

**Leeds Emergency Active Travel Group, initial Zoom meeting
10 June 2020**

Attendees:

- Cllr Lisa Mulherin - Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development, Leeds City Council
- Cllr Peter Carlill - Lead Member for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport, Leeds City Council
- Paul Foster - Transport Strategy Manager, Leeds City Council
- Paul Chatterton - University of Leeds / Our Future Leeds
- Ruth Gelletlie - Leeds Clean Air Alliance
- Pete Zanzottera - Leeds Living Streets
- Suzanne Nicholls - Our Future Leeds
- Margo Hanson - University of Leeds
- Mark Goldstone - Leeds Chamber of Commerce
- Greg Marsden - Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds
- Rob Greenland - Social Business Brokers
- Martin Stanley - Leeds Cycling Campaign
- Robin Lovelace - Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds
- Martin Hamilton - Leeds Civic Trust
- Lauren Lawson - Create Streets
- Robbie Strathdee/Shannon Jackson - Leeds Youth Strike for Climate
- Anzir Boodoo - Our Future Leeds, Leeds Disability Forum

Remit of Forum:

promote engagement and communication between sectors; share skills and expertise; share the work that the Council is already doing; provide clarity about resources available; offer insights to improve proposals; provide specific support and increase capacity.

AGENDA

Review of Emergency Active Travel Leeds' funding application to Dept for Transport

- Announcement on Friday that they plan to do "much more than is on the list"
- Initial plan focuses on schemes that already have broad public support
- 100k of cycle routes starting with key routes in first tranche
- LCWIP segregated cycle lanes should happen quickly
- Measures labelled TCF in the spreadsheet were already funded by Transforming Cities Fund and are being brought forward
- A65 scheme: materials arriving next week, work starting within a week's time
- A660 scheme is currently in the design phase.
- They'll share full list of Social Distancing pavement widening measures on Commonplace soon
- School street initiatives up and running at six primary schools across the city since 1st June
- Closing streets in low traffic areas (mini Holland style) ready to start soon and should be quick to implement once relevant ward Councillors have been consulted

- Cycle parking scheme is not just in city centre
- Bringing forward safe route for cyclists on Claypit Lane linking to Meanwood and Chapeltown
- List probably adds up to more than the available funding, anything that is not funded in first round will be added into 2nd tranche also seeking other sources of funding

Q&A and Comments

- Why is cost so much higher for A660 than A65?
 - A65 uses existing infrastructure
- There are rumours of supply shortages of necessary materials, has LCC placed orders? If not Rosehill has stock and good supply links with Spain.
 - LCC has put in orders already with Readywell.
- School Streets will more schools be added?
 - They've already had more schools come forward to ask about being added
- What will happen with school busing system come September particularly for secondary schools?
 - Hoping low traffic neighbourhood schemes will help address that. They can prioritise a few secondary schools.
- Is it possible to close major through roads near schools or only access roads?
 - So far school streets closures have focused on access roads (many have been cul-de-sacs). Schools on major roads and bus routes are unlikely to be eligible for School streets scheme.
- There is open data available on how kids travel to school.
 - <https://datamillnorth.org/dataset/school-mode-of-travel?q=children%20travel>
- What is the timescale for the work?
 - Timescale will be determined by availability of materials and ordering them. There is also a challenge around design work. Should be able to achieve everything within 8 weeks as specified in funding guidance.
- Combined Authority is also doing some work including supporting various groups to get bikes and training.
- What are the specifics of the plan for the A660?
 - Planning is ongoing. It includes light segregation for cycle lanes and addressing the bottleneck at Hyde Park corner

Plans for the 2nd phase of funding to DfT in Autumn

- Bigger aspiration around more low traffic neighbourhoods, additional school streets, and cycle routes. Will continue to look at feedback on commonplace. Also trying to account for needs in inner-city areas that may not be as engaged with Commonplace but would benefit greatly from measures to improve active travel. Continuing to look for other sources of funding. Hoping to cover £6m worth of work.

Q&A and Comments

- How will measures and schemes be evaluated and what determines success?
 - Plan to collect feedback to see how people are using the new routes and what they think, how it's changed their travel patterns

- Cycling has a strong lobby but walking doesn't. We want to make sure that walking routes and walking are being promoted as much as cycling.
- Is anything being done to improve the environment for pedestrians more generally such as reducing wait times at pedestrian crossings?
 - A programme to reduce wait times at crossings has already begun. 1/3 of stand alone crossings will now change within 5 sec of pressing the button. Low traffic neighbourhoods should help with walking that's where we expect to see big changes
- On street parking—Is Cllr Richie leading on something around the pavement parking issue?
 - This needs a bit more thinking at national level. WY Police take a pragmatic approach. If vehicles are parked to prevent a double buggy or wheelchair from passing on the pavement they will take action. Ruth—Council could put out a statement saying that pavement parking is not okay to make it socially unacceptable.
- Example from New York about good evaluation techniques helping to add credibility—they are using clear criteria to determine what does and does not work. (Did Greg include a link in the chat?)
- Submission of tranche 2 will be in August and we would anticipate receiving a pot of £4m. Design team already working on this. Need more of a holistic idea about what these things mean to people in terms of health, lifestyle and community cohesion not just transport data. Group has been set up with LCC, Public Health, and Active Leeds to try to get this holistic insight.

How can this group offer support

- LCC would like to see other groups supporting these schemes so that it isn't only the council talking about it. It would help for businesses, community groups and residents to promote the schemes as well to help people get behind them. How to reach communities that aren't engaging with Commonplace but will greatly benefit from these schemes.
 - Story hasn't been simple enough for us to sell yet. We need an enticing clear simple story with infographics, headshots, stories, etc. What are the bits of the story that we are building a narrative around?
 - LCC doesn't have a big comms team to support this, they want others to help get the message out. They want communications support from this group.
 - To promote this work there needs to be an easy to understand joined up network—how do they plan to join up all the threads?
 - Trying to achieve "The City Where You Don't Need a Car" this is the narrative they want to promote and are trying to achieve. Q—is this view actually shared by the city or just the transport planners? Ans: this is at the heart of the city's Transport Strategy.
 - Rob has been speaking to a design firm about promoting cycling and walking and can share that info as it develops at next meeting.
 - Geographical story is important—connecting low traffic neighbourhoods together not just connecting people to city centre.
 - Sheepscar junction improvements have been fast tracked—improvements will appear very soon. Active travel neighbourhoods are neighbourhood

focused. Story needs to be about how city as a whole will benefit and that this is a start. Starting in areas of greatest need. How do we support people to want to make the change to active travel—businesses can support by encouraging homeworking, etc. We can all play a part in telling that story

- Announcement today about CCTV enforcement of parking in cycle lanes violation.
- Focus on how to tell the story and amplify the messages as well as being a critical friend supporting what is working and raising awareness of what isn't so that things can continue to improve.

Next Steps

- **Action:** Item for the next meeting: Reviewing measures that are on site at that point
- **Action:** look at funding options for an Active Travel person to sit across the University, community groups and LCC.
- What should the public life of this forum be? Should the city know that we are helping?
 - **Action:** Cllr Mulherin and Paul to have a chat about the best way to promote this collaboration
- **Next meeting—workshop style Wed 24th June 9:30am**
- Do we want to use a collaborative communication channel like Slack, Microsoft teams. What is permissible?
 - **Action:** Discuss between now and next meeting.