

Works are continuing in the £18million Transporting Bedford project. These schemes will create more space for all road users, help improve journey times for residents, visitors and commuters, and make our roads safer.

This leaflet gives an update on progress with each scheme and some details of upcoming projects. Transporting Bedford is funded jointly by Bedford Borough Council and the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP).

Coronavirus & Temporary Works

The disruption caused by coronavirus has meant that some projects have taken slightly longer to complete, and some projects like works on the High Street and Ampthill Road have had to be put back. We are grateful to our funding partners at SEMLEP for working with us to defer some works. With the High Street works delayed to next year, we have introduced some temporary measures including a new layout and bollards to help people social distance, and stay safe while visiting the town centre.



Ampthill Road

Works will shortly be starting on improvements to Ampthill Road, widening and upgrading traffic signals to reduce congestion. The first phase of works will see utilities moved to ensure residents and businesses do not suffer any loss of service during the works. The main widening and resurfacing works are planned to start in spring 2021. Full details of the works can be seen at www.bedford.gov.uk/transportingbedford2020

High Street

Unfortunately our plans to start work on the High Street have had to be put back due to disruption caused by coronavirus. However we have put temporary measures in place to create more space for pedestrians and installed permanent average speed cameras to enforce the 20mph speed limit. We are also in the process of moving some underground utility equipment in the area, in preparation for the major works next year.

We will be announcing the final details of the programme very soon alongside information on the new High Street Heritage Action Zone programme (HSHAZ) that will be launched shortly in partnership with Historic England. The programme will offer grants to shop and building owners to repair and enhance the historic building fabric and shop fronts in our High Street.

Businesses will be open throughout the works and would very much welcome your custom as we build a better town centre together.

The plans for the High Street include

- ✓ **Footways will be widened on both sides to create a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and shoppers**
- ✓ **New loading and short stay parking bays will be introduced**
- ✓ **A 20mph speed limit – enforced by average speed cameras (already introduced)**
- ✓ **High quality York paving and granite kerbstones will be used**

More details can be seen at www.bedford.gov.uk/transportingbedford2020

More details of the HSHAZ scheme can be seen at www.historicengland.org.uk



Allhallows

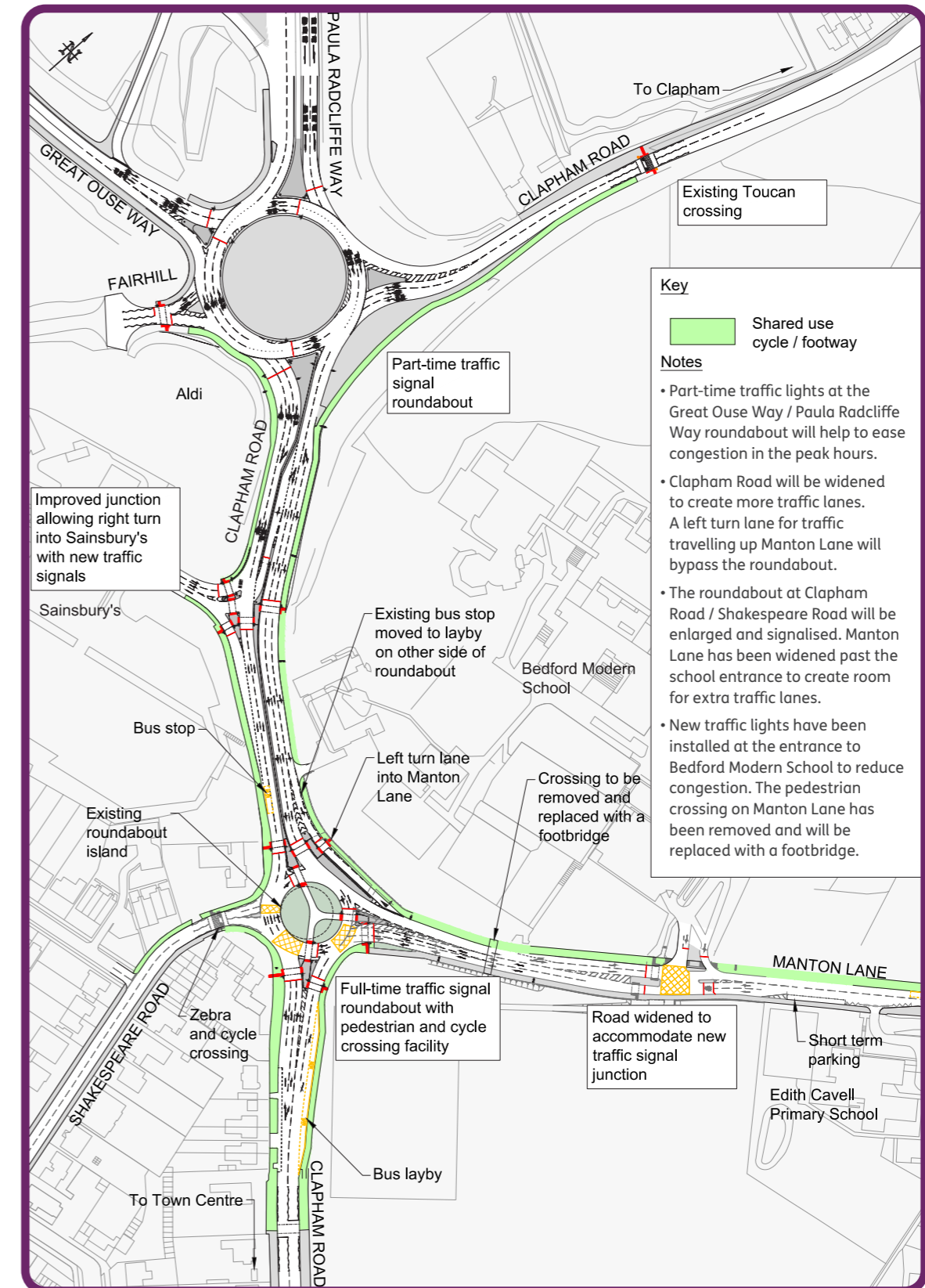
Works are underway on big improvements to Allhallows and Church Square. Allhallows is a key part of Bedford town centre, and is a busy link between the town, the bus station and the train station. The whole stretch of Allhallows from St Loyes Street down to Midland Road, and Church Square is set to be improved in a major project.

These works will transform this busy area of Bedford town centre, with the existing pavements and roadway being rebuilt and re-laid with a high quality granite surface. The work is being done in phases and is expected to be complete next spring.

Manton Lane / Clapham Road / Great Ouse Way

Extensive work to widen Manton Lane and introduce new traffic signals has been completed, improving traffic flow in this congestion hotspot. Work is now underway to construct a new pedestrian footbridge near the school to help improve road safety and reduce congestion.

We have also started utility works to divert underground equipment so that we can start work in the new year to reconstruct the Manton Lane / Clapham Road roundabout, widen parts of Clapham Road and introduce new part time traffic lights at the Paula Radcliffe Way / Great Ouse Way junction. A layout of the full scheme is shown on the drawing below.



Other news...

Britannia Road

Improvement works to help reduce congestion along Britannia Road were completed earlier this year. The road has been widened and upgrades made to traffic signals along the road.



Bromham Road / Shakespeare Road / Ashburnham Road



New pedestrian crossings and cycle lanes have been installed at the busy junction of Bromham Road / Shakespeare Road and Ashburnham Road to improve road safety at this busy junction. The new facilities have created safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists, and improved routes to local schools and the station. Ashburnham Road was also fully resurfaced as part of the works.

Traffic Signals

Over the last year we have completed upgrades to traffic lights at Newham Avenue, St Cuthbert's Street, Union Street and at the junction of London Road and Elstow Road. All of these works have improved the efficiency of the traffic lights; reducing queues and congestion, and are using less energy. This year we will be carrying out similar improvements to traffic lights on Prebend Street, Cauldwell Street and Kingsway.

Kimbolton Road

Work to upgrade the traffic signals on Kimbolton Road at its junction with Putnoe Lane, Brickhill Drive, Park Avenue and Polhill Avenue is nearly complete. We have also resurfaced part of Kimbolton Road and improved pedestrian crossing points as part of these works.

Major Road Reconstruction Projects


Essential work to completely reconstruct the A6 Wilstead bypass was completed in March 2020. We are working on a similar much-needed project to reconstruct the carriageway on the B530 Ampthill Road between Interchange Retail Park and Kempston Hardwick. This work is scheduled to be completed by December 2020.

Visit our website to see updated plans on the proposals listed in this leaflet:


 www.bedford.gov.uk/transportingbedford2020

To have your say and for more information please contact us at:

 transportingbedford2020@bedford.gov.uk

 **Transporting Bedford 2020**
Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP

You can also visit our website www.bedford.gov.uk and click on 'stay connected' at the top of the page to sign up for regular email updates on this and a range of news, events and council services.

 Find out more
about other projects
on our website

Bedford.gov.uk

We aim to carry out works to improve the road network at times when traffic is quietest. However we apologise for any disruption caused as we work to cut congestion and improve our roads.