

not in scope

From: reg 11(2) <msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: (Case Ref: KF20221)

Dear reg ,

I am contacting you on behalf of concerned constituents who have contacted me regarding the traffic congestion issues in Fort William.

I understand that there have been significant tailbacks recently and I would be most grateful if you could provide an update on the implementation of the STPR2 recommendations for Fort William.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you,

reg

reg 11(2)

Chief Executive Office
Transport Scotland

2nd Floor George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD
Direct Line: 0141 272 7100
ceo@transport.gov.scot



reg 11(2)
reg 11(2) msp@parliament.scot

Your ref:
KF20221

Our ref:
202400417559

Date:
4 July 2024

Dear reg 11(2) ,

Thank you for your email of 4 June 2024 regarding recent traffic issues in Fort William.

I am aware of some recent events in the Fort William area which will have likely added to the congestion. These include the 2024 UCI Mountain Bike Downhill Championships and the Nevis Range - Motorcycle Six Day Trials, in conjunction with the two bank holidays in May. Nonetheless, I am aware of the impacts that such issues bring to your constituents and am pleased that my colleagues continue to work on progressing the Integrated Transport Plan for the town with local and regional partners.

Additionally, my colleagues have undertaken traffic volume and congestion analysis and this indicates that traffic volumes, at four locations around Fort William, to ensure that we have a sound understanding of the recent issues faced by the town. During the UCI weekend there was a 10% increase in traffic volumes when compared to 2023 volumes for the comparable weekend in 2023. During the week of the motorcycle trials event, volumes increased by around 8% for the duration of the event when compared to the 2023 baseline. I would further note that organisers encouraged spectators to avoid bringing their car where possible and if they did then to make use of specially established park & ride facilities. Throughout the rest of the month of May the traffic volumes at the recorded locations in Fort William were broadly similar to the previous year. I hope this provides further insight into the recent issues and is helpful to you and your constituents.

There have been a number of interventions introduced in Fort William over recent years in an effort to alleviate congestion on the A82. This includes improvements to the Nevis Junction in 2016, further improvements in 2018 to reduce southbound congestion and, most recently, a Ramp Meter Trial in 2021 in an effort to improve the throughput of traffic on the corridor. Unfortunately, this trial was unsuccessful. However, the collective of information and data gathered from these interventions highlights the need for a broader, multi-modal strategy to help address congestion issues in the town.

Recommendation 32 of the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) includes an Integrated Transport Plan for Fort William (ITP). This will consider improvements to the A82 on its current alignment and/or a new link road to help improve the reliability of the trunk road through the town. It will also consider how sustainable travel options can collectively enhance the overall sense of place and also contribute to alleviating congestion. Transport Scotland has continued to engage very regularly and positively with Hitrans, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Highland Council and are now in the process of establishing a client delivery group to take forward this work. The group is currently scoping the ITP alongside developing governance arrangements for what will be a complex piece of work in considering the

local, regional and strategic transport needs of this area. It is agreed by all these partners that the ITP will require specialist technical expertise via the procurement of consultancy services. Thus, it is essential that governance arrangements and the scope are considered in detail and agreed with all delivery partners.

There is a total of 22 STPR2 recommendations of relevance to Fort William across the key themes of improving active travel infrastructure, influencing travel choices and behaviours, enhancing access to affordable public transport, decarbonising transport and increasing safety and resilience on the strategic transport network. A number of these recommendations are also in progress and expected to contribute towards alleviating congestion in Fort William for the longer term.

I hope this is helpful

Yours sincerely

reg 11(2)

reg 11(2)

Interim Chief Executive

reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2)
05 October 2022 09:17
To: reg 11(2)
Cc: reg 11(2)
Subject: RE: Transport Scotland design study for crossing at Banavie swing bridge

Hi ^{reg 11(2)}

Thanks for the information. I was the person who raised the issue of the report regarding pedestrian crossings.

I will speak to **reg 11(2)** with regards to the study and subsequent report. ^{reg 11(2)} also messaged me yesterday to say he might be able to locate a copy.

For your information I have added **reg 11(2)** emails to this message.

I have also arranged a catch up call with **reg 11(2)** of Transport Scotland. She was mentioned on yesterday's call regarding attendance at Fort William 2040 Public Consultation Event on 2 November.

Looking forward to working with you and the group going forward.

Regards

^{reg 11(2)}

Trunk Road Active Travel Delivery Manager
Transport Scotland | Roads Directorate

M:reg 11(2)



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From: reg 11(2) .cllr@highland.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 October 2022 09:08
To: reg 11(2)

Subject: FW: Transport Scotland design study for crossing at Banavie swing bridge

Hi All

Thanks for joining the Fort William ATAG meeting yesterday.

I think we had some very positive discussions, and looking forward to seeing the path work progress on the A830.

reg 11(2) from Kilmallie Community Council has asked me to pass on his message below.

I can't remember exactly who he was discussing this with, and I don't have **reg 11(2)** emails, so please can you pass this on to them if needed.

Thanks very much.

Kind Regards

reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2) >
Sent: 04 October 2022 16:53
To: reg 11(2) >
Subject: Transport Scotland design study for crossing at Banavie swing bridge

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi ^{reg 11(2)}

Please could you pass this on to the BEAR Scotland team in the Active Travel Group.

Following on from the discussions this morning I am afraid I can't locate the road engineering study for the possible pedestrian crossing at Banavie. I suspect we may have received this by paper copy only. However, I believe that **reg 11(2)** who organised the study is still with Transport Scotland **reg 11(2)** and I sure he would be able to locate the report. Kilmallie Community Council discussed it with ^{reg 11(2)} at a meeting on 2 October 2017, so it was available then.

Best wishes,

reg 11(2)

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Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunradh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.

To whom it may concern



Our Ref.: 22-NW-0802-003
Date: 17 November 2022

**SCOTTISH TRUNK ROAD NETWORK MANAGEMENT CONTRACT – NORTH WEST UNIT
A830 Banavie to Fort William Roundabout Shared Use Cycleway Upgrades**

Dear Sir / Madam

Working with Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland is undertaking the investigation and design of improvement works to the existing off-carriageway, shared use cycleway connecting Fort William Roundabout to Banavie Swing Bridge. The project is part of a series of improvements along the A830 to improve walking, cycling and wheeling facilities and seeks to fulfil the Scottish Government's aims of making these the most popular choice for everyday journeys.

The upgrades shall be designed and built using the guidance set out in the Transport Scotland publication 'Cycling by Design' (Revision 0, September 2021). The proposed works will see the existing shared use facilities widened to two metres in the west and eastbound verges of the A830, set back by one metre from the road (where available width permits) to create a separation strip. Improvements to the existing drainage are also proposed to improve general road safety in the area. The total length of the proposed upgrades is approximately 3km, with works limited to within the existing trunk road boundary.

At the east extent of the scheme, junction upgrades are proposed for the A830 / B8006 Junction, opposite Lochaber High School. These upgrades will see the existing shared use facilities widened, dropped crossing points upgraded and street furniture relocated to improve accessibility. The existing traffic signals will also be upgraded, with alterations made to improve journey times through Fort William.

It is hoped that these proposed upgrades will improve the attractiveness of these routes for non-motorised users and encourage more trips, as well as improving accessibility and road safety in the area. The construction of these works is anticipated to commence in 2023, subject to available funding.

Overleaf is a draft drawing summarising the proposals. We would like to invite you to share your views and comments in regard to the project by filling out the online questionnaire.

Yours faithfully

reg 11(2) ^{otland Ltd.}

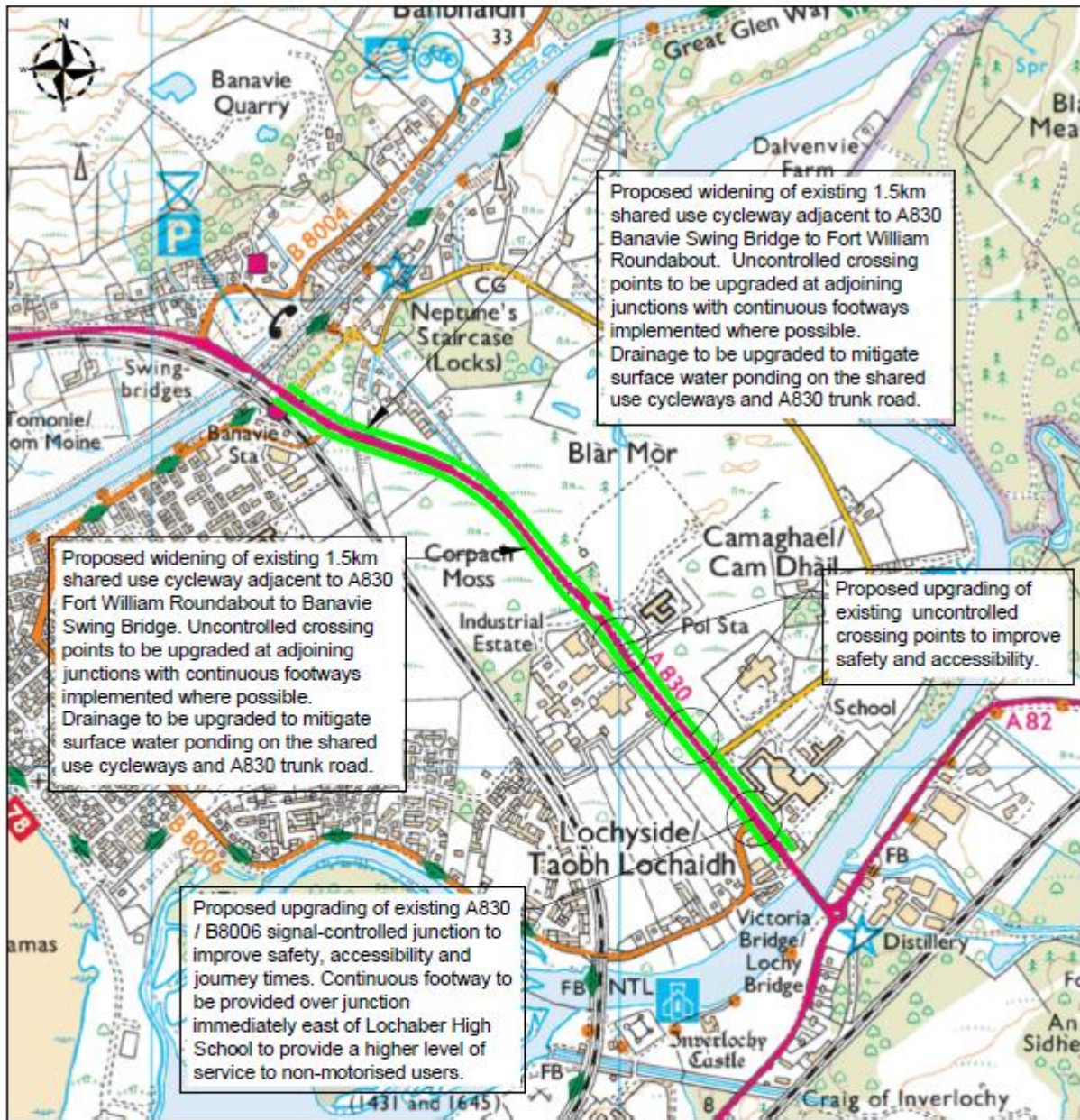
Road Safety and Active Travel Manager – Central Team

The questionnaire can be completed online by visiting <https://forms.office.com/r/ubQcjcTQDm> or by scanning the QR code.

If you are unable to complete the form electronically, you may call 01738 448600.

Consultation closes Friday 2nd December.





Legend
 Proposed shared use cycleway to be widened —————

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		Client			Project	A830/A82 BANAVIE SWING BRIDGE - FOOTWAY/CYCLEWAY UPGRADE	
					Title	LOCATION PLAN FOR CONSULTATION	
Rev.	Date	Checked	Status	FOR INFORMATION		Drawing No.	Drawing by
0						Scale	Date
						Designed by	Drawn by
						Child by	Appr. by

To whom it may concern



Our Ref.: 22-NW-0802-003

Date: 05 July 2024

**SCOTTISH TRUNK ROAD NETWORK MANAGEMENT CONTRACT – NORTH WEST UNIT
A830 Banavie to Fort William Roundabout Shared Use Cycleway Upgrades**

Dear Sir / Madam

As you may be aware, BEAR Scotland, working on behalf of Transport Scotland, is undertaking the investigation and design of improvement works to the existing off-carriageway, shared use cycleway connecting Fort William Roundabout to Banavie Swing Bridge. The project forms part of a series of proposed improvements along the A830 that recently saw a new footpath connect Corpach and Linnhe Lochside Holidays. These measures seek to improve walking, cycling and wheeling facilities in the area, fulfilling the Scottish Government's aims of making these the most popular choice for everyday journeys.

The first phase of works will see junction upgrades at the A830 / B8006 Junction, opposite Lochaber High School. These improvements involve widening of existing shared use cycleways, upgraded dropped crossing points and accessibility improvements, with street furniture previously relocated in summer 2023. The existing traffic signals will also be upgraded, with alterations made to improve journey times through Fort William. Improvements to the road surface and the road markings will also be carried out. Overleaf is a plan summarising the works.

These works are currently programmed to commence in September 2024, after the busier summer tourist period. Lane closures with temporary traffic lights will be implemented for the duration of the works for the safety of the workforce and members of the public. Safe pedestrian routes and crossing facilities shall be maintained throughout. It is anticipated that these works shall take up to 12 weeks to complete, subject to weather and any other unforeseen delays. Confirmation of the start date and the duration of the works shall be issued nearer the time with updates to the construction programme communicated throughout the project.

A further phase of works is also planned between the Lochaber High School Junction and Banavie Swing Bridge. Design of these proposed improvements to the existing shared use facilities is ongoing, with future construction subject to available funding.

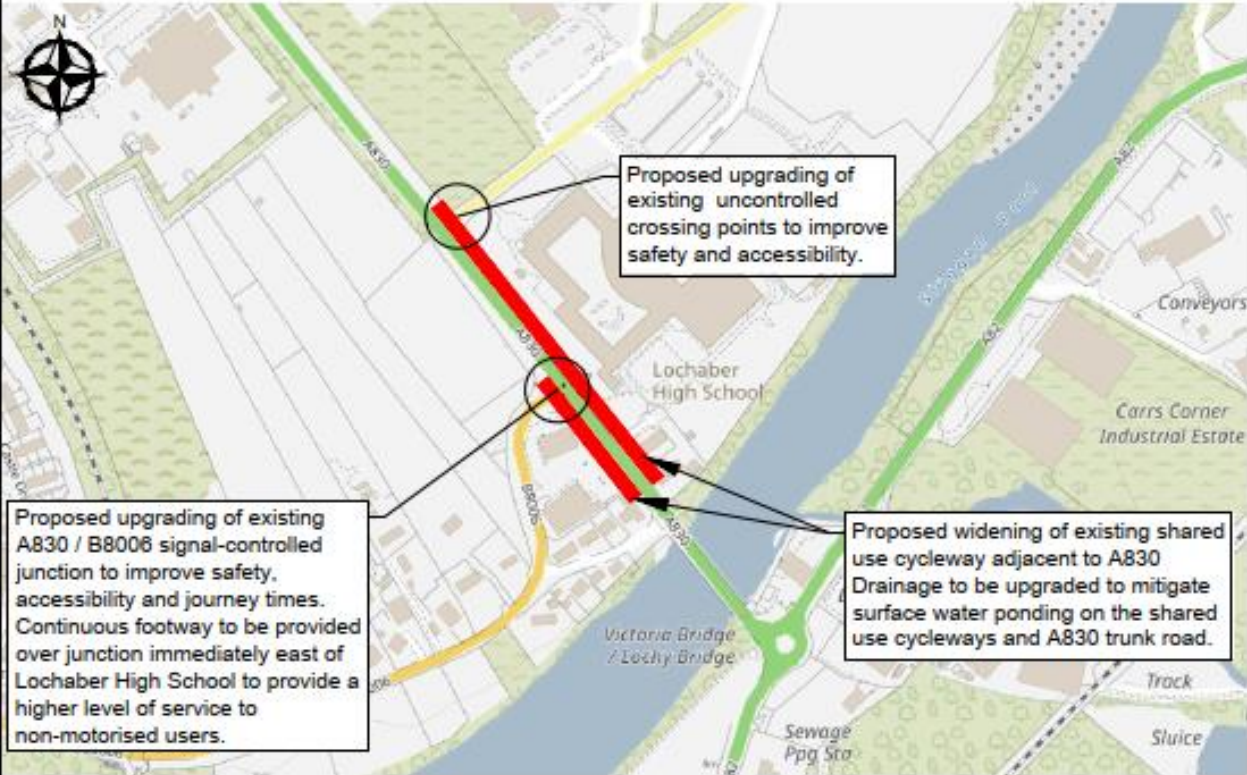
It is hoped that these proposed upgrades will improve the attractiveness of these routes for non-motorised users and encourage more trips, as well as improving accessibility and road safety in the area. It is hoped that the benefits of these works shall outweigh any inconvenience during the construction phase.

Should you have any comments of concerns regarding these works, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the email address NWConsultation@bearsotland.co.uk. Real time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland on www.traffic.gov.scot, X [@trafficscotland](https://twitter.com/trafficscotland) or on the mobile site my.trafficscotland.org.

Yours faithfully
for **BEAR Scotland Ltd.**

reg 11(2)

NW Active Travel Manager



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Legend

Proposed shared use cycleway to be widened

		Client 	Project A830IA52 BANAVIE SWING BRIDGE - FOOTWAY/CYCLEWAY UPGRADE	
			Title LOCATION PLAN FOR CONSULTATION	
Rev.	Date	Checked	Drawing No.	
0			Scale: NTS	
		Status FOR INFORMATION	Designed	Drawn
			Checked	Appr.
			Date	09/11/22

reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2) .msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 12 June 2023 15:37
To: reg 11(2)
Subject: FW: A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area (Case Ref: KF17282)
Attachments: image001.png; image006.jpg; image007.png; image002.png

Good afternoon reg 11(2), thank you for your update dated 8 June regarding the active travel link from Spean Bridge to Leanachan Crossroads. We appreciate the work that has gone into the consideration of this active travel route.

Kind regards,
reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2) @transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 08 June 2023 17:04
To: reg 11(2) .msp@parliament.scot>
Cc: reg 11(2) [cot](#)
Subject: A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area

Good afternoon reg 11(2)

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on progress on the timescale for delivering the Spean Bridge to Leanachan Crossroads active travel link in advance of the UCI Mountain Bike Downhill World Championships in August.

I understand from my colleague reg 11(2), Active Travel Delivery Manager, that BEAR has made good initial progress, however through development of the detailed design a number of buildability issues have been identified, which impact the time over which the scheme can be delivered. In addition, a Road Safety Audit highlighted a number of issues that need to be addressed. While these issues can be resolved, it will not be feasible to do so in time to allow construction in advance of the UCI Championships.

The provision of the Park and Ride facility from Spean Bridge Distillery and a shuttle bus service for the championships will be available for the period of the event.

While it is very disappointing that this scheme cannot be delivered for the championship, it is the intention to continue with the detailed design so that it can be constructed to provide a future active travel link from Spean Bridge to the Nevis Range and onwards in Fort William which will still form a legacy of these championships and will be available for other such future events in the area.

In addition, I can confirm that the investigation of the link between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge along the A86 has been included in the trunk road active travel programme for 2023/24. The

construction of this active travel link will be dependent on the findings of the investigation and associated environmental assessment.

I hope you find this information useful however please contact me if you would like any further information on this matter.

Thanks

reg 11(2)

Trunk Road Casualty Reduction Manager
Operations
Roads Directorate

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reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2)
08 June 2023 17:04
To: reg 11(2)
Cc: reg 11(2)
Subject: A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area

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Thanks

reg 11(2)



reg 11(2)
Trunk Road Casualty Reduction Manager
Operations
Roads Directorate

out of scope

From: reg 11(2) @parliament.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 11:54 AM
To: reg 11(2) @transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Re: A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area (Case Ref: KF12402)

Dear reg 11(2), I hope this e-mail finds you well.

Following your response to ^{reg 11(2)} dated 8 June regarding the A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area.

I would be grateful if you could provide an update on the investigation of the active travel link on the A86 between Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2) @transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 8 June 2023 17:04
To: reg 11(2) @parliament.scot>
Cc: reg 11(2)
Subject: A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area

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Thanks

reg 11(2)

[\[Embedded Image\]](#)

reg 11(2)

Trunk Road Casualty Reduction Manager
Operations
Roads Directorate

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Roads Directorate
Transport Scotland

2nd Floor George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow G1 2AD
Direct Line: 0141 272 7110
reg 11(2) @transport.gov.scot



reg 11(2)
reg 11(2) @parliament.scot

Your ref:
KF12402

Our ref:
202300378926

Date:
10 October 2023

Dear reg 11(2) MSP,

A82 Active Travel Spean Bridge-Roy Bridge Area

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 September 2023.

Our Operating Company has commenced investigation of proposed active travel improvements between Spean Bridge and Roybridge. The review shall consider the initial options assessment compiled by the Connecting Spean SCIO.

From initial inspection, the verges in the area have a number of constraints and land acquisition may be required to provide a suitable facility for users that complies with design guidance. A review of the potential land requirements has commenced to minimise any delay to potential construction works. As you will be aware, this is likely to require a Compulsory Purchase Order, which is subject to statutory processes. As such, it is difficult to define a timescale at the moment.

In addition to land requirements, the investigation is considering the existing geometry, existing use, environmental constraints, collisions data, speed limits and location of utilities. These investigations are due to be completed by April 2024 with detailed designs programmed for 2024/2025.

It is important to highlight that whilst investigation and design work will be undertaken this does not guarantee that construction work will immediately follow. Any improvements of the type outlined above will be considered in context of the North West Unit's needs and also be subject to available funding.

Yours sincerely

reg 11(2)

Interim Director of Roads

reg 11(2)

From: reg 11(2)
Sent: 19 July 2024 12:16
To: reg 11(2) @parliament.scot
Cc: reg 11(2)
Subject: FW: (Case Ref: KF17945)

Good Afternoon ^{reg 11(2)}

Thank you for your email of 25 June to reg 11(2) .

As requested, please find an update on the actions from the meeting held on 8 December 2023.

1 - Pedestrian Crossings

Investigations into the two potential pedestrian crossings listed below are included in the 2024/25 trunk road active travel programme.

- A82 near the two bus stops for access to public transport.
- A86 to provide access to the Dalour Playpark and Spean Bridge Primary School.

It is important to highlight that whilst an investigation will be undertaken this does not guarantee improvement measures will be identified or necessarily follow when the findings are considered. Any improvements will also be subject to available funding.

2 - A82 Speed Limits in Spean Bridge

The findings of the 20mph speed limit assessment which was undertaken against [specific criteria](#) were re-reviewed to confirm the reasons for not proposing a 20mph limit on the A82. This was as a result of insufficient frontage or public buildings. Speed monitoring of the existing temporary 20mph speed limit on the A86 has found that speeds are higher than desired and BEAR Scotland are currently designing additional measures to encourage compliance. These are programmed to be installed later this financial year and further speed monitoring carried out prior to confirming if the current 20mph speed limit should be progressed as a permanent speed limit reduction.

Due to the section of the A86 already meeting the assessment criteria, and the presence of the Primary School, the current priority is to enhance compliance at this location rather than consider further extending the speed limit to locations where the assessment criteria was not met.

A study into potential measures to manage speeds on the A82, particularly at the bridge over the River Spean, is included in the 2024/25 investigation programme.

The community council were seeking a new pedestrian bridge over the River Spean. As the preferred location was remote from the A82, it is not possible to fund this directly from funding allocated to the trunk road. As discussed, we have looked into alternative active travel funding streams that the community council could apply to for supplementary funding in addition to the funds already gathered from community benefits.

Alternative funding is available from the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund [ATIF], provided to local authorities from Transport Scotland.

Tier 1 ATIF is direct funding to local authorities which can be used for the design, development and delivery of active travel infrastructure measures, aligning with the principles of the Active Travel Framework [Active Travel Framework](#). The Framework sets out the shared vision for Active Travel, and the key policy approaches to improving the uptake of walking and cycling in Scotland, recognising the importance of making high quality walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure available to all.

The community council should liaise with Highland Council for access to ATIF.

3 - A86 Spean Bridge to Roy Bridge speed limit review including Inverroy

The National Speed Management Review (NSMR), which was referred to in the meeting, covers comprehensive analysis of all types of speed management policies and initiatives in Scotland, as well as a review of what has been introduced in other countries throughout the world. This work has now been completed and officials are considering the proposed outcomes.

The review process will thereafter include a stakeholder and public consultation to consider views on whether any changes to speed limit policies and speed management measures should be introduced as part of our speed management plan. The stakeholder and public consultations will take place before the end of September 2024.

Once confirmed, the impacts of the proposed outcomes on the A86 at Inverroy will be considered.

Road marking works at Inverroy were completed in mid-February 2024. Inclement weather prevented these from being carried out in December and January.

5 - Spean Bridge to Leanachan Crossroads Active Travel Scheme

BEAR Scotland have completed their review of the different route options and their report is due to be delivered to Transport Scotland for approval in August.

Following this, BEAR will set up meetings with the community council and other interested parties later this summer to confirm the preferred route option. Investigation into the preferred route will be progressed this financial year.

It is important to highlight that whilst an investigation will be undertaken this does not guarantee improvement measures will be identified or necessarily follow when the findings are considered. Any improvements will also be subject to available funding.

6 - Spean Bridge to Roy Bridge Active Travel Scheme

Topographical survey works for the scheme were completed last financial year.

The 2024/25 programme will include investigations for the proposed scheme. BEAR will set up meetings with the community council and other interested parties later this summer to develop the route options.

It is important to highlight that whilst an investigation will be undertaken this does not guarantee improvement measures will be identified or necessarily follow when the findings are considered. Any improvements will also be subject to available funding.

I hope you find this helpful.

Kind regards.

reg 11(2)

Trunk Road Active Travel Delivery Manager
Transport Scotland | Roads Directorate

M: reg 11(2)



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From: reg 11(2) [@parliament.scot](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:43 AM
To: reg 11(2) [@transport.gov.scot](#)>
Subject: (Case Ref: KF17945)

Good Morning reg 11(2) thanks for your previous assistance with trunk road issues in ^{reg 11} constituency.

Attached are the notes from the meeting with Spean Bridge & Rory Bridge Community Council on 8 December 2023 that Transport Scotland and Police Scotland kindly attended. We would be grateful if you or your colleagues could kindly provide an update on the actions from the meeting.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
reg 11(2)