

Dear Stakeholder

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

### **Gipsy Patch Lane bridge replacement**

The new 4,260 tonne railway bridge on Gipsy Patch Lane is now fully installed and the main rail line reopened. This has been a significant engineering project and the bridge move was the heaviest lift of its kind to have been undertaken in the UK.

During the recent rail line closure, Network Rail and its contractor Alun Griffiths, worked round the clock to remove the track and overhead line equipment, demolish the former bridge on Gipsy Patch Lane, move the new bridge into position and reinstall the track and overhead line equipment.

Unfortunately, due to a significant engineering problem experienced during the bridge move, this work took longer than expected and the closure of the rail line had to be extended. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience during this phase of work.

More information about the bridge replacement work is available on the project website, please visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/cpmetrobus](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/cpmetrobus).

### **Gipsy Patch Lane road lowering**

Now the new bridge is in position Gipsy Patch Lane will need to remain closed to all road users to enable further works on the carriageway beneath the bridge. This work is to make way for the new bus lanes and shared use cycle and pedestrian pathways.

There are national design standards that must be complied with whenever a new bridge is built, which stipulate how much headroom is required under a new bridge. It is not possible to raise the bridge because of the railway line, so in order to comply with the standards for a new bridge, the only option is to lower the road.

Gipsy Patch Lane will remain closed until July 2021, while this work is completed.

Work will include:

- Demolition and excavation of the existing carriageway underneath the bridge
- Re-grading the junction with Station Road to tie-in with the new carriageway level
- Utility diversions underneath the new cycle and pedestrian pathways
- Installation of new surface water drainage system, including pumping station
- Installation of new street lighting
- Construction of new carriageway and pathways
- New traffic signs, road markings and landscaping/planting

This work will be carried out during the daytime, between the hours of 7.30am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Network Rail, and its contractor, will work to minimise any disruption caused.

Any questions or issues about the work can be raised via the Network Rail 24-hour helpline on **03457 11 41 41**.

We understand there continues to be great local interest in the CPME project but everyone should observe social distancing and follow current local and national guidelines. Therefore, we would kindly ask that you do not visit the construction site, including the railway bridge area, on Gipsy Patch Lane to watch work taking place or interact with the workforce.

Updates on the project and the work taking place will continue to be shared via the project's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/sgloscpme](https://www.facebook.com/sgloscpme) and via Twitter [www.twitter.com/sqloscouncil](https://www.twitter.com/sqloscouncil).

### **Gipsy Patch Lane closure**

While Gipsy Patch Lane is closed to traffic the signed diversion route for motorists will remain via Bradley Stoke Way and the A38.

### **Follow-up work**

The rail line has been reopened but with a temporary speed limit in place. This is standard practice and, as planned, follow-up work known as tamping will be required. During these shifts tamper trains lift and pack the stone under the tracks which can be a noisy process. This work is likely to take place overnight and we will provide more information when dates have been confirmed.

### **Pedestrian access and shuttle bus service**

The footpath under the railway bridge on Gipsy Patch Lane also remains closed at this time. Network Rail and its contractor Alun Griffiths will be working towards re-opening a route for pedestrians and dismounted cyclists. We will update the wider community when this is available.

Network Rail are continuing to run a shuttle bus service for pedestrians needing to access either side of the Gipsy Patch Lane railway bridge. This service is free of charge and will operate for the duration of time the railway bridge is closed to pedestrians.

The shuttle bus is running weekdays, weekends and is also available overnight. See the project website for full timetable details.

The daytime shuttle bus service is being operated by Stagecoach and the overnight service is being operated by South West Minibuses. Measures are in place to comply with Covid-19 guidance. Please remember, the wearing of face coverings on public transport is compulsory.

A number of pedestrian and cycling diversion routes are also available during the closure. Details of these can also be found on the project website.

### **Station Road junction closure**

The Station Road junction with Gipsy Patch Lane remains closed to vehicles. Pedestrians and cyclists are still able to access Station Road via Gipsy Patch Lane.

The Station Road junction closure is needed to enable Gipsy Patch Lane to be excavated down to the required new carriageway level, for new utilities and new drainage infrastructure to be installed, and for the Station Road junction to be excavated down to tie-in with Gipsy Patch Lane.

The diversion route for vehicles to reach Station Road will remain via Clay Lane and Little Stoke Lane. Please be aware that access to businesses to the southern end of Station Road is restricted by a footbridge with a height restriction of 4.2 metres.

### **CPME Project**

The CPME is a £57 million investment to reduce congestion and improve journey times for all road users in your area by providing a new quick, reliable public transport system and a realistic alternative to travelling by car. CPME is funded by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership through the Local Growth Fund.

### **Further information and future updates**

Dates and timeframes may be subject to further change and we will continue to keep the community up to date.

For further updates follow our Facebook group [www.facebook.com/sgloscpme](https://www.facebook.com/sgloscpme) and keep an eye on our webpage [www.southglos.gov.uk/cpmetrobus](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/cpmetrobus). We would also encourage you sign up to our newsletter, which you can do by visiting our webpage.

Yours faithfully

Richard Gillingham  
Cribbs Patchway metrobus extension Project Sponsor