

15 May 2020

## **Covid-19 Road and Street Works Bulletin 007: Green Transport Restart and Recovery.**

Dear Colleagues,

The Government has recently announced that it will be providing funds to Local Authorities to enable the provision of more space for walking and cycling and issued temporary network management duty statutory guidance in response to Covid-19. It can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities/traffic-management-act-2004-network-management-in-response-to-covid-19>.

This is to facilitate a shift in capacity from public transport and enable social distancing, particularly in urban areas. These funds will support the implementation of for example pop-up bike lanes, widened pavements, and cycle and bus-only corridors. The Government has also published 'Covid-19: Safer Public Places – urban and green centres guidance' This can be viewed here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-public-places-urban-centres-and-green-spaces>.

Authorities will now be working to urgently put in place measures to deal with coronavirus. Where a traffic order is need for the works, the works may then, strictly speaking, be classified as major works. Highways works promoters dealing with these schemes are going to need permits approved urgently and should not wait any longer than is absolutely necessary for the permit to be approved.

It is strongly recommended therefore, that that Authorities' move to allow Authority Work Promoters to utilise the Minor or Standard Works Permit categories with early starts where necessary for these schemes on a site by site basis. As much notice as possible should be given to inform key stakeholders such as utilities about such works to give the most opportunity to highlight the location and maintainability issues of critical assets, bring their works forward or use the same workspace during any works the authority may be undertaking.

It is also recommended that each scheme/works take account of the following;

- authorities reallocating road space should include these in the co-ordination program of works shared with all Promoters. Sharing details of the proposals as early as possible will enable opportunities for the potential to undertake work either prior to or within the reallocated road space.



Department  
for Transport



- the need to plan, coordinate, consult and the continued provision of access for street and road works in a way that minimises disruption to road users and maintain safe working environment.

Please note that the new Street Manager digital service will be going live on 1 July 2020 and all utility companies and authorities will be able to use it to plan and coordinate works.

Best Regards

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Joint Chairs HAUC England

Agreed by all parties including the DfT, HAUC UK, JAG, Street Works UK & DCMS