



Lisa Blakemore
David Ramsden
Sheffield City Council

23 May 2024

Dear Lisa and David,

We write regarding the requirement to review the experimental traffic order relating to the Arundel Gate bus gate. Since the initiative began we have seen improvements to bus flow on Arundel Gate which has in turn helped the punctuality and reliability of our services. We feel that this is one of the most important factors to our customers and features heavily in their long-term commitment to using the bus. This is a critical part of the city's bus network and is part of the committed investment through Transforming Cities. Arundel Gate in recent years seemed to have become a rat run for through traffic trying to avoid congestion on the ring road.

We feel that to go a stage further and attract more people to use public transport rather than the car we will need to reduce overall journey times. As congestion worsens such bus priority measures will help speed the bus when measured against the car as indeed for certain journeys this will have done. There must also be some positive air quality impact in that part of the city where traffic has been reduced, as well as improved safety for pedestrians in this area.

We would like to see further initiatives such as this, especially where buses are allowed to penetrate the central area where cars are not. This is a good tool to improve end to end journey time in favour of the bus, whilst opening (or re-opening) some areas of the city centre to less able members of our community. We recognise that some businesses will find this unpalatable but it would not make walking routes to these businesses longer than the extra length added to walking routes for bus passengers by removing them from the Pinstone Street area (which we still urge the council to reconsider as the Rockingham St solution is not satisfactory).

We would, therefore, support the retention/extension of the Arundel Gate order.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Hopkinson".

Paul Hopkinson
Network and Schedules Manager
First South Yorkshire



Lisa Blakemore
David Ramsden
Sheffield City Council

13 May 2024

Dear Lisa and David,

We write regarding the requirement to review the experimental traffic order relating to the Arundel Gate bus gate. Since its introduction, the bus gate has assisted in improving the punctuality and reliability of our services, which we know from customer research is absolutely key in attracting and retaining bus users. Measures that speed up buses and reduce journey time variability are vital as traffic levels post-COVID have increased.

This is an area where direct action can help mitigate the negative impacts of worsening congestion and encourage modal shift, thereby improving air quality and reducing congestion for the benefit of all. Pedestrians and cyclists will also have benefitted from an environment with less traffic movement and pollution.

Clearly, Arundel Gate forms a critical part of the bus network for the city and is part of the committed investment through Transforming Cities. Traffic that previously used Arundel Gate was rat running and the alternatives are well established and of similar distance. For the small number of people that may need to drive within the city centre then there is a small penalty, but this is far less than the impact on buses and bus users that have been displaced to use Rockingham Street or who now have to walk to Arundel Gate and cross what was a far busier road to access bus stops.

Yours sincerely,



John Young
Commercial Director

Lisa Blakemore and David Ramsden
Sheffield City Council
5th Floor Howden House
Union Street
Sheffield
S1 2SH

South Yorkshire
Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

Tuesday 14 May 2024

**RE: Letter of Support for Arundel Gate bus gate -
Experimental Order**

Dear Lisa Blakemore and David Ramsden,

As the Active Travel Commissioner for South Yorkshire and on behalf of the Combined Authority, I am sending you this letter to express my whole-hearted support for the experimental traffic order relating to the Arundel Gate bus gate. Since its implementation the bus gate has significantly improved the environment for walking, wheeling, and cycling by providing a reduction in vehicular traffic and improved air quality.

Arundel Gate is a crucial route for accessing the city centre and has a significant amount of both pedestrian footfall and cyclists using the area. Furthermore, crossing Arundel Gate is the primary route between the city centre and Sheffield Station. An absence of general traffic has created a more pleasant and safer feel to this key corridor making crossing Arundel Gate much easier for the large numbers of pedestrians and cyclists.

This scheme has been truly transformative; therefore, it is clearly aligned to objectives of the Transforming Cities Fund. The Arundel Gate bus gate is pivotal to Sheffield City Council's ambitious plans to enhance the city centre for walking, wheeling, and cycling and public transport as part of the wider Transforming Cities programme, reiterating the importance of this measure being made permanent.

Walking and wheeling, especially, goes hand-in-hand with the public transport system as every journey starts and ends with walking and wheeling. I believe passionately in an integrated transport system across South Yorkshire and schemes such as this are a key component of creating a new high quality, reliable and integrated transport offer for the people of South Yorkshire. We, at South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, are developing a public transport and active travel network that puts people first and connects all our communities. The bus gate enables improvements in punctuality and reliability of the public transport system, which is so important to our communities.

The Mayor and I are clear that we need to reduce carbon emissions to combat the climate emergency, and this is why helping to facilitate mode-shift through schemes such as this is so critical.

Across South Yorkshire, we want to enable individuals to have a viable alternative to the car by being able to walk, wheel and cycle for shorter journeys and we have ambitious plans to increase cycling by 350% and walking by 21%. I strongly believe in creating a healthier, more active region focusing on the next generation by providing opportunities for diverse communities, including school children to walk, wheel and cycle. Alongside the Mayor, I want South Yorkshire to be the healthiest region in the country, and an important part of achieving this is through integrating physical activity into our everyday lives. An attractive, traffic calmed centre of Sheffield is a key part of this solution, and the scheme will help to deliver on the commitments outlined above.

Yours Sincerely



Ed Clancy OBE (Active Travel Commissioner)

South Yorkshire
Mayoral Combined Authority
Email: ed.clancy@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk
Contact: 0123 456 7890