

Cycleways – Collaboration for quick delivery

“Five Cycleways designed and three constructed in just 3 months”

- A500 Etruria Widening Cycleway
- A38 Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby
- Brackensdale Ave, Mackworth, Derby
- Derwent Valley Heritage Cycleway Trust
- A61 Toucan Crossing, Derby

PROJECT

5 Cycleway Schemes

CUSTOMER

Highways England

LOCATION

Area 9

CONTRACT

CDF Framework

COMPLETION

2020

VALUE

£1.2m

Challenge

All road users must have a safe, reliable, and efficient road network and cyclists are an integral part of that road user community. As cyclist numbers are projected to increase in response to the global pandemic and the threat from climate change, it is vital that high quality, physically separated cycle routes are available.

The Department for Transport's Designated Fund finances cycleways but the challenge for Highways England is to deliver the schemes efficiently alongside their wider project's investment programme.

In Area 9, five schemes had been identified for completion by 2019/20. As a key delivery partner on the CDF framework we were appointed just 4 months before the 31st March deadline to design and deliver these important schemes and manage the risks:

- Short design approval periods.
- Lead in times for TTRO applications.
- Availability of key materials.
- Fast and effective liaison with local councils/ landowners/ authorities.
- The operational impact of COVID-19 on safe working practices/ material supplies.

Solution

The starting point was to work collaboratively with the Highways England's team and our supply partners to ensure we fully understood the project objectives and constraints. Jointly working through the potential risks and areas for process and method improvements the team were able to identify opportunities to design and deliver the schemes to such demanding deadlines.

A38 Uttoxeter Road Cycleway is a good demonstration of how this collaborative approach ensured success. At the outset we saved time and maintained continuity of skills and relationships by appointing design and supply partners from our nearby A500 Etruria widening scheme.

The design included a new bridge parapet over the A38. Active team engagement quickly identified and resolved the design issues enabling informed decision making and avoiding any surprises. As a result, we progressed from an instruction for a feasibility study to a signed off permanent works design in **under 3 months**.

TTRO applications were a risk on the A38 and the close working relationship with Highways

England enabled the application process to be expedited and the necessary **road space secured within 2 weeks** by sharing existing closures.

Covid-19 safe working practices came into force as the work came to site. The team flexibly adapted to the new way of working and effectively managed material supplies to ensure **on time completion**.

Outcome

Trust and collaborative working, with clear objectives and robust identification and mitigation of the scheme risks ensured that Highways England delivered on their promise to complete 3 of the 5 schemes by the 31st March. In addition, design packages for the two remaining cycleways were completed subject to ecology and speed survey works.

The approach used to expedite these schemes and meet and secure funding timescales created an opportunity to reflect on traditional practices, find new and better ways of working to positively impact the efficiency and timely delivery of future cycleway programmes, and deliver value for money.