

Appendix 2

Highways Case Study - 'Victoria North and Eastern Gateway Project

In March 2021, the MCF (Major's Challenge Fund) scheme 'Victoria North and Eastern Gateway' (previously known as Northern and Eastern Gateway) was presented by the Project Manager to the Highways Access Group. The Project Manager described the proposals that would aim to create a safe active travel route from the Green Quarter, through Ancoats and down to New Islington.

Members of the Highways Access Group were able to ask questions, raise their concerns and get further clarity and insight into certain elements of the scheme. It was with this feedback that Highways learned that there were genuine concerns about the route through the Marina. Access Group members explained that it was inaccessible due to the shared use in the space available, the cobbles also make it difficult for cyclists and those with mobility aids to pass through and, the proposed crossing point is difficult to navigate, especially for those with a visual impairment.

These key points and important feedback were used together with the consultation results to amend the proposals and remove the route through the Marina, with other alternatives currently being explored. All feedback is collated and will be used by the design team to create schemes with inclusivity in mind. Changes that have taken place to the design following the Highways Access group presentation include:

- Full kerbs provided on central refuge islands of crossings to assist visually impaired with tapping a cane to identify where to stop, plus additional tactile paving on the approach to crossings to make it clearer where the push button is located.
- Additional protection at the bottom of the ramp leading to the Old Mill crossing to minimise any over running from the ramp. This provides some additional protection for wheelchair users turning at the bottom of the ramp.
- A more direct crossing alignment over Longacre Street.

Additionally, a road safety audit has taken place at the installed Cyclops style junction at Royce Road which has provided useful feedback. This is being reviewed alongside emerging designs of the Cyclops style junctions at Oldham Road and Rochdale Road.