

BUS LANE OPERATIONAL HOURS CONSULTATION

GENERAL Q+A

What are the benefits of bus lanes and why are you considering changing their operating hours?

We are considering changing the times that general traffic can use bus lanes to make it faster for people to travel by bus.

Bus lanes can speed up journeys by allowing buses to bypass congestion. Quicker journeys will encourage people to consider how they travel in the city with the potential for more people to choose public transport over private car.

What has changed?

Over the last 10 years, Edinburgh's population has grown at a much faster rate than the rest of Scotland – 12.5% compared to 5%. By 2023, our total population will have increased by 23,000 people.

It is taking people 12% longer to travel by bus than in 2006 during peak times and 14% outside these. Buses are also travelling nearly 8% slower. Part of this is due to more people travelling by bus, but there is also more traffic on our roads. Many areas of the city, particularly routes leading to retail parks, are busier at weekends than during the working week.

What time are you proposing the bus lanes will be in operation?

Currently most bus lanes on the main roads of Edinburgh are closed to general traffic Monday to Friday during peak hours only (7.30am to 9.30am and 4pm to 6.30pm).

We are proposing to close these bus lanes to general traffic between 7am and 7pm seven days a week.

Will all the bus lanes in Edinburgh be affected?

All bus lanes which currently operate peak hours only (7.30am to 9.30am and 4pm to 6.30pm) will be affected.

There are stretches of road which only buses and certain permitted vehicles can use which operate 24 hours a day. These will not be affected and will still operate 24 hours a day.

Will my organisation/business still be able to load on bus lanes?

We do not anticipate that there will be many changes to current loading arrangements on bus lanes. This consultation will help inform our decisions and amend the final proposal.

Will on street parking be affected?

We do not anticipate that there will be many changes to parking on bus lanes as a result of this proposal, however, we may look at parking on bus lanes at another time.

Will there be any changes to which types of vehicles can use the bus lanes?

We are only considering amending bus lane operating times and we are not consulting on opening bus lanes up to other types of vehicles. Within the operating times, only buses, taxis, motorcyclists, cyclists, and emergency vehicles will be able to use them.

When will the new operating hours start if they go ahead?

Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we anticipate the new operating times running from early 2021.

How can I share my views?

The consultation is open from 31 October to 22 November 2019. An online survey will be available from 31 October 2019 for members of the public or any interested parties to complete. This can be found at the following web address

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/bus-lane-operational-hours>.

How can I find out more information about bus lanes in Edinburgh?

You can find out more information at the following web page

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/buslanes.