

A Guide to Improving the Highway

The Transport Delivery Plan is a list of County Council funded projects that improve the County's highways. These projects are drawn from the Local Transport Plan, Market Town Strategies and more immediate safety and maintenance needs. If a project is not in the Transport Delivery Plan then the County Council does not have the funding available to deliver it.

When local communities have a project that they would like to see improve the highway, but it is not in the Transport Delivery Plan, they can arrange to design and fund that project themselves.

What improvements can local communities make?

Virtually all the highway measures that the County Council provides can also be funded by a community. However, there are some conditions that have to be met:

- The project has to be safe, to ensure that we don't endanger the travelling public. Sometimes the sites suggested for some highway measures, such as pedestrian crossing points, are not appropriate and would not satisfy safety requirements.
- Projects also need to satisfy any legal requirements and highway policies that the council has for the required highway measures, to ensure that we act with equity and fairness.

Communities can also look to fund a reduced speed limit. Implementation of a reduced speed limit is subject to the creation of a Traffic Regulation Order (see below), may require additional speed calming features and is bound by the following limitations.

- 20mph speed limits are only permitted in clearly defined zones and cannot include A and B roads.
- A speed limit 10mph higher than the limit within a settlement is permitted for up to 400 metres on approaches to a settlement.
- Speed limits outside of settlements will be determined by Department for Transport guidance.

For full details, please see the County Council's Speed Limit Policy.

Who can help a community with their project?

Sometimes a project which a community thinks will resolve an issue on the local highway is not the most effective or cost efficient solution. For example, pelican crossings are often suggested to help pedestrians cross the road where a zebra

crossing or central traffic island might resolve the problem as effectively and at a lower cost.

Unless a community makes a successful bid through the Local Highways Improvement initiative (see below), the County Council cannot help to design a project. However, our Policy and Regulation team can discuss your project with you and provide some guidance to get you started. Please email policyandregulation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with a brief outline of the highway location, the issues you are trying to improve and your contact details if you would like some advice.

It is strongly recommended that you speak with your parish council as early as possible when considering a project, to ensure that you have local support.

How much will our project cost?

A community will need to arrange for funding the design of their project, the cost of any materials needed, their installation and if required, a safety audit of the project. A brief list of costs is provided at the end of this document, as a rough guide to project costs. However, every project is unique and the amounts in the list should only be used as a guideline and not considered as quotes.

Where improvements are constructed to County Council standards, long-term maintenance will become the responsibility of the County Council. However, any on-going running costs – such as electricity for street lights or regular routine safety equipment maintenance inspections – will need to be met by the community proposing the scheme.

The County Council recognises that communities may want to adopt a higher standard of design, such as incorporating special materials or features to enhance the local environment. We are happy to work with applicants who wish to adopt this approach, provided they are prepared to take responsibility for the additional maintenance liability.

What about traffic regulation orders?

Third parties often request the introduction of parking controls (yellow lines) or other highway restrictions through the making of a traffic regulation order. As there is a legal process involved which allows for objections to be made, there is no guarantee that the order will be approved.

Irrespective of whether the order is approved, the costs associated with the legal process would have to be met upfront. It is expected that those requesting a traffic regulation order would demonstrate that they have undertaken appropriate informal local consultation to assess support for the proposed measure.

Once a project is approved and funded, when will it be implemented?

Once a project has been approved and funded, it will be added to the County Council's programme of local project works. Staff resource to arrange this implementation is limited and so there will be some delay between a community being told that their project can go ahead and changes being made to the highway.

As projects will be implemented in the most efficient way possible, a definite timescale cannot be given, but communities will be informed when a date for implementation has been arranged.

A community retains the option of employing an appropriate contractor to undertake the project if they do not wish to wait for the County Council's timetable. The work must be approved by the County Council to ensure compliance with the relevant standards and there may be a cost levied to carry out this vetting depending on the complexity of the scheme proposed.

The Local Highway Improvements initiative

To assist communities in improving their local highways, the County Council has made a budget available to provide funds towards improvement projects. Communities can enter a bid for this funding, which will be assessed by an advisory panel of County Councillors for each District Council area of Cambridgeshire.

The panels will take into account the views of local Parish Councils, before making recommendations on allocating the funding, so applicants should make sure they can demonstrate local support for their project before applying.

Applicants can seek up to £10,000 as a contribution to their projects, which could include highway improvements for as little as £500. The expectation is that the applicant will provide 10% or more of the overall cost of their project.

Loans are available from the County Council if the applicant wishes to spread the contribution over 2 or 3 years.

Who can apply for funding?

District, town and parish councils, community and residents' groups and charities are all eligible to apply for the funding. However, only one bid per organisation will be assessed each year.

How can a community apply?

You can apply using the application form below. Applications should be submitted by no later than 12th September 2014.

Once your application has been received and assessed, we will, subject to feasibility, confirm the likely cost involved. This will then allow applicants to

budget for their contribution. If it is determined that the bid is not viable, officers may investigate alternative solutions and offer advice.

What if a community is unsuccessful?

If a project does not receive funding, a community can still progress their scheme by raising the necessary funding for the project themselves.

Further Help

For more information, you can call 0345 045 5212 or email

local.projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Guide to approximate costs of highway features

Please note that this list is provided as guidance only and should not be used to determine the exact cost of a highway improvement project.

Last updated May 2014		
Feature	Approx cost	Comment
Traffic calming measures - street lighting may be recommended or required, which may significantly increase cost where existing provision is deemed inadequate		
Raised crossing point (6.5m carriageway, 3m plateau)	£10,000-£12,000	
Pair of asphalt speed cushions	£5,000	Assumes no additional lighting needed, no kerb build outs.
Speed cushion scheme (4x pairs)	£17,250	
Raised junction table	£15,000-£20,000	
Priority give way traffic island (1.5m wide, including cycle bypass)	£5,000	Priority sign requires illumination where <50m from a lighting column, (cost increase). W/speed cushion in running lane +£2,000.
Pedestrian refuge/traffic island (2m wide, 4m long)	£5,000	Assumes new tactile paving on both sides of carriageway but does not include illumination.
Carriageway build outs (1m wide)	£2,000-£3,000	
Mini roundabout	£35,000	Indicative, may vary significantly dependent on changes required to adjoining road alignments.
Others		
Interactive flashing sign	min £4,500	Per sign, not including UKPN electrical connection.
Zebra crossing	£15,000-£25,000	Additional lighting required may increase cost significantly.
Puffin/toucan crossing	£50,000-£100,000	Higher cost if wide road necessitates traffic island. Additional lighting required may increase cost significantly.
Traffic warning/regulatory signs	£400	Assumes sign & supp. plate on 1x new post
Directional signs	£500-£1200	Dependent on content of sign & posts required.
Signal controlled junction	£100,000-£400,000	Dependent on number of approaches, lighting requirements etc.
Footway (50m length, 2m width)	£9,000-£12,000	Dependent on kerb/edging and drainage requirements.

Pedestrian barriers	£250	Price per 2m panel.
Street lighting	£2,000	Per lighting column, including connection (dependent on location of nearest UKPN service, extra cabling can increase cost).
Change/extension of speed limit (inclusive of traffic regulation order costs)	£2,500-£5,000	Dependent on number of signs required, based on length of speed limit proposed and number of adjoining junctions. New terminal signs on a trunk/principal road must be illuminated, this will increase cost.
Parking/waiting restrictions	£1,200-£3,000	Sign requirements are dependent on type of restriction and may increase cost.
Install new kerbing (per 20m)	£650	For replacement of existing, add £250 per 20m for removal/disposal of existing.
New drainage gully	£700	Includes connection.
Pedestrian crossing point	£1,500	Includes tactile paving, assumes no central island required.
Install new bollard	£400	Approx. per bollard, dependent on bollard type.
30mph road marking roundel	£100	