A 40 Cycle route in Acton

Proposed closure of four roads to motor vehicle access

Public Consultation

Ealing Council

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Background

Transport for London will be constructing the Acton section of the A40 cycleway (CS10) during autumn 2019. This is expected to lead to an increase in the number of cyclists crossing Park View, Court Way, Allan Way and Kathleen Avenue at their junctions with the A40.

Cycle routes alongside roads are safer if there are fewer side roads or crossovers, as these are the locations where cyclists and motorists may come into conflict. Drivers turning into and out of the side road are concentrating on motor traffic, and may not see cyclists approaching on the cycleway. Removing traffic and providing a continuous cycleway removes this conflict and makes cycling more attractive, as well as safer, because there is less starting and stopping, so journey times for cyclists are improved. It also gives the cycle route the same priority as cyclists would have if riding on the carriageway.

A public consultation in March showed that options to close some of the four roads and not others would be unpopular, and ineffective at removing through traffic in the area.

Ealing Council therefore propose to close all four roads to motor traffic in both directions at their junctions with the A40. This brings them into line with similar roads between Savoy Circus and Gipsy Corner, which were closed some years ago.

The benefits to drivers of being able to join the A40 directly from these roads are small. Access is available via Noel Road and Horn Lane, and (for vehicles under 7 feet wide) via Alliance Road. Drivers already have to use Horn Lane for all directions except westbound on the A40. Westbound, Alliance Road is an option.

At the consultation, residents expressed concern about traffic congestion on Horn Lane, and delays at the Alliance Road width restriction. Therefore, the council proposes to modify the Alliance Road width restriction to reduce delays at this point, creating extra capacity for traffic that currently uses the 4 roads that would be closed.

When coming from Central London, there is little delay reaching Noel Road from the A40 via Leamington Park. Increasing the number of vehicles doing this will create extra gaps for drivers to exit Noel Road onto Horn Lane, reducing delays in this direction. From observation, the main problem exiting Noel Road onto Horn Lane is lack of gaps in the northbound traffic. We will also consider adjusting parking and loading restrictions at the east end of Noel Road, so that westbound traffic can get through more easily when there is an eastbound queue.

The proposals are in line with Ealing’s Transport Strategy, which seeks to increase the number of walking and cycling trips in the borough, while also reducing collisions and injury.
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Proposals

The proposals are shown in the plans on the next page. The A40 foot/cycleway would be carried across all four roads without interruption. Drivers would need to use the new developments’ service roads to turn round. Cyclists would be able to join and leave the A40 cycletrack at all four junctions. Car parking space would not be affected.

As part of this project, to give drivers the best possible alternative route to the A40 westbound, changes would be made to the width restriction on Alliance Road. The changes would make it easier to get through the width restriction, and reduce queueing at busy times. See below for details.

Benefits of the Proposals

- Improved safety for cyclists on the cycleway alongside the A40.
- Improved safety for pedestrians on the A40 footway.
- Removal of all through motor traffic from the four roads.
- Equal priority for cyclists and motor vehicles on the A40.
- Less delay and damage at the Alliance Way width restriction.
- Reduction in collisions on A40 westbound carriageway near these junctions.

Alliance Road

To increase capacity and reduce delays at the width restriction, it is proposed to introduce a low kerb both sides of the gap, with the metal post and gate set back slightly from these, so that drivers could be confident of not hitting anything as they go through. The gap width would not change.

There would also be a length of single yellow line on the south-west side of the road between the width restriction and the restaurant, with no parking or loading on weekdays between 7 and 10 am or 4-7pm. There would be continuous double yellow line and no loading on the other (NE) side of the road.

Traffic counts on Alliance Road show about 220 motor vehicles per hour passing the width restriction south-eastbound, and on average 190 north-westbound in the evening peak hours. Morning peak counts are around 150 per hour in each direction.

Counts of motor traffic were done for all 4 roads to be closed in early 2019. In the busiest hour (5-6pm), on average 86 motor vehicles entered the roads from the A40. The busiest hour for vehicles joining the A40 was 8-9am, with an average total of 60 vehicles.

If all vehicles that will fit divert to Alliance Rd, the two-way evening peak hour traffic at the width restriction would increase by 115 vehicles or 26%. This is the worst case, as some will choose other routes, and the increase will be more than compensated for by the changes at the width restriction.
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Please give us Your Views and Have Your Say

The council would like to know your views on the proposed measures. Please read this document carefully and consider the proposals. Have Your Say by completing the online survey at:

www.ealing.gov.uk/A40cyclerroute

The closing date for this consultation is:

2 September 2019

What Happens Next?

Your responses will be analysed and reported to your Ward Councillors. Taking into account the views of the residents and businesses expressed in the consultation, a decision will be taken regarding implementation of the scheme.

The results of the consultation will be made available online at www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations or you may contact us for an update using the details below.

Further Information

If you require further information about this consultation, or do not have access to the internet and would like to request a paper questionnaire, please contact us in Highway Services:

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