

A4174 Ring Road disruptions 2017-18

Advice for Employers

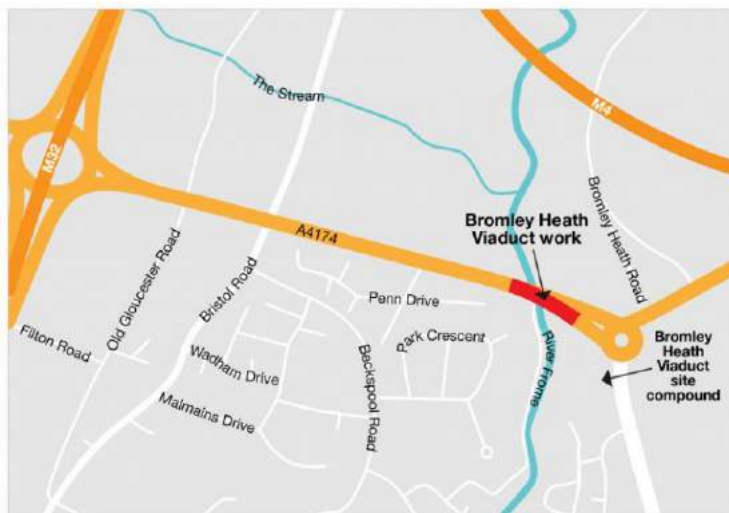
North Bristol SusCom's guide to what your organisation can do to manage the impact of the **Bromley Heath Viaduct roadworks** on your staff and operations.



Essential repair works to the Bromley Heath Viaduct section of the A4174 are due to commence on 24th July (traffic management starts on 22nd July) for a period of approximately 33 weeks (around 8 months). The road will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

This is going to cause severe delays for people travelling to your site

The information in this leaflet will tell you where to go for the latest information and provide advice on what you can do to minimise the impact on your staff and business.



This is one of the busiest sections of the A4174 ring road and there are predicted tailbacks of up to 8km and delays of up to 2 hours at peak times. There will also be additional stress on the M4 and M32.

What are the works and why do they need to happen?

The works are essential to maintain the safety of this section of the A4174 and include: pier strengthening, bearing replacement, drainage improvements, water proofing, parapet and safety fence replacement, concrete repairs, and abnormal load carrying capacity improvements.

The works and why they are required are explained in this short video: <https://vimeo.com/184502794>.

In parallel, the Council will also create a new cycle and pedestrian path which will be wider than the current one to help reduce incidents between users. They will also be adding a barrier between the path and the carriageway to reduce the risk of collisions with vehicles.

Where to go for the latest information

Your main port of call for up to date information on traffic management plans including diversions, and potential changes to public transport will be available from:

www.southglos.gov.uk/bhviaduct.

There is also a dedicated email address available to contact the team managing the works:

bhviaduct@southglos.gov.uk

What your business can do to minimise the impact

- **Clear and wide communication**

Spread the message far and wide. Engage senior managers and cascade the information to all teams. Circulate information to staff with as much advance warning as possible. Update your intranet and noticeboard with information. Update guidance for new starters and visitors.

- **Internal point of contact**

Expect an increase in staff reporting travel problems and make sure they have a clear person or place to go for help or referrals to other available support.

- **Flexible working locations and core hours**

Where possible encourage and support impacted staff to work from home or alternative offices. If not already part of standard working practice temporary arrangements could be considered for the worst impacted staff who have no other viable way of avoiding peak time car journeys through the roadworks. As an employer, you can help staff avoid peak times by implementing a flexible core hours policy that allows staff to arrive and leave earlier or later than peak times.

- **Reducing trips made by car and promote other modes**

The works are an opportunity for those living more locally to travel more actively bringing with it a number of benefits to your staff and business. Make it clear that cycling and walking access will not be impacted by the works. Ensure staff are aware of the support the council can offer to encourage journeys to be made by walking, cycling or public transport – the Travelwest roadshow team are available to come on site to provide information and support to staff

- **Reducing business travel**

Encourage staff and visitors to consider whether business journeys through the works are essential. Journeys could be avoided through tele-conferencing or arranging in-person meetings to take place in an alternative location.

- **Recruit an internal cycle champion**

Champion(s) will help colleagues to travel by bike, the Access WEST project will support champions by offering cycle repair kits, Dr Bike sessions, bike maintenance training and led rides/confidence training. Contact Richard.drew@southgos.gov.uk for more information.

How the Council can support you

- **Briefings from the Bromley Heath project team for management**

Inform your management teams about the roadworks and take advantage of the Bromley Heath Viaduct team offering briefings to relevant managers within your company. Email Mike Dixon at bhviaduct@southglos.gov.uk to schedule a briefing.

- **Providing up to date information on alternative routes and diversions**

Alternative routes will be publicised in advance, circulated to businesses, signed on-road, and warnings will be provided across the strategic road network including all motorways serving the area. Details of the Traffic Management Plan will change over time – up to date information and maps can be found at the Bromley Heath Viaduct webpage at www.southglos.gov.uk/bhviaduct

- **Financial grants to encourage walking and cycling**

Apply for an employer grant for 50% of costs for staff travel facilities improvements, events, promotions or implementing new staff schemes. You can apply for anything that will encourage sustainable, active travel. For more details contact:

Richard.drew@southglos.gov.uk

- **Tailored advice for staff through travel roadshows**

Invite the Travelwest roadshow team in to run staff engagement stalls on all the free offers available from the council plus journey planning guidance, free maps and information. Contact Richard.drew@southglos.gov.uk for more information.

- **Access to free loan bikes**

Staff can borrow a loan bike free for up to a month: electric bikes, commuter bike or fold-up bike loans which are provided from the council. Find out more at:

<http://betterbybike.info/start-cycling/get-a-bike/loanbikes>

- **Information and free membership for car sharing**

Journey and car sharing portal – www.JoinMyJourney.org is a free-to-use website for commuters to discover other commuters to share compatible journeys across the West of England.

Every little helps!

Whatever range of support you provide, the aim is to make it more convenient and attractive for staff to give new travel modes a try and to travel sustainably when they can – be it once a fortnight, once a week or a few times a week. Make it clear to staff that nobody expects them to travel by bike every single day, only when they can and it fits conveniently with other commitments.

What next?

The Bromley Heath pages of the South Gloucestershire Council website will be kept up to date and will be the first port of call for any information relating to the works, including timescales and planned traffic management routes: www.southglos.gov.uk/bhviaduct.

Further information relating on travel and transport in the area, and particularly alternative transport options can be found at www.travelwest.info and www.betterbybike.info.