

Guided Busway Update

February 2008

This is the eighth in a series of newsletters from Cambridgeshire County Council to keep you informed about progress on the guided busway project.

Newly laid guideway



Laying the guideway beams

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we have now started laying the guideway beams that will make up the 25km busway.

A special gantry has been made to lay the beams and is now working its way from Longstanton to Oakington. The gantry lays the concrete beams on foundations. All of the beams are made on-site in a purpose built factory. The beams are then stored and moved to the

gantry using special vehicles that can travel on the already laid guideway. This reduces the need for materials to be transported on the county's roads. The factory is now producing 23 beams a day.

When the section of guideway between Longstanton and Oakington is complete, we will be trialling guided buses on this section. This is likely to happen in the Spring.

The gantry will then continue to lay beams along the busway route through to Histon, under the A14 to

Cambridge Regional College and to the Science Park. Following this, the gantry will move to the southern section of the busway, from Cambridge Railway Station to Trumpington, and lay beams along the route. Finally, the gantry will go back to Longstanton and start laying beams towards St Ives.

Despite the very wet weather this winter resulting in minor delays to the laying of the guideway beams, the overall schedule for the busway is still on track. The system is scheduled to open in spring 2009.



Purpose built factory where guideway beams are made.

Roadworks

We are currently producing plans for how we will manage construction under Hills Road bridge in Cambridge. We need to build an underpass into the structure of the existing bridge for the busway and cycle track. This is going to involve significant roadworks on the bridge for a long period and we are looking at all of the options to minimise the disruption to traffic. We currently expect to be able to start work in April/May 2008. This is dependent on other companies such as water and gas completing their work on the bridge.

Construction work at Cambridge Regional College and Station Road in Histon and Impington is progressing. We expect to complete the work and remove the roadworks at CRC by the end of March. The work at Station Road should be completed in April and the roadworks will then be removed. This is a month later than originally planned and the result of bad weather and delays in relocating underground cables and pipes. However, these delays won't affect the overall construction programme of the Guided Busway.

The construction work at Park Lane (also known as Gatehouse Road) in Histon has gone well and we are planning to complete the work and re-open the road in late February, in line with our original plans.





Windmill Bridge

Windmill Bridge near Over has been taken down to make way for the busway. The bridge was always planned to be taken down and rebuilt so double deckers could use the busway between St Ives and Cambridge. These buses are needed to serve the two new Park & Ride sites that are part of the scheme at St Ives and

Longstanton.

The bridge was demolished on 9 January and will now be rebuilt and the road replaced.

Rebuilding the bridge is a significant piece of construction work involving excavating and building foundations, putting in the precast bridge beams, pouring the deck, replacing brick work and reconstructing the road.

The road is planned to be reopened on-schedule in June 2008.



Construction timeline

As with any large construction project this programme is subject to change. We will update the programme in each edition of this newsletter.

Activity	Start	Finish
Longstanton to Cambridge construction	July 07	Aug 08
Work on Great Ouse bridge	May 07	Sept 08
Construction of trial guideway section between Longstanton and Oakington	Sept 07	Mar 08
Work on new bridge over railway line near to Addenbrooke's	April 07	April 08
Further site clearance from Longstanton to St Ives (Avoiding the bird nesting season)	Nov 07	Mar 08
Further site clearance from Cambridge Station to Trumpington	Dec 07	Mar 08
Work on Hills Road Bridge	April 08	Dec 08
Further construction from Longstanton to St Ives	Feb 08	Spring 09
Work on Windmill Bridge at Over	Oct 07	Jun 08
Construction of St Ives P&R	Feb 08	Oct 08
Construction of Longstanton P&R	Oct 08	Mar 09

How can I find out more?

If you want to know more about the Guided Busway project or if you have questions or concerns about anything to do with construction, please contact the Guided Busway team on **01223 716972**, e-mail us on guidedbusway@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or write to us at

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There are also lots of details about the project on our webpages at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/guidedbusway

If you would like a copy of the text in this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or another language please contact the Guided Busway team using the details opposite.

The next update about the project will be available in April 2008.