

COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT
DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT & PUBLIC PROTECTION

BRIEFING NOTE

v1.00

To: GC Communications Team; Gentoo Communications Team; Ward Councillors (GC) (NCC); Prudhoe Town Councillors; Portfolio Holder; SD; Network Management (GC) (NCC)

Project Name: A695 Prudhoe Roundabout Project ID: TS0289

Author: N. Burn Date: 17/09/2019

Subject: Progress of Highway Works

Progress to date

The Contractor is in week 7 of a 16 week contract. The works require phasing to allow a single lane of traffic to be open on the A695 and B6395. During the first phase, works are being carried out to the south east area of the site including the roundabout central area. The works include: site clearance of existing kerbs and gullies; ground excavation; installation of new kerbs, gullies, drains and lighting columns; lay carriageway sub-base and surfacing base courses. The works are progressing to the programme, and there have been no delays due to weather.

Planned works

Works will continue on the installation of new kerbs, gullies, drains and lighting columns over the next two weeks. The surfacing works are due to start week commencing 30 September. After the surfacing base courses have been laid the temporary traffic management will be changed to the second phase.

Temporary traffic management

There is a temporary 30 mph road speed limit for vehicular traffic. The Contractor has opted for three-way portable traffic signals for traffic control. This provides safety for the workers working adjacent to the highway by reducing vehicle speeds, and providing additional working space thus reducing the number of phases and contract length.

Portable traffic signal operation

The signals are phased as follows: -

- Phase 1 A695 westbound
- Phase 2 A695 eastbound
- Phase 3 B6395

The signals are vehicle actuated meaning each signal has a microwave vehicle detector, which senses approaching vehicles. Following vehicles will extend the time that the green light is shown. The duration of the green period varies between the minimum (12 seconds) and the maximum green period (90 seconds). The signals change either when the last vehicle has passed, or after the maximum time the green signal has been set for. The signals are manually controlled from 0730 to 0930 and 1530 to 1830 Monday to Friday.

Issues with traffic signal operation

In the first week of signal operation there was an issue with the moving vehicle detectors. All the detectors were replaced. Daily checks are carried out on the signals. Observations are carried out to determine if any phase has longer vehicle queues and if vehicles are still in the shuttle lane at the start of the next green.

It has been frequently observed that vehicles are entering the shuttle lane after the start of the red phase, this reduces the available green phase in the subsequent phase leading to longer queuing time. It also affects the operation of traffic signals as they default to their "safe" mode by showing red to all approaches.