



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Date:</b>	19 March 2013
<b>Subject:</b>	Transport Issues - Update
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>This reports provides an update on a number of current/proposed road works and transport proposals for Belfast including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dee Street Bridge improvements;</li><li>- Boyne Bridge improvement works;</li><li>- Update on Belfast On The Move; and</li><li>- Changes to Clearway on sections of the Lisburn, Stranmillis and Malone Road.</li></ul>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><u>Dee Street Bridge</u> (Parapet replacement – temporary closure and weight restrictions) Work started on a £300,000 improvement scheme on Dee Street bridge over the Sydenham By-Pass and Bangor Railway lines in February 2013. The existing bricks walls (parapets) on the bridge have to be replaced for safety reasons. A new traditional metal parapet and high kerbs will be provided, along with footway alterations and other maintenance work. The work will require the closure of Dee Street bridge to traffic for eight weeks starting the 22 February, with temporary diversions in operation. Once the bridge re-opens there will be a permanent weight restriction in operation, restricting access to vehicles less than 7.5 tonnes maximum gross weight.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Boyne Bridge</u> improvement works Essential strengthening and repair work will be carried out at Boyne Bridge, to ensure the continued strength and stability of the structure. The work is expected to commence early in May 2013 and is programmed to last for approximately 22 weeks.</p>
2.3	<p>Most of the work will be carried out from below the structure, however there will be some traffic management measures in place on Durham Street during the work. It is planned to maintain two way traffic to minimise disruption for motorists.</p>

2.4	<p><b>Belfast on the Move</b> works continued in January 2013. The main areas of work over the next months include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great Victoria Street (Hope Street to Grosvenor Road) and Fisherwick Place - lane reallocation and introduction of a northbound bus lane;</li> <li>- Grosvenor Road (Durham Street to Great Victoria Street) - lane reallocation;</li> <li>- College Avenue and College Square East - lane reallocation and introduction of a southbound bus lane;</li> <li>- Victoria Street – introduction of a cycle track from Chichester Street to Gloucester Street;</li> <li>- Ann Street – introduction of a 2 way cycle track from Victoria Street to Oxford Street;</li> <li>- College Square North, Durham Street and Grosvenor Road – carriageway resurfacing scheduled to be carried out overnight and at weekends during March 2013.</li> </ul>
2.5	<p>Further work is planned for after Easter in April 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wellington Place, Donegall Square North, Donegall Square East and Chichester Street - lane reallocation and introduction of bus lanes.</li> </ul> <p>Roads Service plan to complete all works by mid June 2013 and further details are outlined in Appendix 1.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Urban Clearway</u> restrictions in South Belfast</p> <p>The proposals, developed in cooperation with Lisburn Road Business Association impact on three main roads in South Belfast - Upper Lisburn Road/Lisburn Road from Black's Road to Malone Avenue; Malone Road; and Stranmillis Road from Lockview Road to University Road.</p>
2.7	<p>Currently, urban clearway restrictions apply on the three routes in both directions from 8am to 9:30am and from 4:30pm to 6pm. The proposals under the trial scheme would see the current restrictions revised to apply only on the Belfast bound lanes in the morning and only on the country bound lanes in the evening. These measures are to ensure that the peak traffic movements would be maintained.</p>
2.8	<p>Roads Service will closely monitor the trial to measure its effectiveness. Any changes to parking or other restrictions will be widely publicised well in advance and would follow due legal process, the outcome of which is expected to take around 10 months including the public consultation period. The public consultation period begun on the 18 February 2013 and DRD Roads Service will accept comments from the Council prior to the end of March 2013.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
3.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
4.1	<p>Members are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- note the update on current and proposed road works on Dee Street Bridge, Boyne Bridge and further works as part of Belfast On The Move;</li> <li>- consider the proposed changes to urban clearway restrictions on the Lisburn, Stranmillis and Malone Road and agree any comments to be submitted to DRD Roads Service as part of the consultation.</li> </ul>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 - Belfast On The Move programme of works	

### **Belfast On The Move**

Roadworks are continuing on Great Victoria Street, Fisherwick Place, College Square East and College Avenue with daytime lane restrictions. Work is scheduled to be carried out on the dates specified below:

From Monday 18th February for 4 weeks

- Great Victoria Street into Fisherwick Place, College Square East and College Avenue - localised daytime lane restrictions

Week commencing Monday 4 March

- Alterations to the central island in College Square East between College Square North and Wellington Place are continuing this week, to provide a bus lane and two general traffic lanes for southbound traffic.
- Off peak lane restrictions will be introduced on Fisherwick Place to enable central islands and laybys to be provided, facilitating the provision of two general traffic lanes for southbound traffic at all times. The new laybys will provide all day car parking and loading facilities.
- A lane restriction remains on Great Victoria Street at the junction of Howard Street / Grosvenor Road to enable a CCTV camera to be erected. This camera will provide traffic flow information to the Department's Traffic Information Control Centre to assist with management of the traffic across the City.

Lane restrictions will be necessary to allow this work to be undertaken. However, these restrictions will be removed during peak times to provide 2 lanes of traffic in each direction between the hours of 7.30am to 9.30am and 4pm to 6.30pm to assist traffic progression.

In addition to the daily lane closures, two road closures are required as follows;

From 9:30am on Wednesday 6 March to 4pm on Friday 8 March

- College Street at the junction with College Avenue will be closed to through traffic to allow the construction of a footway build out and road crossings. Diversion routes will be in signposted.

From 6am on Sunday 10 March to 6am on Monday 11 March

- The left turn slip lane from College Square North to College Avenue will be closed to through traffic to allow the construction of a traffic island. Traffic will still be permitted to turn right from College Square North into College Square East during these times. Diversion routes will be in signposted.

### **Alternative Routes**

While the works are ongoing in the west of the City (Great Victoria Street, Fisherwick Place and College Square East) motorists should consider using the alternative route via Hope Street, Sandy Row, Durham Street and College Square North and vice-versa if appropriate to do so.