

# Castle Street

Consultation Pack on Long Term Scheme



## Background

#### The story so far

A transport improvement scheme for Castle Street called the "Castle Street Clean Air Scheme" (Option 1) has already been considered and consulted on by Cardiff Council. The council are now reconsulting on this scheme and an additional scheme to gauge public opinion.

#### Pre-covid 19

A Castle Street scheme was designed which considered how the city centre was used at that time

#### Covid 19

Full closure of the area for a sustained period

Temporary Bus Gate scheme implemented

#### **Future needs**

Improved public transport links

Clean air improvements maximised

Active travel infrastructure needs

City pressures

Desired public realm improvements

#### **Next Steps**

Permanent Transport Scheme

Consideration of the how the city centre will be used in a post covid era

#### **Future**







## **Consultation Options**

## **Option 1: All Traffic - 3 lanes. Private cars permitted.**

Key features: a remodelling of the lane allocations, with one lane in each direction for general traffic, a westbound bus lane, wider footways and a bi-directional cycleway.



## Option 2: Bus & taxi only - 2 lanes. No private cars permitted.

Key features: a remodelling of the lane allocations, with buses, taxis and deliveries only permitted in the section of carriageway outside the Castle (loading and access details on supplementary information page 5), considerably wider footways on both sides and a bi-directional cycleway.



#### Rationale

#### The White Paper

All transport projects with the city of Cardiff are aligned with the fundamental principles set out in the multi-modal White Paper (published in 2019). The White Paper considers carefully the demands of the city as a capital city, as a destination and as a city of culture with a vibrant and diverse population, the White Paper highlights the targets for the transport network within Cardiff and it's links to the surrounding areas. The White Paper addresses environmental concerns and air quality considerations, it also highlights the city aspirations for active and sustainable travel.

#### **Cardiff Castle**

The historical importance of the Castle and Castle Street to the city have been considered at length in both these designs. Fundamental to the schemes has been ensuring the Castle and the surrounding area are given an appropriate setting, an improved public realm and space for people to enjoy the area.

### **Benefits**

#### **Sustainability and Biodiversity**

The scheme will incorporate the latest technology for drainage systems that are sustainable and encourage and support biodiversity. Specialist planters, planting area and biodiverse bus stops are fundamental to this.

**32%** OF CAR JOURNEYS ARE UNDER **3KM**<sup>1</sup>

## IN CARDIFF THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BENEFITS OF CYCLING PREVENT 13 EARLY DEATHS ANNUALLY WHICH IS VALUED AT £46 MILLION<sup>2</sup>

#### Clean Air

We have a legal duty to address  $\mathrm{NO_2}$  levels on Castle Street as soon as possible and the actions to do this are as set out in our Clean Air Plan. We now want to improve the air we breathe in the city further and ensure the air we breathe in the city is as clean as it can be.

#### Active Travel and Health

We have ambitious targets for active travel in the city. The percentage of journeys made by active modes will continue to increase significantly, with cycling continuing to grow in popularity. The safe segregated cycleway contributes to this active travel ambition.

#### **Public Realm**

The scheme provides public realm improvements outside the Castle and on both sides of the carriageway. Wider pavements, increased greenery, seating and dining areas will improved the public realm for all users.

#### Through Traffic

The scheme will help limit the unnecessary through traffic movement, providing cleaner air and a much improved city centre environment.

#### **Car Parking Improvements**

The main routes into the city centre car parks will function more efficiently, with improvements at junctions and increased signage.

#### **Bus Priority Measures**

To facilitate better cross city movements, buses will be given priority at several junctions across the scheme. Option 1 will improve bus efficiency. Option 2 will provide extensive bus operation improvements. Improved routes to the Central Transport Interchange in Central Square will be created.

#### Sustainable and Active Travel

The scheme is fundamental to improving the city's networks for both sustainable travel and active travel.

#### **Pedestrian Safety**

Throughout the entirety of the scheme, pedestrian crossings are being upgraded and improved. Not only will safety be improved but crossing times have been recalculated and improved.

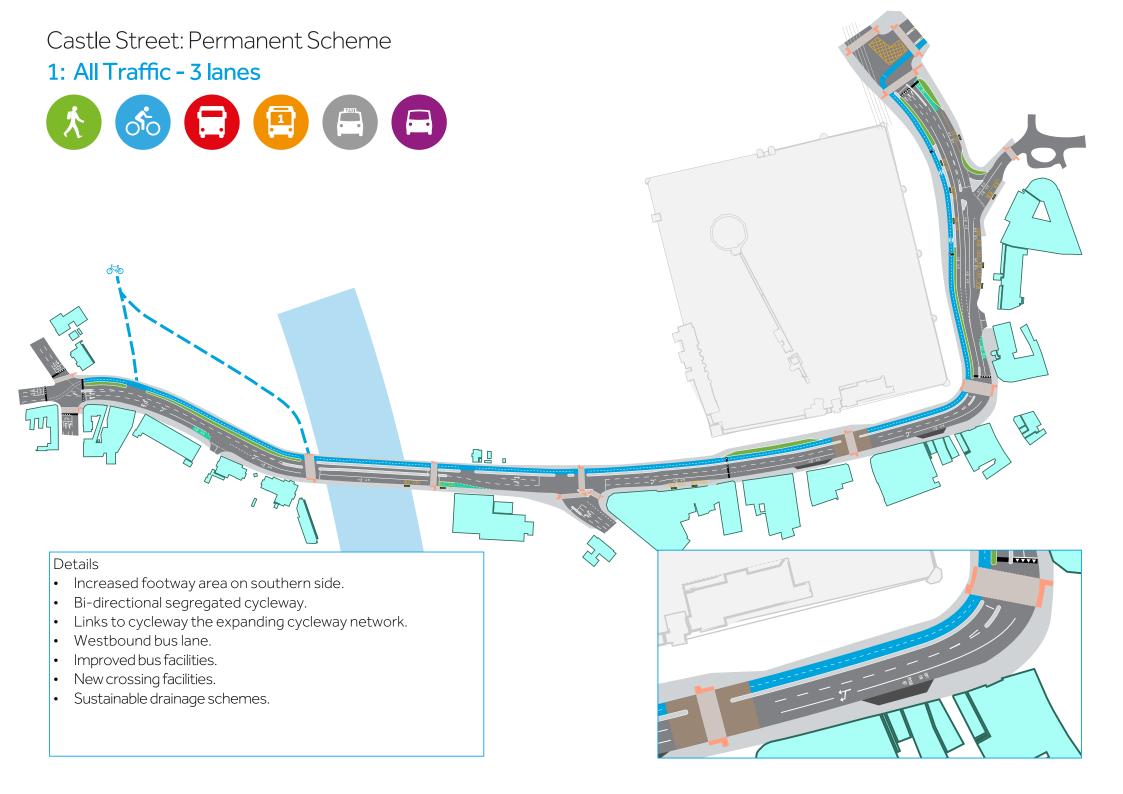
## **Impacts**

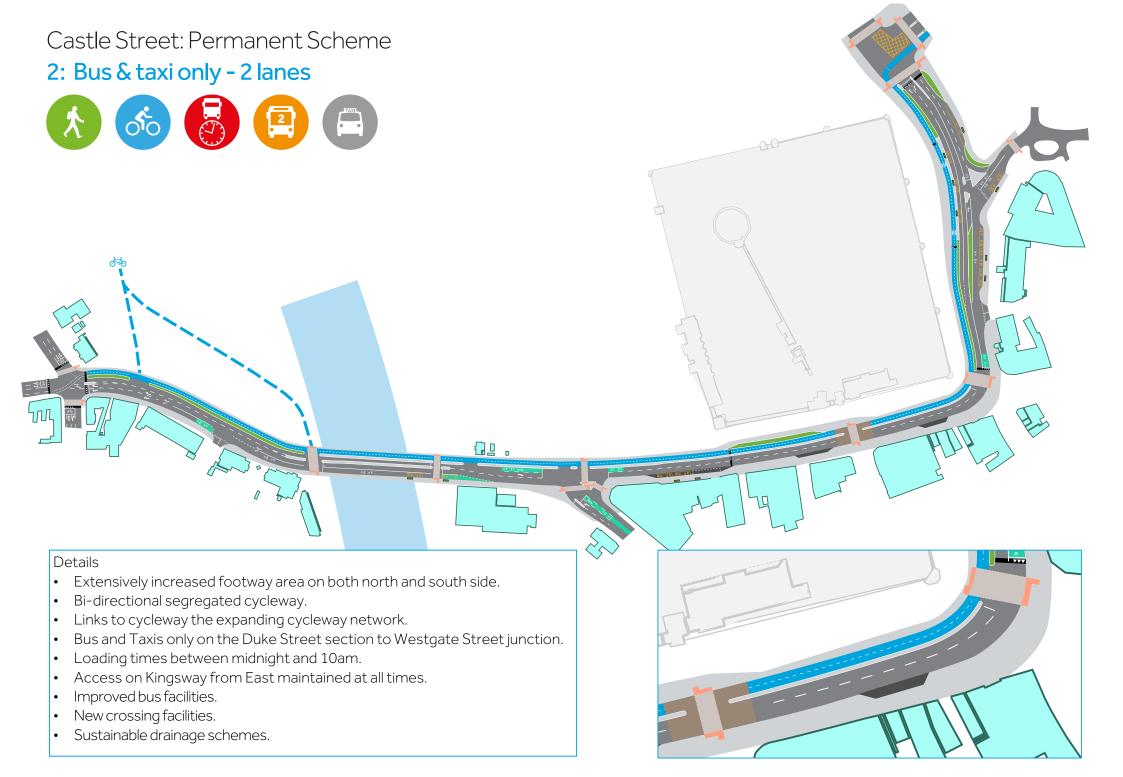
#### **Traffic Displacement**

With reductions in traffic lanes and lane capacity both options will impede the volume of traffic on Castle Street. The reduction of traffic being much greater with Option 2. New monitoring and clean air zones are being established, feeding back live data on the traffic impacts.

#### **Modal Shift**

Significant recent changes seen in commuter trends and patterns are expected to remain.

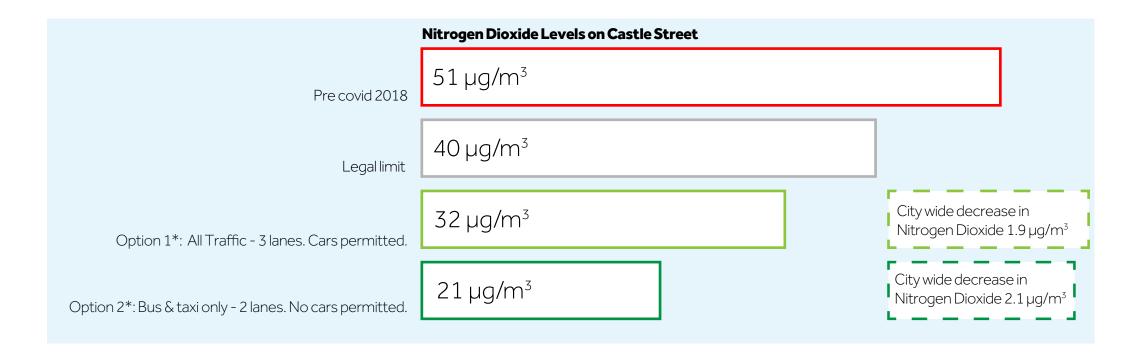




## Clean Air Implications

Both schemes have been modelled to examine the effects of the schemes on Nitrogen Dioxide levels both on Castle Street and in the wider city.

Detailed modelling of over 9,000 sections of the Cardiff road network has looked into the effect on air quality of both schemes on Castle Street and the wider city. This has examined the effects of traffic displacement from Castle Street alterations. Whilst the schemes are currently modelled to cause some traffic displacement the impacts of the schemes do not cause any significant air quality impacts, with both schemes providing overall improved air quality levels across the city. The modelling results do not consider future modal shifts or commuter changes resulting from long term working arrangement shifts.



<sup>\*</sup>Results are annual averages and applicable to Castle Street only

## Impacts of the schemes

1: All Traffic - 3 lanes

2: Bus & taxi only - 2 lanes



















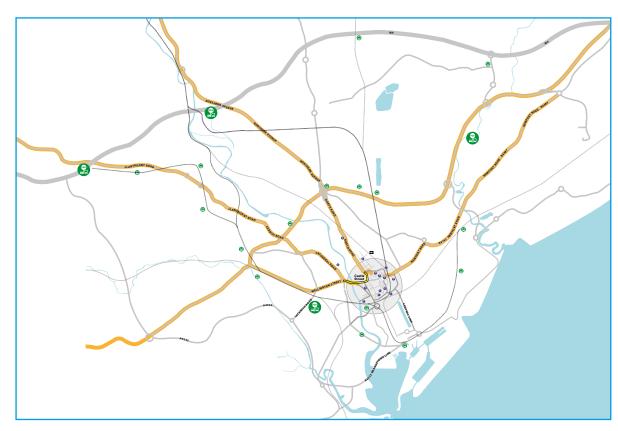


Clean Air Compliance on Castle Street	
Active Travel Promotion	
Pedestrian Realm Improvements	
Sustainable Drainage & Increased Greening Opportunities	<b>VV</b>
Central Transport Interchange Benefit	
Bus Network Improvements	<b>VV</b>
Private car use	n/a

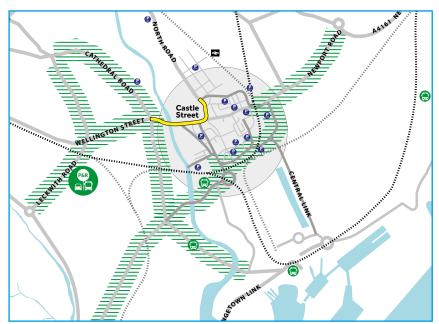
## Impact Monitoring and Mitigation

#### **SMART Corridor & Monitoring Zones**

To support both potential schemes and all future transport projects in Cardiff, network of smart corridors are being established. A smart corridor is a key route along which additional traffic data is collected, this live data is fed back to the junctions and the network management systems. This in turn allows the network to manage traffic flow and adjust the signal stages as needed. Buses and their journeys are also monitored throughout a smart corridor and given priority to help improved journey times and efficiency.



**Potential Smart Corridor Routes** 



**Traffic and Air Quality Monitoring Zone** 

A traffic and air monitoring zone will be established to allow continual accurate monitoring of traffic levels and air quality in the areas surrounding the city centre. Increased frequency of data and improved accuracy will inform the council and allow further interventions to be put in place where needed to ensure we are continuing to work towards our clean air targets.

This has been programmed to be operational before any construction work begins on Castle Street.

## How to respond to the scheme proposals...

Please respond to this consultation using this survey form.

This will allow you to rate each scheme and make formal comments in response to the consultation.

The responses will be used to help write the consultation report and are one of the tools used to inform the decision making process for the scheme.

The consultation will remain open until 10/05/2021.

https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=161450917089 www.keepingcardiffmoving.co.uk/castlestreet

If you need additional information not answered in this pack please email:

citycentrenorth@cardiff.gov.uk

