

PRESS RELEASE

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City of York Council is sharing proposals to cut congestion and journey times on one of York's busiest roads.

Residents and businesses have until Friday 1 June to view and comment on designs to upgrade the outer ring road's Monks Cross roundabout.

This will be the second of seven A1237 roundabouts set for major improvements over the next four years – a total £38 million programme funded through the West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund. The council is starting work on the first junction improvement at Wetherby Road this summer.

The roundabout upgrades will mean more lanes and space on the approaches and exits. Where possible the road layouts will be designed to accommodate the potential future scheme to bring the outer ring road up to dual carriageway standard. The Monks Cross roundabout improvement works are planned for early 2019, although some site clearance work could start earlier.

Cllr Peter Dew, Executive Member for Transport and Planning, said:

“We are working to improve traffic flow at the A1237 roundabouts, and this project will deliver reduced journey times.

“With Wetherby Road work starting this summer, and Monks Cross plans developing, we're investing in improvements to the outer ring road.

“We realise that the ultimate improvement would be grade separation at the busiest roundabouts, but the cost of that would be far in excess of what is available.

“I encourage residents to take a look at the designs and, of course, share their views.”

Earlier this year Cllr Peter Box, Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Investment Committee, said the improvements to York Outer Ring Road will help harness the vast economic potential of York and the surrounding area.

Cllr Box said that the West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund scheme will reduce congestion and improve travel flows and will mean local residents have better connections with employment, training and leisure opportunities.

Roger Marsh OBE, Chair of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and Deputy Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Investment Committee, described the York Outer Ring Road scheme as being at the heart of the Strategic Economic Plan for Leeds City Region.

He said making it easier for businesses to connect with potential customers, suppliers and each other would give them the confidence to expand and invest, creating regeneration and job opportunities for all.

Plans can be viewed online at www.york.gov.uk/yorr, at the council's West Offices on Station Rise, YO1 6GA, or at two special public exhibitions at Monks Cross Shopping Centre management suite (in the corner by New Look) between 1 and 6pm on Tuesday 8 May and Tuesday 22 May.

All comments will be reviewed and changes to the design made where possible. The decision on the final layout will be taken at a public Executive Member for Transport and Planning Decision Session meeting later in the year.

The York Outer Ring Road improvements programme is being funded through the West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund, and the Leeds City Region Growth Deal - a £1 billion package of Government investment through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to accelerate growth and create jobs across Leeds City Region.

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