

From: CP Metrobus <CPMetrobus@southglos.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 June 2020 13:50

Subject: CPME update



Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to update you on the railway bridge replacement work taking place on Gypsy Patch Lane, as part of the Cribbs Patchway metrobus extension (CPME).

As part of CPME, Network Rail and their contractor Alun Griffiths are working on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council to deliver a new railway bridge on Gypsy Patch Lane. The wider bridge will provide room for new bus lanes in each direction and shared use cycle and pedestrian pathways, as well as general traffic lanes.

Gypsy Patch Lane bridge replacement

The bridge move on Gypsy Patch Lane was due to take place over the Easter period but because of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and government guidance concerning social distancing Network Rail postponed the work along with a number of other schemes across the wider rail network.

Since this time Network Rail has continued to work hard behind the scenes with its stakeholders, contractor and supply chain to identify a new date when the Gypsy Patch Lane railway bridge can be manoeuvred into position.

The bridge move on Gypsy Patch Lane will now take place between **Saturday 24 October and the early hours of Saturday 7 November 2020** and will take approximately 13 days to complete.

The 13 days take into consideration the extra time needed to carry out work whilst observing the current government guidelines on Coronavirus and social distancing. Network Rail are also hoping to be able to complete some of the tasks on the railway that previously would have been carried out in separate follow up shifts.

To enable the bridge replacement, which is a significant piece of engineering work, the rail line must be closed to trains for a number of days and arranging this has been a complex process that needed to take into account a range of factors, including:

- The latest Coronavirus government guidance.
- The availability of a wide range of critical equipment, machinery and people, including the self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT) units that will pick up and move the new bridge into position.
- Securing local accommodation for the 150 specialist railway engineering staff that will be working on the bridge replacement.
- Co-ordination with other railway projects requiring rail line closures elsewhere on the national rail network.

- Consultation with Train Operating Companies and Freight Operating Companies because a closure impacts on train services, passengers and freight movements.

Ongoing work

Network Rail, and its contractors Alun Griffiths, remain on site at Gipsy Patch Lane undertaking as much work as they can prior to the bridge move whilst complying with government guidelines. Network Rail are also investigating whether some work that was not due to be carried out until after the new bridge is in place can be completed sooner.

Gipsy Patch Lane and Station Road junction

Gipsy Patch Lane and the junction with Station Road need to remain closed until after the bridge move is complete and the road beneath the bridge has been lowered. The road and junction are expected to remain closed to vehicles until approximately July 2021.

This new timeframe takes into consideration the extra time needed to carry out work whilst observing the current government guidelines on Coronavirus and social distancing.

It is not possible to reopen the road fully to all road users prior to the bridge move because of the extent of work that has already been completed. The road closure also needs to remain in place whilst Network Rail and Alun Griffiths continue with preparatory and highways work, such as the creation of the SPMT roadway.

Pedestrian access

A footpath, suitable for pedestrians and dismounted cyclists only, has been reopened under the railway bridge on Gipsy Patch Lane and will remain open until further notice. The footpath is narrow and pedestrians are advised to take extra care should they need to use it.

However, the footpath will need to close when the bridge move takes place in the autumn. When this happens the free shuttle bus service will be reinstated for those pedestrians needing to make essential journeys either side of Gipsy Patch Lane. We will provide advance notice to the community when the footpath needs to close.

Wider CPME project

The CPME is a £57million investment to reduce congestion and improve journey times for all road users in your area by providing a new quick, reliable public transport system.

The council remains committed to this important transport project which will provide a direct route between Bristol Parkway railway station, Stoke Gifford, the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood, The Mall shopping centre and will link with the wider metrobus network.

The new dates for the bridge move and the road closure will have implications for the wider CPME project. We are currently looking at the project's programme and we will update the community when we have more information.

Further information and future updates

We will write to you again closer to the bridge replacement to provide more information about the work that will take place.

The dates and timeframes in this email may be subject to further change and we will continue to keep the community up to date.

For updates on the project please like and follow our Facebook group www.facebook.com/sgloscpme and keep an eye on our webpage www.southglos.gov.uk/cpmetrobus where any updates will be posted. We would also encourage you sign up to our newsletter, which you can do by visiting our webpage.

If you have any questions on the construction work currently taking place on Gipsy Patch Lane, please call the Network Rail 24-hour helpline on **03457 11 41 41**.

We apologise for any ongoing disruption and thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully

Richard Gillingham
Cribbs Patchway Metrobus Extension Project Sponsor
South Gloucestershire Council