

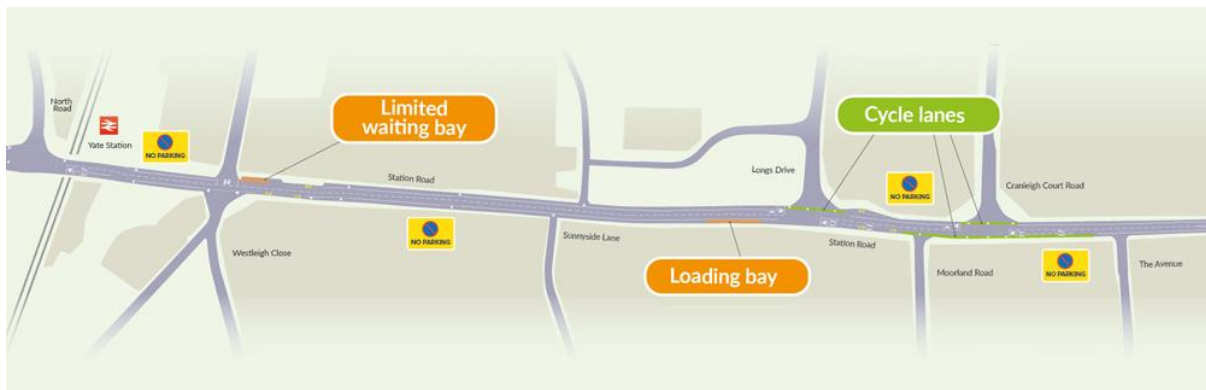
Station Road, Yate

COVID-19 response to recovery

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are you doing in Station Road?

On Monday 24 August we will start to install cycle lanes on both sides of the road, from the junction with Culvert Avenue (Badminton Road roundabout) to the B&Q roundabout. This will enable us to create additional space on the footpaths either side for pedestrians and dedicated space for cyclists to help maintain social distancing as we emerge from Covid-19 restrictions.



2. Why are you implementing these measures?

Many people are returning to work and schools are due to open to all pupils in September. Since lockdown restrictions have eased more people are using active travel to get to work, increasing foot traffic on pavements and cyclists on the roads.

We have carried out monitoring on Station Road which shows that many cyclists use the footway/pavement (around 39%) and there is a demand for more appropriate provision for people to cycle safely on the road. The new cycle lanes will make travelling on the road safer for cyclists, particularly at the junctions and traffic lights. They will reduce the number of cyclists using the pavement, also making a safer environment for pedestrians in which it is easier to maintain social distancing.

As we look to a near-term future returning to as normal life as possible, while maintaining social distancing to minimise the risk of further spreading the COVID-19 virus, we need to invest significantly to 'lock in' some of the benefits we have seen over the past few months including an increase in walking and cycling. We also plan to link the cycle lanes on Station Road with other cycle networks in the Yate area.

3. How will cyclists be separated from traffic?

The cycle lanes will be separated from the road using raised kerbs also known as orcas (where appropriate) and white lines.



4. Have you consulted people before implementing this scheme?

The scheme is being implemented as an experimental traffic order which means a consultation is carried out while it's in place. You can take part at www.southglos.gov.uk/consultation.

The government has issued statutory guidance which expects local authorities to make significant changes to their road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians. The guidance also states that 'measures should be taken as swiftly as possible, and in any event within weeks, given the urgent need to change travel habits before the restart takes full effect'. Given these timescales, we have not been able to carry out a full consultation as we normally would expect to for a scheme of this scale before its implementation. However, we have engaged with local businesses and residents ahead of the works to notify them of the changes and answer any concerns and queries.

5. What is an experimental traffic order?

An experimental order is a legal document made under Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which imposes traffic and parking restrictions such as road closures, controlled parking and other parking regulations indicated by double or single yellow lines etc. and can also be used to change the way existing restrictions function. It can only stay in force for a maximum of 18 months while the effects are monitored and assessed. Changes can be made during the first six months of the experimental period if necessary, before the council decides whether or not to continue with the changes brought in by the experimental order on a permanent basis. Changes to the regulations following the outbreak of Covid-19 help local authorities to put in measures to deal with the effects of Covid-19, including encouraging social distancing and promoting active travel. More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-traffic-regulation-orders-during-coronavirus-covid-19/traffic-regulation-orders-guidance-on-the-traffic-orders-procedure-coronavirus>.

6. How long are these measures going to be in place?

The scheme will be in place under an experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be in place for up to 18 months. This means we can run a consultation while the scheme is in place.

7. Will there be roadworks to install the cycle lanes?

To install the new measures, we need to close Station Road from the B&Q roundabout to the junction with Culvert Avenue overnight from 8pm to 6am from Monday 24 August to Tuesday 8 September. The work is weather dependent which may affect the works programme and the launch date of the cycle lanes.

During the closure, installation work will be carried out in phases. Access to properties will be maintained at all times but you may be directed to enter at either end of the closure. No waiting cones will be in place during the closure which will be enforced between 8pm and 6am, including the authorised removal of vehicles where required.

The 7.5 tonne weight limit which extends from Longs Drive to the B&Q roundabout will be suspended during the works (Monday 24 Aug – Tues 8 Sept) as it forms part of the diversion route and enables access for businesses.

8. Will I be able to access my property during the overnight road closures?

Residents will be able to access the road during the closure to get to their properties. The work is taking place in phases along Station Road, so residents may have to use the diversion to get around the works to their property.

9. Where will people park?

Due to limited space on the carriageway, to make enough space for the cycle lanes all parking along Station Road will be suspended except for a small, time limited section near Yate Railway Station (2 hours, no return within 4 hours) (marked on the map below). There will also be an area designated for loading only during off peak hours (no stopping between 8am and 10am, and 4pm and 6pm) opposite the Whirlpool factory. We are also improving signs for existing, but underused parking spaces in the area, such as the car park in Longs Drive.

10. What about disabled parking spaces?

There are allocated disabled parking spaces in the car park in Longs Drive.

11. What about on-street parking for residents?

Most of the residential properties have off street parking, but if you have any difficulties or concerns about accessing your property, please contact us at PlaceFeedback@southglos.gov.uk or by calling 01454 868000.

12. Do I need to remove my vehicle before the overnight roadworks to install the lanes?

If your vehicle is parked on the street it will need to be removed before the night-time closures begin on Monday 24 August. No waiting cones will be in place during the closure and will be enforced between 8pm and 6am, including the authorised removal of vehicles where required.

13. My business relies on passing trade, how are you going to help?

We are working with businesses to support re-opening following the easing of lock-down restrictions. You can feedback to us about any issues your business is experiencing as a result of the scheme at PlaceFeedback@southglos.gov.uk.

If you need other help or support for your business the government website contains information about claiming for a business rate reduction in the form of hardship relief, www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/hardship-relief. You can also find this information at www.southglos.gov.uk/business/business-rates/businessrates-reductions/financial-hardship-relief/.

14. How will deliveries to businesses take place?

Most of the businesses on Station Road have rear access or an area where deliveries can be made. If you have any specific concerns about deliveries for your business, please contact us at PlaceFeedback@southglos.gov.uk or by calling 01454 868000.

15. How will my bins be emptied?

Refuse collections will continue as normal and there will not be any changes to collection days or collection points for bins.

16. Who is paying for these measures?

The Station Road scheme is being carried out using funding provided by the government. The funding is reserved for installing cycle lanes and improving active travel and cannot be used for other works such as resurfacing or fixing potholes.

17. Will bus services be affected?

No, but there will be a diversion in place for buses during the overnight road closures while we install the cycle lanes.

18. Will the right turns on Station Road be affected?

There are no changes to the junctions or right turns along Station Road.

19. Have the bus stops been moved?

There are no changes to the bus stops on Station Road. There will be a diversion in place for the overnight road closures between Monday 24 August and Tuesday 8 September which may cause delays.

20. How will cyclists be separated from vehicles?

The cycle lanes will be separated from the carriageway using raised kerbs known as orcas and white lines. This will help keep cyclists safe and make it easier for pedestrians to maintain social distancing.

21. What else are you doing to encourage people to cycle?

We offer free loan bikes to anyone who lives and works in South Gloucestershire for up to 4 weeks. More information about this and other schemes is available at www.betterbybike.info/. A further phase to the Station Road scheme will link it to the other cycle lanes and routes in the area.

22. Can I use my e-scooter in the cycle lanes?

E-scooters under the government trial scheme will be allowed to use in cycle lanes. E-scooters are not currently legal to use on the highway, however those under the government trial scheme will be permitted on cycle lanes and tracks.

23. Are there any plans for more cycle routes in Yate?

It is our intention to carry out a further phase to link the cycle lanes from Station Road with existing cycling routes as well as future schemes in the Yate area and to planned improvements to transport, sustainable travel such as the Yate Park and Ride and better access to open spaces.

24. How many more schemes like this will there be and where?

This scheme is one of many we are delivering to support businesses and allow people to get to work safely, as well as improving safety for those who walk and cycle and helping to reopen. Further details of other schemes will be announced once they are confirmed.

25. Are there any changes to the junctions or traffic lights on Station Road as a result of the scheme?

There are no changes planned for the junctions, crossings and traffic signals on Station Road.

26. Where can I find out more about this scheme?

Please visit www.southglos.gov.uk/making-public-places-safer for more information about the schemes we are introducing to help keep people safe in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

27. Have you carried out an assessment of how this scheme may affect different groups of people?

We have carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment and Analysis (EqIAA) for the scheme to assess any potential risk to different groups of people. You can find out more about this process at <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/equal-opportunities-information/equality-impact-assessment-and-analysis/>.

28. How do I have my say?

A public consultation will start from Monday 24 August and we would like to hear your feedback about the scheme. You can comment on the scheme by searching Station Road, Yate on our consultation webpage www.southglos.gov.uk/consultation.

29. I want to see improvements in my area, how do I suggest a scheme?

We have adapted our Local Transport Priority List (Assess and Decide) process for considering requests from residents. We welcome any useful suggestions from the public. If there are any interim measures we can introduce to easily help people maintain social distancing we will put these in place as soon as possible. Visit www.southglos.gov.uk/local-transport-priority-list