

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q1: What does the scheme involve?**

**A1:** We will be converting Ashted Circus roundabout to a signalised cross road junction to improve traffic flow, support economic growth and connectivity between the city centre and the wider area.

To construct the cross roads we will need to fill the central island of the roundabout and remove all of the pedestrian subways and approach ramps.

Because the pedestrian subways will be removed, new at-grade pedestrian routes will be constructed and signal controlled pedestrian crossings on all four arms of the junction will be provided to allow pedestrians to cross the junction safely.

To increase the capacity of the junction we will need to widen the carriageway along the A4540 Dartmouth Middleway / Lawley Middleway and provide dedicated 'right turn only' lanes on to A47 Nechells Parkway and B4114 Jennens Road. A segregated left-turn lane will be constructed on the A47 Nechells Parkway approach.

Bus lanes will be need to adjusted to accommodate the reconfigured junction.

Road markings and traffic signs will be adjusted as necessary to reflect the new layout of the junction.

We will be providing double yellow lines at Windsor Street South / Nechells Parkway junction to improve visibility and safety for the cyclist.

The parking bay at Nechells Parkway will be removed to allow widening of the footway for shared use.

### **Q2: Why are you doing this?**

**A2:** Birmingham City Council has secured 'Local Pinch Point' and 'Local Growth Fund' funding from Central Government to deliver an improved junction at Ashted Circus. The improvements aim to better manage traffic flow to support economic growth and connectivity between the city centre and the wider area.

The ring road currently experiences traffic congestion at a number of locations. Central Government has allocated funds to improve Ashted Circus, Haden Circus, Bordesley Circus, Curzon Circle on the ring road and also Holloway Circus. The works at Ashted Circus are necessary to improve traffic flow and the management of traffic on the ring road. This will ensure that the city has the infrastructure to support economic growth.

Using traffic signals, the flow of traffic can be regulated to control the flow of vehicles travelling in all directions; in addition the traffic signals can be linked to other signal controlled junctions on the ring road for better control of traffic.

### **Q3: Did you look at other options?**

**A3:** A feasibility study into options has been undertaken. The study looked at three possible options for the scheme. Two options made use of the original roundabout design and the third option proposed a signal controlled crossroads.

Extensive traffic modelling was undertaken which identified a signalised crossroad junction as the most effective solution to improving the traffic flow at this location.

**Q4. When will construction start and how long will it take to build the scheme?**

**A4:** Subject to securing the necessary approvals, construction is programmed to commence in spring 2016 and is programmed for 12-18 months.

**Q5: What will happen when the works are being constructed?**

**A5:** The appointed contractor is required to submit a Traffic Management plan for approval by the City Council. The Traffic Management plan will detail how the traffic (and pedestrians) will be managed during the construction stage to allow the works to be built safely. The Traffic Management will include restrictions / closures at certain times which are likely to result in some traffic congestion, particularly at peak times.

**Q6: How will pedestrians be affected during construction?**

**A6:** During construction the existing pedestrian routes will need to be diverted. This is necessary to ensure that pedestrian safety is maintained at all times. As a result, alternative routes will be set up that allow a pedestrian to travel around the works without coming in to contact with construction activities.

Where pedestrian facilities are to be removed as part of the works, these will be closed and an alternative route will be provided.

**Q7: How are pedestrians and cyclists considered in the new junction?**

**A7:** New signal controlled pedestrian crossings will be constructed on each arm of the junction to allow pedestrians to cross the road safely. The existing pedestrian subways will be removed.

Provision for cyclists will be made on the B4114 Jennens Road and A47 Nechells Parkway by introduction of on carriageway cycle lanes and a shared use footway / cycleway. The cycle route connects to the advisory cycle routes in the locality. Less experienced cyclists are expected to use the existing parallel advisory cycle routes.

**Q8: Will trees be affected?**

**A8:** A number of trees and shrubs will need to be removed from the existing roundabout island, central refuges and verges. Trees and shrubs will be planted in new verge areas where possible to mitigate the loss.