



Economy and Place Directorate

West Offices
Station Rise
York YO1 6GA

Our Ref:
Date: 17th September 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Fossgate Public Realm Improvements – Public Consultation.

Following the recent change of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) reversing the traffic flow on Fossgate, we are keen to continue working with residents and businesses to support this vibrant, growing community with its own special character in the heart of York.

Attached is a copy of the latest proposals, which have been prepared using feedback from residents and businesses over several years, and modified following recent discussions with representatives of the Fossgate Association.

We want to make sure that the proposed scheme meets the needs of the residents and businesses, and we would appreciate your views on the proposals.

What are we proposing?

We are investing £500,000 in improvements which will aim to:

- Enhance the street's appearance and character;
- Create a more pedestrian-friendly environment;
- Attract more people into Fossgate; and
- Improve access for pedestrians and cyclists, whilst maintaining vehicular access for residents and deliveries.

A more pedestrian-friendly environment.

The change to the TRO has removed the “through traffic” which regularly used Fossgate as a “rat run”. The street is recognised as a “Pedestrian and Cycle” zone between the hours of 8am-6pm, meaning that access for vehicles is limited to deliveries and residents. Between 6pm-8am, any vehicle can access Fossgate.

The marked parking means that there is no waiting within the bays between 8am-6pm. Outside of these times, only permit holder or pay and

display parking (time limited) is allowed. Elsewhere double yellows are in place.

We are aiming to retain these restrictions with some modifications to accommodate wider footway build-outs and new street furniture such as benches, cycle stands and possibly trees. The enclosed plan shows where these could be located.

We feel that Fossgate cannot be pedestrianised because residents and businesses need vehicle access at all times. We would replace the existing signs to reinforce the restrictions.

Similarly, we cannot provide 'shared spaces' following a national directive issued by the Department of Transport to suspend the delivery of shared spaces. This follows concerns raised by a number of disability groups over their safety and feelings of exclusion caused by the spaces.

Along Fossgate, we would introduce localised build-outs to improve available footway area for use by street cafes and/or selected street furniture (e.g. benches and cycle stands) to improve and aid accessibility. The build-outs would also rationalise and control on-street parking and allow deliveries to take place at specified locations. Traffic calming measures and additional crossings at these build-out locations would control vehicular speeds and improve links from one side to the other.

Enhancing Fossgate's appearance, character and links to the city.

We propose to improve the quality of the street by repaving extensive sections of footway using Yorkstone paving. The existing cobbles are would be retained due to their conservational value, but elsewhere the poor quality road surface would be replaced.

The proposals aim to improve links into Fossgate from the city centre, Hungate and future Castle Gateway regeneration.

At the Pavement junction, we are working alongside the highways maintenance team to upgrade and reconstruct the junction. The council is investing a further £600,000 to reconstruct Stonebow/Pavement between the Garden Place and Piccadilly junctions.

We will improve the quality of the footways and pedestrian links by upgrading and widening the crossings. Footways would also be widened at their narrowest points at the top of Fossgate.

At the Walmgate junction, we are proposing to narrow the entry to create a gateway to improve links into Fossgate and ensure that the restrictions are clearly identified.

When are the works likely to happen?

The works are being coordinated with maintenance work on Stonebow/Pavement to minimise disruption and inconvenience, and at a time which we understand is the quietest time of the year for businesses.

The maintenance work on Stonebow and Pavement is currently scheduled to be delivered between January and March 2019. The works to Fossgate are also planned to be delivered during this period. Further details about the proposed programme for construction and traffic management will be issued in due course.

What happens next?

We would greatly value your views on the proposals for Fossgate and ask that you return the attached questionnaire by post to the address above. You can also fill in an online questionnaire at <http://www.york.gov.uk/fossgate>, although this will not ask for specific details of your access needs. You can email details of the frequency, timing, length and nature of your vehicle access requirements to fossgateconsultation@york.gov.uk. Please submit your comments no later than Sunday 14th October.

We have already had meetings with representatives of Fossgate Association and will be holding two **drop-in sessions** for you to view the proposals in more detail and discuss them with officers. These will be held at **Ambiente Tapas Bar on Fossgate on Monday 24 September and Wednesday 3rd October, 1-5pm.**

Your comments will be taken seriously and will help to shape the final version of the scheme to be constructed, depending on the budget available. Comments will be included in a report to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning for a decision to be made in November on the scheme.

Thank you for your cooperation and your feedback.

Yours faithfully,

David Mercer
Acting Transport Projects Manager