



A82 Inverness Walking & Cycling Improvements

Tomnahurich Roundabout to Longman Road



Issue Six - May 2020

Project Outline

Welcome to the sixth newsletter providing information and progress updates about the ongoing road safety improvements on the A82 between the Tomnahurich Roundabout and Longman Roundabout, Inverness.

The £400,000 project involves improvements to facilities for non-motorised users on the A82. The project aims to provide pedestrians and cyclists with safer crossing points, reducing the number of vehicle collisions and encourage active travel in the area.

The project is being carried out by BEAR Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland and will involve the following improvements:

- The installation of a push-button controlled pedestrian crossing across the A82 at Smith Avenue, at the Scotmid shop which is nearly completed.
- The installation of a push-button controlled crossing across the A82 between Montague Row and Ardross Street.
- Upgrades to the signal-controlled junction at the Kenneth Street and Tomnahurich Street junction with the provision of additional pedestrian crossing facilities across all four arms.
- The installation of kerbed buildouts at key locations on the footway and the improvement of existing pedestrian islands and bus stops.
- The investigation into potential improvements on the A82 Longman Road Dual Carriageway.

What has happened since March?

Smith Avenue

Unfortunately, due to the **Covid-19** pandemic and restrictions to working on the road network, all non-essential construction work has ceased. This decision was made in discussion with Transport Scotland to ensure the safety of the public and BEAR staff by minimising the spread of the virus and ensuring the trunk road network was available for essential services. Please find more information regarding BEAR Scotland's response to the Covid-19 outbreak [here](#).

We appreciate the local community being understanding of restrictions on construction works during this time period. We aim to give updates as to when construction work will recommence in line with official guidance as soon as possible.



A82 / Smith Avenue Junction: Image showing the kerbed build out at Smith Avenue ready for surfacing.

Kenneth Street/Tomnahurich Street Junction

Following the recent traffic modelling exercise for the Kenneth Street/Tomnahurich Street Junction, a preferred layout has been finalised and is now being developed by traffic signal specialists. We are looking forward to showing this layout to the local community in a future edition of this newsletter.

The modelling confirmed that the most effective option to enable more controlled pedestrian crossings and improve resilience of the traffic signals is to remove the small island between Kenneth Street and Tomnahurich Street. This will provide a straightforward junction layout with controlled pedestrian crossings across all four arms. The traffic signal equipment on the island is regularly damaged, resulting in the entire traffic signal control system turning off for electrical safety – by removing this island, the traffic signal equipment will be better protected.

The traffic modelling predicted that the provision of the additional pedestrian crossings may result in a slight increase in waiting times for motorists at peak times, however the junction should operate within acceptable parameters. The traffic signals have been designed to enable pedestrian phases to operate as walk-with traffic movements dependent on pedestrian demand, similar to the existing junction. The new junction layout has been developed to be easy to understand for pedestrians including those with visual impairments mobility aids and pushchairs, whilst minimising delays for vehicles and providing a junction that is capable of adapting to future traffic demands.

Dependent on pedestrian demand there is likely to be some increase in journey times on the A82 approaches during peak periods; however, the new junction has been designed to maximise the junction efficiency as far as the existing geometry allows. The substantial benefits to pedestrians as a result of the new controlled crossings significantly outweighs the predicted slight increase in waiting times for motorists.



Kenneth Street Tomnahurich Street Junction: Image showing the central island which is planned to be removed.

What's Coming Up?

Telford Roundabout to Longman Road Roundabout

A previous consultation carried out in August 2018 revealed that non-motorised users travel the A82 dual carriageway as a route for commuting daily to their place of work and supplemented by leisure users visiting retail premises. However, the feedback received identified they

can experience significant difficulties using the route. The main issues related to legal restrictions which prohibit cycling on parts of the footway; delays when crossing busy roads and the lack of accessible and obvious routes to attractions and places of work. Since 2018 there have been several major developments constructed in the vicinity of the A82 and the Longman area of Inverness which are likely to influence travel patterns, including vehicular traffic and further encourage demand for active travel facilities.

Following a review of the consultation feedback, investigation work is planned to commence this financial year to re-assess the previous proposals against the project's primary objective of casualty reduction and the incorporation of active travel facilities where appropriate.

Traffic Information

There will continue to be three-way traffic signals in place when the works at Smith Avenue resume. These temporary traffic lights are required to ensure the safety of road users and the construction teams. Typically, the temporary traffic lights are operational 9am-4pm to avoid peak traffic flows. We understand that this can be an inconvenience and appreciate your patience during these phases. We aim to keep the public updated as the scheme progresses.

Once the Smith Avenue works are complete the construction of the pedestrian crossing at Montague Row will commence which will require temporary traffic lights, in operation between 9am-4am. These may be extended to ensure the safety of the Operations Team.

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.

www.bearsotland.com



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