

**Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
The A34 (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell)
(Bus Lane) Order 2020
Action Taken Under Delegated Powers**

September 2020

1. Summary Statement

- 1.1** Approval is sought to introduce changes to the existing Bus Lane restrictions along The A34 Birmingham Road and Walsall Road in Sandwell in support of the TfWM A34 - Walsall to Birmingham City Centre Sprint Route.
- 1.2** The proposed restrictions introduce the following changes to the existing bus lane Traffic Regulation Order (TRO);
- Increase the length of bus lane provided on the Walsall Road.
 - Change the times of operation of the existing bus lane on Birmingham Road.
- 1.3** Walsall Road – A new section of bus lane is proposed on the south westerly bound carriageway from a point 105m north easterly of the junction with Sundial Lane for a distance of 55m. Also from the junction of Sundial Lane for a distance of 20m in a south westerly direction.
- 1.4** Birmingham Rd - The north easterly bound carriageway from its junction with Old Walsall Road/ Birmingham Borough boundary to a point 60m south west from the junction of the Scott Arms. The bus lane is existing, however, the bus lane will now be operation 7am to 7pm.
- 1.5** The existing signing and lining will be refreshed along the route as part of the proposed works.
- 1.6** SMBC will not permit powered two wheelers or private hire taxis to use the Bus Lane. This is in line with other Bus Lane/Bus Gate Orders across the borough.
- 1.7** Any TRO's relating to the existing bus lane will be revoked.

- 1.8 The introduction of the aforementioned measures are subject to consultation in conjunction with the advertising of the Traffic Regulation Order. Any unresolved objections would need to be reported back to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport for a decision.
- 1.9 The cost to make the Traffic Regulation Order including advertising, signs and lining has been paid in advance by TfWM.
- 1.10 Sandwell will liaise with TfWM regarding any objections so they are able to contact objectors directly and attempt resolution before presentation of any unresolved objections to the Cabinet Member for determination.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the proposed restrictions in The A34 (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) (Bus Lane) Order 2020 be made as detailed in section 1.
- 2.2 That the proposed restrictions in The A34 (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) (Bus Lane) Order 2020 are advertised for the statutory consultation.
- 2.3 That the Director – Regeneration and Growth submits a report to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport on unresolved matters.
- 2.4 That the Director – Monitoring Officer be authorised to seal The A34 (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) (Bus Lane) Order 2020

In accordance with the authority delegated to Directors to act on matters within the authority delegated to them under Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, I intend to take the action(s) recommended above.

I do not have an interest to declare in this matter


Tammy Stokes
Interim Director – Regeneration and Growth

Date 29/10/2020

Contact Officer

Simon Chadwick – Service Manager, Highways - 0121 569 4171

 24/09/202

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council The A34 (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) (Red Route) Order 2020

3. Background Details

- 3.1 The A34 - Walsall to Birmingham City Centre Sprint Route has been developed by TfWM to provide a quicker, safer and more reliable public transport route.
- 3.2 Two Sprint schemes have been prioritised to connect Walsall with Birmingham Airport and Solihull, along the A45 and A34, in time to support the Commonwealth Games in 2022. The uninterrupted route is the first of its kind and is expected to benefit over 30 million bus trips a year, as well as providing over £200 million in economic benefits.
- 3.3 Sprint is designed to make bus journeys more reliable and sustainable. Its benefits include:
 - Dependable timetables and an average journey time saving of 20%
 - Additional and extended bus lanes to minimise congestion
 - Enhanced confidence in and use of public transport
 - State-of-the-art bus shelters, designed to improve passenger safety and comfort
- 3.4 Sprint has been a key feature of the regional transport strategy for several years. It's particularly important because of:
 - A need for improved access to the city centres of Birmingham and Walsall for work, leisure and social interactions
 - The numbers of spectators, athletes, media and local volunteers who will be travelling throughout the region during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games
 - A growing need for 'green' transport, including zero-emission vehicles and reduced car travel

- 3.5 Sections of the Walsall to Birmingham Airport and Solihull A34/A45 route are being prioritised to support the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. This uninterrupted route from Walsall town centre to Birmingham airport is the first of its kind and is expected to carry over 30 million bus trips a year, as well as providing over £200 million in economic benefits.
- 3.6 Part of this route passes through Sandwell on the A34 Walsall Road and Birmingham Road in Great Barr, passing through Scott Arms and linking across the borders of Birmingham and Walsall City Councils.
- 3.7 Sandwell are committed to support the SPRINT programme and therefore to help facilitate changes on the highways network to accommodate the project, a number of changes to the existing bus route traffic regulations orders are required.
- 3.8 The proposed restrictions introduce the following changes to the existing bus lane Traffic Regulation Order (TRO);
- Increase the length of bus lane provided on the Walsall Road.
 - Change the times of operation of the existing bus lane on Birmingham Road.
- 3.9 Two new sections of bus lane are proposed on Walsall Road, one in a south westerly bound carriageway from a point 105m north easterly of the junction with Sundial Lane for a distance of 55m and the other from the junction of Sundial Lane for a distance of 20m in a south westerly direction.
- 3.10 The times of operation of the existing Bus Lane on Birmingham Road (from its junction with Old Walsall Road/ Birmingham Borough boundary to a point 60m south west from the junction of the Scott Arms) will change the times of operation to 7am to 7pm. Any TRO's relating to the existing bus lane will be revoked.
- 3.11 In line with our current policies powered two wheelers or private hire taxis will not be permitted to use the Bus Lane. This is in line with other Bus Lane/Bus Gate Orders across the borough.

- 3.12 As part of the scheme the existing signing and lining will be refreshed and replaced along the route.
- 3.13 Any objections to the proposals will initially be directed to the project team at TfWM for discussion and engagement. However, any unresolved objections will be reported back to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport for decision.
- 3.14 Drawing numbers below are attached for reference:

60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000001
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000002
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000003
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000004
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000005
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000006
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000007
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000008
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000009
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000010
60599248-ACM-2600-0002-DR-TR 000011

These drawings shows the full extent of the proposed bus lane along the A34 in Sandwell, It also confirms dates and times of operation.

[IL1: PROTECT]