keep the public updated as the scheme progresses.

To report a defect or problem on the trunk road network, please visit the BEAR Scotland website at <http://bit.ly/ReportADefect> or contact the Trunk Road Customer Care line on 0800 028 1414.

Motorists driving in and around Inverness can access up to the minute journey time information at www.trafficscotland.org or twitter [@traffscotland](https://twitter.com/traffscotland).

Should you require any further information about the A82 Tomnahurich Road Safety Improvements, please contact BEAR Scotland by emailing: NWConsultation@bearsotland.co.uk or call 0800 028 1414.

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