

Blackglen Road / Lambs Cross Junction update.

5th October 2023

Dear Ward Councillors,

Last Tuesday evening the contractor encountered an issue with groundwater in the excavated trench while constructing a manhole on the new Foul Sewer in the middle of Lambs Cross Junction. This work is part of the Irish Water upgrade works which was added to the contract during the Construction Stage. The contractor installed Traffic Management at Lambs Cross through the night, and the junction was on Stop/So operation from 6am to deal with the morning rush hour.

This did cause significant delays to traffic on Wednesday morning, which was not helped by the general seasonal increase in traffic. That said, the manhole is now built, and this translates to a week saved to the project.

On foot of the serious traffic delays experienced yesterday, we held an emergency meeting with our DLR Traffic and Roads Control Sections. These Traffic Management meetings will be held weekly until the end of the scheme, particularly on the approach to the busy December period.

The contractors current programme shows the finish date mid-December 2023. However, it is agreed that the works at Lambs Cross need to be completed as soon as possible, to avoid the Christmas rush and traffic disruption at the junction.

There is an estimated 7 weeks work to complete at Lambs Cross. The major items include:

- completion of the road reconstruction of Sandyford Road (kerbing and footpaths will be able to be carried out with 2-way traffic)
- completion of the new foul sewer at Enniskerry Road
- kerbing and footpaths at Enniskerry Road, including in front of shops
- completion of road reconstruction at Enniskerry Road.
- Final wearing course on Sandyford Road, Enniskerry Road,
- Final Wearing Course at Blackglen Road (within 100mm of the junction)

The above works can in general be carried out using Stop/Go traffic management outside of peak traffic times. However, there will be some operations which will require longer working hours. For these works the contractor is permitted to work up to 10pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The contractor has request two 24 hours working periods at Lambs Cross to allow the resurfacing works to be completed.

The first is planned for 16th, 17th, and 18th October, to get most of Sandyford Road resurfacing completed. During this period two-way traffic will be maintained through the morning peak hours, subject to weather conditions and blacktop supply during the night.

The second will be in November, (dates to be confirmed) to get the road reconstruction and resurfacing completed at Sandyford Road and in the middle of Lambs Cross Junction. Again, we hope to alleviate traffic congestion by maintaining two-way traffic during morning peak hours, but in this case, it may not be possible to avoid long traffic delays at this time. We are working to mitigate delays, by reducing the stop/go during peak traffic.

Weather and supply chain issues may result in modification to the above planned works.

Additional traffic management operatives are stationed Enniskerry Road / Aikens Village Junction to push traffic through this junction during afternoons, to assist with traffic flow at school pick up times. The contractor has committed to improving temporary reinstatements along Blackglan Road on the approach to Lambs Cross Junction.

It is acknowledged that public information could have been better in terms of notifying the public with respect to the works and anticipated delay and disruption. We will improve this by:

- locating additional VMS signs on Sandyford and Enniskerry Roads. This should deter some drivers from entering the works area, and detour through the surrounding road network.
- The contractor will issue a letter drop, which will include this update to residents, shops, schools, community centre etc.
- We ask that Councillors share this update through their social media channels.
- DLR comms office will also distribute through their social media outlets.
- AA road watch will be notified.

It is important to note that any prolongation of the scheme to ensure some improvement to traffic flows, will not deliver the level of improvement that would be expected by road users. Therefore, the consensus is to mitigate delays by completing the works as soon as possible.

A further update will be issued to give more detail on the scheme as we come closer to completion.