

**BROMHAM ROAD BRIDGE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

| QUESTION | ANSWER |
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| Where is Bromham Road Bridge? | Bromham Road Bridge lies in the centre of Bedford, to the north of Bedford Central station. It is a two-span brick arch bridge carrying the 2-lane single carriageway Bromham Road (A4280) over the Midland Main Line. |
| What work is being carried out on Bromham Road Bridge? | Having been identified as not having enough clearance for overhead line equipment to safely pass beneath - a requirement of Network Rail's electrification of the Midland Main line from Bedford to the north - the bridge needs to be demolished and reconstructed |
| When will work on Bromham Road Bridge begin? | <p>Work will begin on Monday 4 March 2019.</p> <p>The Bridge has a significant amount of underground services running through the structure, which must be diverted before demolition to enable the reconstruction to take place.</p> <p>Work on these utilities (phase 1) will take place between</p> <p>Monday 4 March – Thursday 18 April 2019 and will be supported by a partial closure of Bromham Road (A4280) over the bridge.</p> |
| How will the partial closure work? | There will be a partial closure of the A4280 over the bridge. The road will be closed to westbound traffic leaving the town. Traffic travelling eastbound into town will not be affected. |
| When will you start the demolition and reconstruction work? | <p>We are currently working closely with the Local Authority and utility companies to deliver this work in the most efficient manner.</p> <p>When this programme becomes available we will confirm the exact dates once our programme has been approved by all parties.</p> |
| How can you start work without an agreed end date? | <p>Our programme will continue into 2020.</p> <p>We are currently working closely with the Local Authority and utility companies to deliver this work in the most efficient manner.</p> |
| What volume of works traffic is anticipated? | <p>The volume of works traffic will be similar to construction traffic during the work on Ford End Road bridge. We will continue to use the existing Network Rail compound at Ford End Road in order to minimise vehicle movements in the vicinity of Bromham Road.</p> <p>Higher volumes of works traffic are to be expected at the beginning and end of the works, to allow for the setup and closedown of the work compound.</p> |

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| Will cyclists be able to use the temporary pedestrian footbridge when it is installed? | Yes. Cyclists can use the temporary pedestrian footbridge provided they dismount |
| Can mobility scooters use the temporary footbridge? | Yes. The temporary footbridge will be accessible for mobility scooters, and comply with the Equalities Act 2010 |
| How much wider will the new bridge be? | The new bridge deck will be 600mm wider than it is currently. |
| Why can't the temporary footbridge become a permanent structure? | <p>The temporary structure will be made of scaffolding poles – enabling it to be erected quickly and cause as little impact to the land it is located on.</p> <p>It therefore does not meet the requirements for a permanent footbridge in terms of longevity and maintenance. The amount of available land is also not suitable for a permanent structure.</p> |
| What is the council's long term plan for Cyclists? | Following a public consultation that supported the erection of a foot / cycle bridge adjacent to the new NR structure, the council has set aside £1.5M in its capital programme towards the anticipated costs. A bid for a further £1.5M has also been submitted to the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP). BBC have engaged consultants to come up with a design, and they are currently reviewing options both to the north and south of the road bridge. Any further questions would need to be referred to Bedford Borough Council |
| How much higher will the bridge be? | The highway surface level over the length of the reconstructed bridge will be lifted by approximately 32cm |
| Couldn't the new bridge be constructed off site and installed over just a few days? | <p>As far as possible it is. Our proposals are for the new bridge deck to be assembled from pre-cast concrete pieces, enabling components to be lifted into position swiftly and efficiently. This includes the installation of the full bridge deck - which will be to be lifted into place in one piece.</p> <p>However, the aforementioned services and utilities running through the structure, embankment and associated re-grading of the road mean that the construction will still take between 7 and 13 months to complete.</p> |
| How is Network Rail planning to coordinate with other authorities and agencies to minimise disruption and inconvenience? | <p>Network Rail has been closely liaising with Bedford Borough Council and utilities companies.</p> <p>And we will continue to have these interfaces throughout the duration of our works.</p> |
| Will the works temporarily reduce car parking at Bedford station? | <p>From late autumn for approximately 9 weeks we will need to temporarily suspend some parking bays at Bedford railway station. Due to the constraints of the construction site, this is the only location where the crane required for the reconstruction of the bridge can safely be located. (The crane will remain in situ when not in use).</p> <p>The area we need to use will be signposted giving commuters warning.</p> <p>We are currently discussing this with the train operator and will confirm these details once this has been agreed. Please visit:</p> |

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| | networkrail.co.uk/Bromham to keep up to date on news regarding the scheme |
| Can works to the bridge be completed after highways improvements are made to minimise disruption? | Network Rail is working closely with Bedford Borough Council on the programme to avoid where possible any conflicting road works that may lead to increased traffic disruption. |
| How will Network Rail ensure the public is provided with regular updates? | Network Rail will continue to communicate information as it becomes available through public events, leaflets, mail drops, press releases and advertising. Please visit: networkrail.co.uk/Bromham to keep up to date on news regarding the scheme |
| Will Network Rail restore the East Midlands Trains stopping service at Bedford during the peak hours given that the Midland Main Line Upgrade releases additional capacity? Why should Bedford residents suffer 6 months+ of roadworks/congestion whilst losing its high speed services to London? | Timetable alterations and the services provided by Train Operators are not related to the works at Bromham Bridge, and are outside the control of Network Rail which is responsible for rail infrastructure. |
| Will the lighting on the bridge be improved? | The design for the new bridge is currently for a 'like for like' replacement, therefore there are no current plans to change the lighting provision. |
| Is building a temporary road bridge a practical option? | A temporary road bridge is not practical in this instance due to land/space constraints, cost and safety. |
| What provisions are being put in place to prevent graffiti? | The design for the new bridge is currently for a 'like for like' replacement. The current bridge does not have any anti-graffiti coating. |