

RMP 440/441 Denmark Hill

Summary Report

Bus Priority Improvement Works - Summary Report

November 2019





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Introduction

This report has been produced by the London Borough of Southwark Highways team to provide a summary on the consultation exercise for the proposed Bus Priority Improvement Works along Denmark Hill.

Denmark Hill is located in the Champion Hill Ward.

The Council, in collaboration with Transport for London is committed to making Southwark's street safer and more accessible to all and the proposals for the road fulfil this commitment. The proposed measures enhance the environment for cyclists and improve bus journey times for passengers using the 42, 68 and 468 bus routes. These measures support Transport for London's Healthy Streets indicator – people choose to walk, cycle and use public transport.

The following measures were consulted upon to improve bus journey times along Denmark Hill, between its junction with Champion Hill and Sunray Avenue, see Appendix for scheme proposals:

- Widening of various sections of the bus lane on both sides of Denmark Hill
- Replacing the staggered crossing by Champion Hill with a straight crossing on a raised table
- Provision of dropped kerbs at the existing informal crossing by Deepdene Road
- Removal of the traffic island by Blanchedowne
- No changes to be made to the existing waiting and loading restrictions

Public Consultation on these proposals took place from 10 October to 10 November 2019. All residents and businesses within the consultation area were asked whether they support, support with changes or do not support the proposed improvements.

Consultation Process

The views of the local community were sought as part of this consultation exercise.

A letter including a plan of the proposals was posted to addresses within a consultation area. Consultees were advised to respond to the consultation via the online consultation portal (A copy of the letter is attached in Appendix B). The consultation letters were delivered by Royal Mail to 323 addresses on 10 October 2019 with a deadline for responding of the 10 November 2019. No letters were returned to Southwark offices due to the addresses no longer being occupied

The consultation area included all properties on the eastern side of Denmark Hill between its junction with Champion Hill and Sunray Avenue including parts of Cross Street, Basingdon Way and Blanchedowne. The properties on the western side of Denmark Hill are located with the London Borough of Lambeth and they were provided with all the consultation material required to inform those residents. A map showing the consultation area is attached in Appendix C.

In addition, a direct phone number and email address to the Highways project manager was made available to those wishing to make enquires or respond to the consultation via email or phone.

Summary of Consultation Results

Consultation Returns and Response Rate

A total of 25 responses were received during the consultation period. This represented approximately 8% response rate. Two further responses were received via email after the end of the consultation.

Analysis of the responses revealed that there were more responses received from outside the consultation area than within as shown in Table 1 below

Description	Result
Number of properties consulted	323
Number of all responses	25
Number of duplicate responses	0
Number of responses received from outside the consultation area	16
Number of responses received from organisations	1
Response Rate	8%

Table 1 Summary of consultation returns

The two further responses received via email after the end of the consultation were from the same address on Ferndene Road (which is off Denmark Hill oh the Lambeth side). The responses generally supported the proposals with changes, though they have not been included in the analysis.

The responses have therefore been grouped into 2 zones based on the level of impact of the proposals, which is shown in Appendix D. Analyses of the responses from Zone 1 reveal a similar level of support for the scheme when compared with the results from all respondents.

Summary of results

Table 2 below summarises the responses received to question Q1 from all respondents:

Response rate	Q1. Overall, do you support the proposals we have made for improving bus journey times on Denmark Hill		
	Support	Support with changes	Do not support
25 out of 323	8	11	6
8%	32%	44%	24%

Using the responses within Zone 1 only (the consultation area), responses received are shown in Table below:

Response rate	Do you support the proposals we have made for improving bus journey times on Denmark Hill		
	Support	Support with changes	Do not support
9 out of 323	5	2	2
3%	56%	22%	22%

Table 3 – Response to main question in Zone 1

The results indicate 76% 'fully support' / 'support with changes' the proposals for improving bus journey times along Denmark Hill.

Consultees were also asked how they travel in the area. The options were given were: Walking; Car; Mobility scooter/wheelchair; Cycling; Walking with child's buggy; Motorcycle/moped; and, public transport. Consultees were able to select more than one option and the results are in figure 1 below

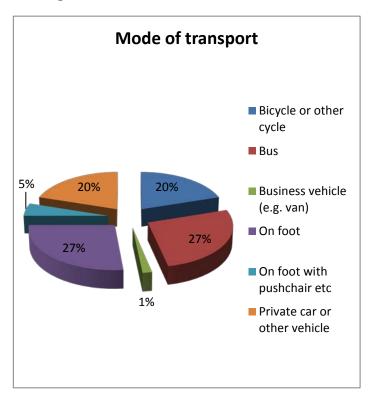


Figure 1 - Consultation Results to how people travel through this area

Figure 1 shows that a significant proportion (79%) use the local buses, cycling and walking as a means of transport.

Respondents' Comments

The consultation website allowed consultees to support, support with changes or not support and also provide any comments they may have on the proposals.

Responses from all zones are reproduced in Table 3 overleaf with officer's responses.

	Comments	Notes
•	Perhaps try to make it so the bus lanes are widened but not too big as I think the centre line does really need to be there as it's a busy stretch of road.	
	Good idea (changes to pedestrian crossing)	
•	Segregated cycle lanes would be much better than just widening the bus lane. A widened bus lane will encourage buses to overtake cycles when there isn't a safe amount of room to do so	Due to presence of existing junctions, traffic island and pedestrian crossing along the route, provision of a segregated cycle lane will not be
•	You should put in a segregated cycle lane all the way along!	achievable. Cycle road markings will be included as part of the design to ensure greater awareness
•	You should be installing segregated cycle tracks to mitigate this issue. Wider bus lanes will not make people choose to cycle more.	
•	Straight crossing fine, but why on earth a raised table? worse to drive over, negligible advantage for pedestrians and waste of money and resources. Pointless and sometimes dangerous as they all are	The raised crossing ensure that mobility impaired users are able to cross safely.
٠	It would be much better to put protected cycle lanes along this full section. This would protect cyclists from buses, taxis and other traffic, while also speeding up buses. The road is very wide for much of the space between Champion Park and Herne Hill, and there is little congestion, so space could be plausibly reallocated to cyclists. Currently, I do not dare cycle from my house to Herne Hill along this route, as I fear for my safety.	
	Ideally, we should be working towards fully protected cycle lanes and junctions all the way from Herne Hill to Camberwell Green and beyond. This is necessary to see transformative shift away from polluting, dangerous, expensive motor traffic to active transport.	
•	Sounds sensible to me	
•	Instead of widening the bus lane, which still means buses having to manoeuvre to overtake vulnerable cyclists, why not use the additional space granted by removal of the central reservation to install a segregated cycle lane at the road margin?	
•	Straight crossings are better. Other kind can be a trip hazard	
٠	The first bus stand on entry to Orpheus street should be moved/ taken away. Causes numerous traffic jams having a bus parked both here and at the second stand. Beeping/ engine noise from standing buses and cars in traffic particularly annoying to residents of 23 Denmark Hill	The current proposals do not extend as far as the junction with Orpheus Street. The area was recently improved as part of the Camberwell Town centre scheme
•	Create segregated cycle lanes instead, this could even be light segregation using "orcas" or wands. Put in a bustop bypass.	

Comments Notes I do not think wider bus lanes are a good idea, as they will Due to presence of existing junctions, traffic island and pedestrian crossing simply encourage close passing of cyclists by buses (which can along the route, provision of a sometimes already be a problem). There is space on Denmark segregated cycle lane will not be Hill, with the big central reservation and wide pavements, to achievable. Cycle road markings will introduce segregated cycle lanes, which would be a better be included as part of the design to solution. ensure greater awareness Straight crossings are always better See above - do not widen the bus lanes but build segregated cycle lanes. Speed cameras would also help, as my experience of walking, cycling, driving and taking the bus round there is that speed limits are frequently ignored. I have not observed the issues mentioned moreso, there are more commuters heading towards central London than towards Herne Hill every single day and as such the congestion is expected in the previous direction. Secondly, we have already suffered a lot with the just completed roadworks around Camberwell Green and Denmark Hill. Lastly, with the introduction of new crossing at Camberwell by the shopping centre has made things even worse - two closer set of traffic lights as well as the introduction of crossing closer to the King's College leading to three crossings before getting to the hospital is now seriously causing jams during rush hours. I don't think this (the pedestrian crossing facility) is even used that much often. Thus, it will be better removed.

The issue really has to do with the cyclists because they struggle a lot to get up the hill and usually keeps swerving in and out of their lane. But the cycle lane is more than sufficient if used properly.

- Create segregated cycle lanes instead, this could even be light segregation using "orcas" or wands. Put in a bustop bypass
- They would do the trick, but a stepped cycle track would give clearer space to all road users - better safety for cyclists, and a clear indication of "who" belongs "where" Support (changes to pedestrian crossing)

Please look at a one-way (southbound) stepped cycle track instead of the wider bus lane; and raising the southbound (uphill) cycle lane further north on to a step to offer more

- Widening a bus lane will make extra traffic for the road users.
- The current width is adequate for bus and bicycles.

Comments Notes

A wider bus lane which, in theory, allows a bus to overtake a cyclist will make a cyclist feel less safe. The road also suffers from speeding cars, despite the 20mph limit. In order to ensure that cyclists are not delaying buses, while also making them feel safe cycling slowly uphill (at a relatively large difference to the speed of passing traffic), the only safe way is to created a segregated cycle lane. This can be trialled with a low-cost option of installing 'wands' or 'armadillos' to separate cyclists from traffic. A wider lane at the bus stops will be the minimum solution, though ideally, built-out bus stop islands should be trialled, with cyclists passing 'behind' these, on the pavement side.

Due to presence of existing junctions, traffic island and pedestrian crossing along the route, provision of a segregated cycle lane will not be achievable. Cycle road markings will be included as part of the design to ensure greater awareness

I support the proposed changes to pedestrian facilities.

Enforce speed restrictions. Cars/motorbikes exceed the speed limit, particularly on the downhill. Narrowing the roadway, as per the plans, is a good idea, however it needs to be done in conjunction with safer cycle provision.

 The main delays appear to be on the high street and leading up to the junction with the A2216, rather than this relatively short section of Denmark Hill. The road at this point is already wide, such that cars and buses often take up both lanes.

The Denmark Hill Road at this point is often fast moving and rarely do vehicles adhere to the 20 mile an hour speed limit. The traffic island at Blanchedowne represents vital protection and space for cyclists turning into this road when approaching from Herne Hill and onto the dedicated quietway. Taking this away means that cyclists will have to dismount at the controlled crossing the cycle back up the road. This doesn't feel very cycle friendly.

Similarly the staggered crossing provides an opportunity for both cars and cyclists to cross from the quietway onto the main road. This is a fast and busy road, and while the raised crossing may work for pedestrians, it's unclear how this works for cyclists and traffic coming out onto Denmark Hill or approaching from Herne Hill and turning into Champion Hill. The current staggered crossing provides vital protection for cyclists and the staggered crossing allows appropriate advantage to be taken of gaps in traffic for crossing.

More should be done to reinforce the 20 mile an hour speed limit on this stretch of road - essentially it is double laned highway which moreoften has 2 cars a breast racing down it.

 Acland Crescent, Ferndene Road junction geometry needs to be tightened. This can be looked at as part of the current proposals

Comments Notes

experienced a problem with cyclists slowing down the bus. However, I agree that the current bus lane is rather narrow. My reading of the bus lane signs seems to suggest that it's OK to park in the bus lane outside of the designated times and some cars have done this over the weekends. I disagree with removing the central reservation on the curve of the hill near Champion Hill as this is a valuable green corridor from the estate to the park. If removed then there is no barrier between the two traffic streams when the road is icy - which it is frequently in winter due to burst water mains in this area

There will be some new planting in the vicinity of the traffic island to compensate for its removal

Improving the Deepdene Road crossing would be useful as this is used frequently to access the bus stop opposite and at present is a rather hazardous activity in both directions, mainly due to cars accelerating up and down the hill. I think the staggered crossing by Champion Hill works OK, although is rarely used - if straight then no opportunity to hide from traffic where it increases speed down the hill.

Removing the informal pedestrian crossing at Blanchedowne is a good idea, as it is seldom used and its positioning makes it difficult to turn right into Blanchedowne by car, particularly if a car is waiting to come out. There is a tendency to overshoot the turning a little whilst trying to avoid the bollards.

The major problems, apart from cars not keeping to the speed limit are:

- Cars not halting before turning into Ferndene Road if you cross at that point be
- prepared to jump out of the way
- Poor air quality in this area you can smell the car fumes, from Ferndene Road and up the Hill

The current layout and width are sufficient for pedestrians

Educate bicycle riders to keep the space on the road for buses and other road uses and do not block the lane in whole by driving in the middle of the road and not keeping closer to the curb.

4m is not a safe width for buses to overtake cycles, who are supposed to cycle 1m from the kerb and then drivers should give at least 1m clearance, making at least 2m. This is less an issue going downhill where cycles will be travelling faster. Better to make the bus lane in one direction 3m (e.g. downhill) and the other 4.7m+ (uphill).

In the longer term separated cycle lanes should be considered, with a bus lane kept in one direction.

 The section of Denmark Hill south of Champion Grove has a traffic order in place for loading restrictions on the west side where there is currently a Mandatory Cycle Lane (MCL) but these are not correctly signed & marked due to an earlier officer misunderstanding about TSRGD 2016 changes regarding MCLs.
 This should be corrected as part of scheme delivery. Where space permits, the uphill sections have been prioritised over the downhill sections – particularly near the junction with Champion Hill

This will be looked at as part of the current proposals

I live in Ferndene Road and I frequently use buses and drive in this area. I do not object to the proposed new items, but I do not see the need to remove the items proposed, or why this scheme is priority for public money. There is a 20 mph speed limit and the traffic is rarely heavy in the stretch in question. I have never been aware of cyclists holding up buses, and it could only apply to a few yards before and after the Champion Hill bus stop (not shown on the drawing), where the central reservation is, and when buses are stopping anyway. I am sceptical that this makes any material impact on bus times. The central reservation is an attractive feature for the road, and any green planting is welcomed. I believe it helps traffic calming, I wonder if Lambeth Council has been consulted on these plans. Did you decide not to mention bottle necks both at Herne Hill and Denmark Hill/Champion Park junctions, even if quicken with cycle overtaking and also pedestrian safety as reasons for the central reservations, along with being attractive features – curious that you filtered out these thoughts from me?	Comments	Notes
	this area. I do not object to the proposed new items, but I do not see the need to remove the items proposed, or why this scheme is priority for public money. There is a 20 mph speed limit and the traffic is rarely heavy in the stretch in question. I have never been aware of cyclists holding up buses, and it could only apply to a few yards before and after the Champion Hill bus stop (not shown on the drawing), where the central reservation is, and when buses are stopping anyway. I am sceptical that this makes any material impact on bus times. The central reservation is an attractive feature for the road, and any green planting is welcomed. I believe it helps traffic calming. I wonder if Lambeth Council has been consulted on these plans. Did you decide not to mention bottle necks both at Herne Hill and Denmark Hill/Champion Park junctions, even if quicken with cycle overtaking and also pedestrian safety as reasons for the central reservations, along with being attractive features —	the vicinity of the traffic island to compensate for its removal. Officers at LB Lambeth have been consulted and regularly informed of progress of

Recommendations

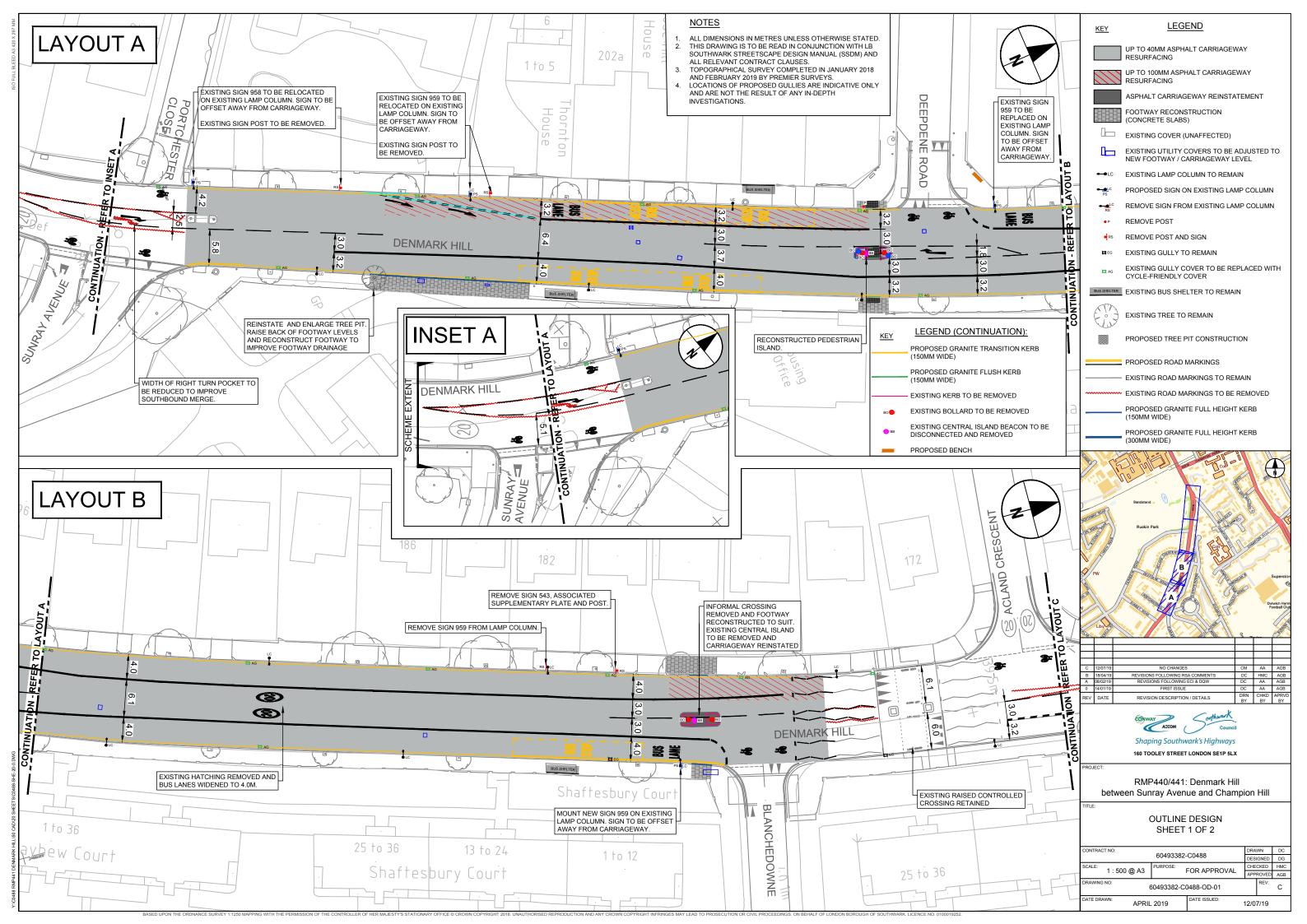
In light of the consultation comments for the proposed improvements along Denmark Hill and council's commitment for making streets in the borough safer for all road users, it is recommended that the scheme is progressed to detailed design.

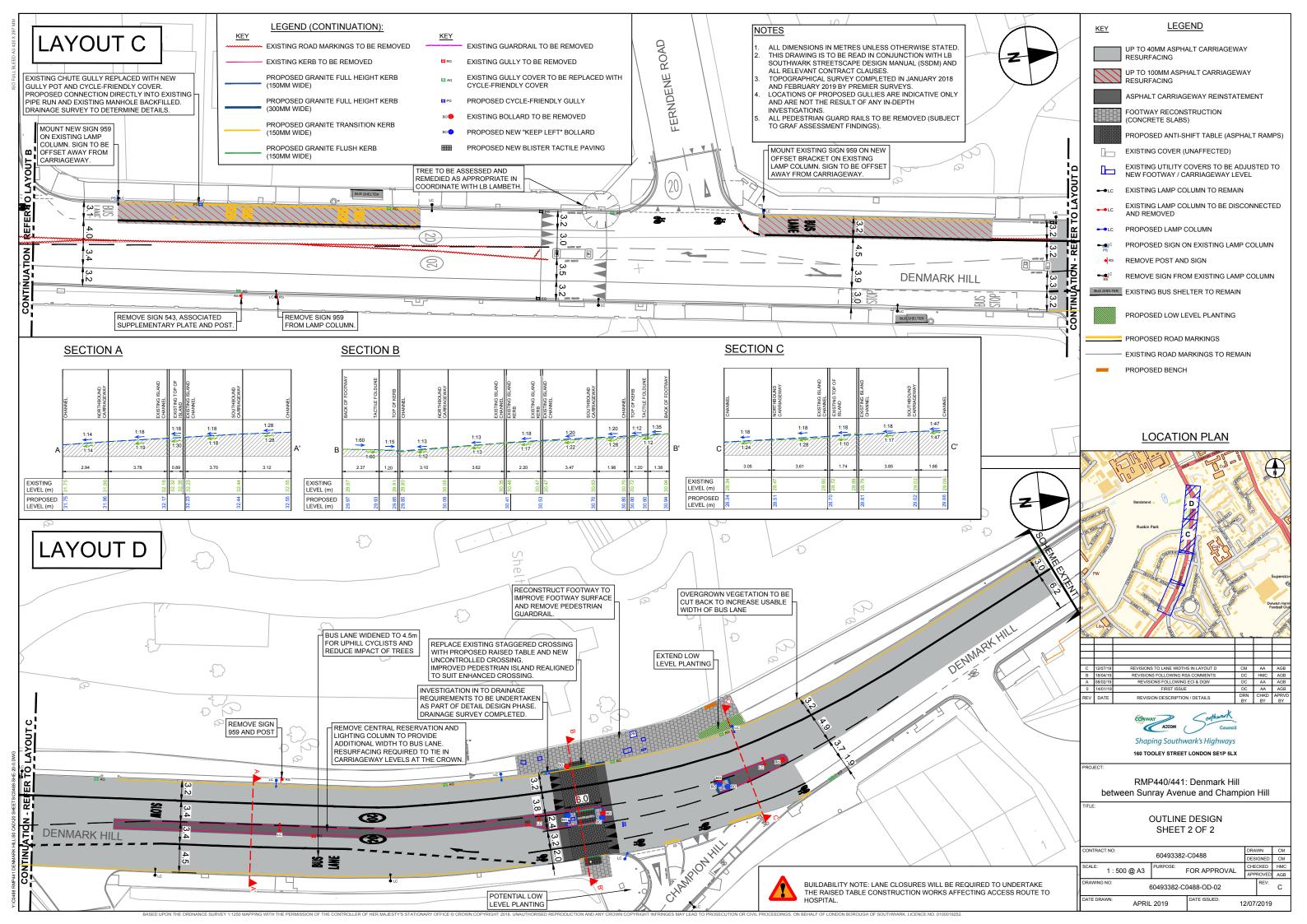
A report is being taken to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency in December 2019 with the officer's recommendation to carry out advertisement of the relevant traffic management orders.

A traffic notice will be displayed prior to works commencing on site.

Appendices

- Appendix A Scheme Proposal
- Appendix B Consultation letter
- Appendix C Map of the consultation area
- Appendix D Map of zones for consultation responses







Highways highways@southwark.gov.uk Tel: 020 7525 4571

Tel. 020 7323 4371

Postcode Date: 09 October 2019

Dear Resident,

Resident

Address 1

Address 2

Denmark Hill Improvement works

We want to improve bus journey times along Denmark Hill, as it has been identified that the bus lanes are on a hill in this section and cyclists can sometimes hold up buses as the lanes are currently too narrow for buses to safely overtake cyclists travelling up the hill.

In order to support this, we are proposing to widen sections of the existing bus lanes on Denmark Hill between its junction with Champion Hill and Sunray Avenue. This will reduce conflict with other vehicle types and help buses keep to timetable. The widening of the bus lanes will be achieved by removing the central reservation by Ruskin Park, removing the traffic island by Blanchedowne and removing central hatching road markings.

These proposals should improve journey times for passengers using the 42, 68 and 468 bus routes. By making bus travel more reliable, this supports Transport for London's Healthy Streets indicator: 'People choose to walk, cycle and use public transport'.

We are also proposing measures to assist pedestrians cross the road, which will include replacing the staggered crossing by Champion Hill with a straight crossing on a raised table and provision of dropped kerbs at the existing informal crossing by Deepdene Road.

However, we would appreciate your views on these plans, and whether there are any issues that we should take note of.

Please see details and provide feedback using our online form at https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/denmarkhillbuses

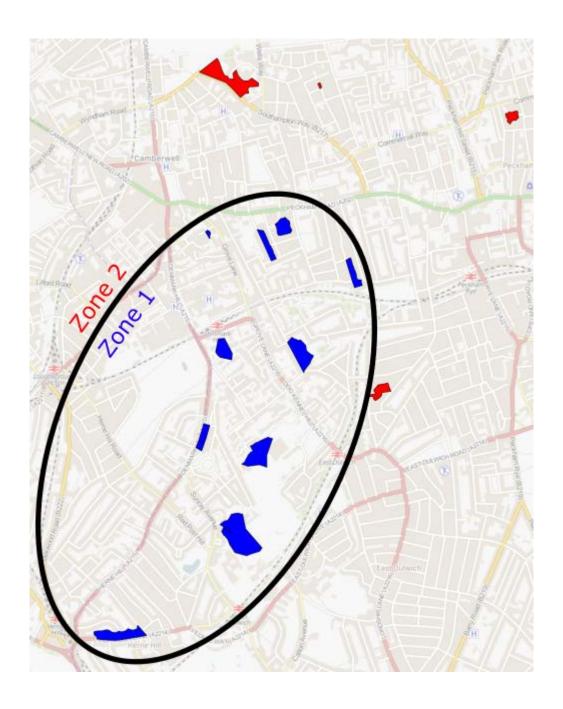
Survey closes: 10 November 2019

e-mail: highways@southwark.gov.uk by post: FREEPOST RSDT-BHXK-SCAJ

telephone: 020 7525 4571 DKH Bus lane

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