



Birmingham
City Council



Transport for
West Midlands



October 2019

Breaking the bus free from congestion - Alcester Road/Moseley Road

Birmingham is on a journey to cleaner air. In 2020, a Clean Air Zone will be introduced in the city centre (within the A4540 Middleway ring road), improving air quality and meaning more people, especially children, live healthier lives.

Buses have huge part to play in helping the city be Clean Air Zone ready. Transport for West Midlands and Birmingham City Council are working together to improve the bus network in Birmingham, helping to make bus travel more attractive by reducing journey times, improving reliability and making bus travel safer. More people travelling by bus means less congestion and better air quality for everybody.

The A435 Alcester Road is used by nearly 7 million bus passengers every year – more than any other road in the West Midlands. In the morning rush hours, more people travel by bus on the Alcester Road to the city centre than travel by car. The route is, however, one of the most congested corridors into and out of the city, particularly through Balsall Heath.

We want to speed up bus journeys by introducing new bus lanes and making improvements to existing bus lanes on Highgate Middleway, Moseley Road and Alcester Road, particularly through Balsall Heath.

Most of the bus lanes would be part time only. This means that on-street parking will remain available through Balsall Heath for busiest part of the day. We also propose to build a new bus only road along Highgate Middleway so buses can bypass any queuing and delay during afternoon rush hour periods.

Between the junctions of Cromer Road/Brighton Road to Moseley Road, it will be necessary to widen the carriageway meaning the footways on both sides of the road will need to be reduced. To compensate for this, we propose to bring forward a range of improvements through Balsall Heath to improve the environment for pedestrians, including new footway surfacing, extensive de-cluttering of street furniture, new trees, better crossing facilities and new bus stops. We believe this will deliver a significant improvement to Balsall Heath for the local community, supporting the objectives of the Balsall Heath Neighborhood Plan - but we want the community to help us shape these environmental improvements further.

Have your say

We want to know what you think of the changes. Some more information about the proposals are on the back of this letter. To see full plans and give your views, visit **www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/alcester-road-bus** before 8 November 2019.

We will also be holding drop in sessions where you can see a larger version of the plans and talk to members of the project team:

Tuesday 15th October - 5.30pm-7pm

Chamberlain Health and Fitness Centre, 1 Belgrave Road, B12 9FF

Thursday 24th October – 2pm - 5pm

Balsall Heath Library, 497 Moseley Rd, B12 9BX

If you have any questions or are unable to access the internet, you can contact us on **0345 303 6760**. Consultation closes on 8 November. We will review all your comments and make any appropriate changes to the plans before making a final decision on the scheme. We will be in touch with you again if the scheme proceeds.

Danny Gouveia MSc CMILT MCIHT
Development Manager, Transport for West Midlands

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Schedule of proposed changes

Section 1 - Highgate Middleway (New Moseley Road – Moseley Road)

- A new outbound (away from city centre) bus only lane will be created, operating all day, every day. This 3.5m wide lane will be in the current grassed central reserve, where three mature trees will need to be removed. There will be a kerb between the bus lane and the general traffic lanes.
- New traffic lights at Moseley Road will allow buses to cross the general traffic lanes to turn left into Moseley Road. This is called a bus gate.
- The footway on the south side of Highgate Middleway, between John Kempe Way and Moseley Road will become shared use for pedestrians and cyclists (width 3m).

Section 2 - Moseley Road (Highgate Middleway – A435)

- Most of Moseley Road currently operates with one wide lane of general traffic in each direction, and on-street parking allowed on some sections. The road will be changed to three lanes (width a minimum of 3m) to allow general traffic to run in both directions and bus lanes to be added. The bus lane will be on different sides of the road in different places, to best allow buses to avoid congestion.
- The outbound (away from city centre) sections of bus lane will be in operation Monday to Friday, 4.30pm to 6.45pm. These will be between Highgate Place and Montpellier Street and between Haden Street and St Pauls Road.
- The inbound (towards city centre) sections of bus lane will be in operation Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 10am. These will be between Haden Street and Belgrave Middleway.
- Only buses, taxis, motorcycles and pedal cycles will be allowed to use the bus lanes during their operational hours.
- On the inbound (towards city centre) side of the road, the parking bay between Highgate Square and Upper Conybere Street (space for approximately four vehicles) will be removed. All other inbound parking will remain, with restrictions* changed to allow for bus lane operation.
- On the outbound (away from city centre) side of the road, the parking bays between Highgate Road and Ombersley Road (space for approximately five vehicles) will be removed. All other outbound parking will remain, with restrictions* changed to allow for bus lane operation.
- The inbound (towards city centre) bus stop and shelter at St Pauls Road will be moved a few metres nearer to A435.

Section 3 - Junction of Moseley Road and A435

- A new outbound (away from city centre) bus lane will be created, operating all day, every day. The lane will run through the junction from Moseley Road onto the A435, joining with the existing bus lane on A435 to Lime Grove (in operation Monday to Friday, 4.30pm to 6.45pm) meaning that buses do not have to wait or give way to make the left turn. To create the 3.5m wide lane, the road will need to be widened into the current footway, and the footway moved back.
- Only buses, taxis, motorcycles and pedal cycles will be allowed to use the bus lane.
- The section of Old Moseley Road giving access to businesses on the east side of the junction will be closed off at the A435 end, with access maintained from the north end only.

Section 4 - Balsall Heath local centre (junction of Moseley Road and A435 to Cromer Road/Brighton Road)

- The A435 through Balsall Heath currently has three lanes; two lanes for general traffic, and a bus lane (outbound from the city centre) in operation every day 4.30pm to 6.45pm and on-street parking.
- The road will be widened to four lanes to add inbound (towards city centre) bus lanes and extend the outbound bus lane towards Brighton Road.
- The outbound sections of bus lane will be in operation Monday to Friday, 4.30pm to 6.45pm.

This project is part of the Birmingham Connected vision to reinvent the way people and goods move across the city.

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- The inbound sections of bus lane will be in operation Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 10am.
- Only buses, taxis, motorcycles and pedal cycles will be allowed to use the bus lanes during their operational hours.
- Parking restrictions* in both directions will change to allow for bus lane operation but on-street parking will be maintained during the busiest parts of the day.
- The footways will be narrowed but enhanced with resurfacing, de-cluttering and other improvements to enhance the environment of the local centre. A suggested scheme has been developed but we are looking for the community to help us shape these proposals further.
- Four mature trees which are damaging the footway will be removed and replaced with new street trees where possible.

Section 5 - Cromer Road/Brighton Road to Park Road

- The inbound (towards city centre) bus lane will be widened.
- The inbound (towards city centre) bus stop and shelter between Edgbaston Road East and Cromer Road will be moved a few metres closer to Cromer Road.
- Parking restrictions* in both directions will change to allow for bus lane operation.
- Parking bays on the eastern side on Alcester Road, north of Park Road will be removed. Parking surveys indicate that parking demand on this side of the road is low.

Section 6 - Moseley North (St Mary's Row to Reddings Road)

- The inbound (towards city centre) bus lane will be widened. To allow for this, a traffic island on the northern arm of the junction of Alcester Road, Salisbury Road and St Mary's Row is removed.

***Parking**

To allow for operation of the bus lanes, parking restrictions will be changed to the following:

- All inbound (towards city centre) bays north of junction of A435 and Moseley Road:
 - No parking: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-1pm, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - No loading: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - Parking: Monday-Friday, 1pm-4.30pm, 1 hour, No return within 1 hour
- All inbound (towards city centre) bays south of junction of A435 and Moseley Road and north of St Mary's Row:
 - No parking: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - No loading: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - Parking: Monday-Friday, 10am-4.30pm
- All inbound (towards city centre) bays south of St Mary's Row:
 - No parking: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - No loading: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - Parking: Monday-Friday, 10am-4.30pm, 1 hour, no return within 1 hour
- All outbound (away from city centre) bays:
 - No parking: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 1pm-6.45pm
 - No loading: Monday-Friday, 7.30am-10am, 4.30pm-6.45pm
 - Parking: Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm. 1 hour, no return within 1 hour

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