

Guided Busway Update September 2007

This is the sixth in a series of newsletters from Cambridgeshire County Council to keep you informed about progress on the Guided Busway project.

What's happening now with the project?

Construction work on Cambridgeshire's new public transport system is on-track. The Council's contractor, Edmund Nuttall Limited has been working on a number of different parts of the construction project in different parts of the county.

Near to St Ives, Nuttall has recently removed the old railway viaduct that crossed the River Great Ouse from the Lakes area. Two large cranes lifted the 100 tonne spans after engineers confirmed the 150-year-old structure needed to be replaced.

The firm will now build a new bridge over the river. When the project is completed, the bridge will carry a bridleway to provide a protected right of way across the river for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders as well as the guided busway.

River Great Ouse viaduct is lifted out





To the south of Cambridge, Nuttall has finished building a new underpass under Long Road for cyclists and pedestrians. Back in March 2007, Nuttall looked at two options for constructing the underpass. One was to close Long Road to all motor vehicles for a period of six weeks and the other was to use road works and close only one lane at a time, for six months. The Council decided to close Long Road for six weeks during the summer holidays rather than have six months of disruption.

Completing the work within the six-week period was a challenge. Nuttall's Structures Agent, Ian Stafford explains: "When we considered the plans for the underpass we quickly realised that if the Council could allow us to close the road completely we could actually construct the underpass in a much shorter period."

Back at the main construction compound near Longstanton, the beams that will make up the busway are being mass-produced in a purpose built factory. Specially made moulds are being used to get the same consistent high quality for every single beam.

"We used precast concrete units for the underpass and these were placed in just three days using a 300 tonne crane. The alternative would have been to pour the concrete on-site and this would have meant waiting for a long time for it to set properly."

"Throughout the construction, we had to make sure that the numerous cables and pipes running under Long Road remained connected. We built a temporary bridge to carry the pipes and cables and this also provided a bridge for cyclists and pedestrians."

"We made sure we had extra people working on-site to ensure the work was completed by the end of the school holidays."

Over 6500 beams are needed to complete the project and each one will come from the factory in Longstanton.



Nuttall's Structures Agent, Ian Stafford



Guideway beams at Longstanton

Getting Arty with the Guided Busway

A top national artist has been recruited to help develop plans for public art at the new Guided Busway Park and Ride sites and stops along the route.

London-based Simon Tegala has been asked to develop themes and ideas for how to approach provision of art at sites and stops.

The aim of the art project is to create areas that are attractive and thought-provoking places for passengers. The art work will establish an association for people who live nearby and passengers travelling on the Guided Busway.

In the longer term, the Guided Busway team will be looking to employ artists to work with local communities at each site or stop on ideas, features and designs, within the overall context of Simon's work.

"I'm really excited to be involved in such a significant public transport project. I'm certain we can come up with plans for some innovative and interesting proposals with the help of the local community," said Simon.

Simon's previous work uses a wide variety of media including drawing, photography, sculpture, video installation, performance, Internet and digital art. Since graduating in 1995 from Goldsmiths College he has exhibited widely in the UK and abroad.

Simon was awarded the NESTA Fellowship in 2000 and is an Executive of VAGA, The Visual Arts and Galleries Association, based in Ely.



Simon Tegala

Construction work in Oakington



Road closures and road works for the busway

As part of the busway project the Council has recently announced a number of road closures and planned road works. As mentioned on page 2, Long Road was one of the first closures to go ahead.

At other points along the busway route the choice between closure and road works is not always possible. On Station Road in Oakington where the old railway line crosses the road between Oakington and Westwick the Council has had to close the road whilst construction takes place because of space limitations. Buses travelling on the guideway will need

to cross Station Road and to do so a new junction has to be constructed. The new junction will include drainage, signals and lighting but in order for all of this to be done safely the road has to be closed. The road was closed in July and is expected to be open at the end of October.

In other places where the old railway crosses the road, temporary traffic management (road works) can be used if there is enough space for the new junctions to be built. This is the case on Milton Road in Cambridge. Road works will need to be put in place to allow engineers to install the junction but this will still allow traffic to use Milton Road. This is likely to happen in early 2008.

Other full road closures scheduled to take place this year are Park

Lane in Histon and Windmill Bridge in Over. Local residents will be notified of the closure as soon as final dates are confirmed by the contractor and diversion plans approved by the County Council's highways department.

Road works also need to be put in place on Station Road in Histon (where the railway line crosses the road) and Kings Hedges Road near Cambridge Regional College in Cambridge. Again, local people will receive notice about these closures when dates are confirmed.



Making way for the new underpass at Long Road

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 at Longstanton	Sept 07	Dec 07
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)	Aug 07	Mar 08
Further site clearance from Cambridge Station to Trumpington	Sept 07	Dec 07
Work on Hills Road Bridge	Feb 08	Dec 08
Further construction from Longstanton to St Ives	Mar 08	Winter 08/09
Work on Windmill Bridge at Over	Oct 07	April 08
Construction of St Ives P&R	Nov 07	Sep 08
Construction of Longstanton P&R	May 08	Nov 08

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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RES 1504
Castle Hill
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CB3 0AP

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.

Look out for a special edition of the update in late October, focusing on 'green' issues to do with the project.

The next general update about the project will be available in November 2007.