

## Bus Priority Proposals in Birmingham City Centre Online Event 4 March 6pm to 7pm

In attendance – Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), Birmingham City Council (BCC) and the designer for the scheme (D).

### Questions and Answers

Q. Is there a difference between bus proposals in Snow Hill and the proposal that was introduced a couple of months back that had to be suspended?

A. BCC - There was a bus gate that went in at St Chad's. However, it has been (temporarily) suspended while we review traffic management in the area.

Q. Does this proposal come in place of the previous one?

A. BCC - These are two separate plans - the one for Snow Hill can happen with or without the St Chads one.

Q. Make sure you engage with the business community in that area because employees raised concerns about the earlier proposals at St Chads.

A. TfWM - BIDs have been consulted with on the proposals.

Q. What penalties will apply and when will they be implemented for accidental use of a bus lane?

A. BCC- Regarding Bus lane enforcement, the signage put out will meet the legal minimum. Bus lanes can be enforced at any time by police officers and the council is permitted to put cameras on bus lanes for moving traffic offences.

Q. What is the legal minimum for signage?

A. D/BCC- <https://tsrgd.co.uk/pdf/tsrgd/tsrgd2016.pdf> is the document which sets out the regulations. It is quite technical, but if you search for 'bus lane' you will see what we are required to do to mark a bus lane.

Bus lane guidance is also shown more clearly in the Traffic Signs Manual [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/782724/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-03.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/782724/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-03.pdf)

Just prior to the start of a bus lane cars will be guided away from the bus lane. We also have advanced warning signs of the bus lanes to warn the drivers to look for the new layout.

Q. I was once charged in Cardiff after roadworks resulted in the resurfacing of part of a bus lane. Would this be what you have described as an unenforceable charge?

A. BCC- I wouldn't be able to comment on a case in Cardiff, but if the bus lane is suspended during roadworks, or if the road had been resurfaced and the correct markings were not repainted, you may be able to appeal the charge.

Q. These measures are presumably to allow through buses to access the city centre. What route will the buses follow?

A. BCC - Buses will follow existing routes - through the city centre and out through the south - the buses will follow existing routes round Birmingham Queensway.

Q. I don't see problem with the proposals, I am comfortable with that. Our interest is more in the interchange of users for buses in the city centre. When we get back to using the buses, if there are any changes in Colmore Row we would like to be kept informed of that.

2nd: There is a concern around bus lanes; some are part-time and some are 24 hour bus lanes. In certain places bus lanes start with 24 hours but part way in it goes into another authority so then it's only certain periods which can get confusing.

3rd: Can normal motorcycles always go in bus lanes?

A. BCC – 1st Q: The cross-city bus will help with interchange. In some cases, interchange will no longer be needed as the bus route goes right across the city. Cross-city buses will also travel right across the city centre, so interchange distances are likely to require a shorter walk.

2nd Q: In Birmingham, we aim for consistency and clarity in bus lane timings, but it can be more difficult where the lane crosses a local authority boundary.

3rd Q: Again, it is not consistent across the West Midlands, but in Birmingham we generally allow motorcycles in bus lanes but not through bus gates.