

Name

Address

Address

Town

County

Postcode

11 January 2016

Dear Resident

Bus priority – Leigh to Ellenbrook and Atherton to Ellenbrook – time trial testing

I am writing to update you on the progress of the bus priority package and on some activity that is planned next week.

Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering is working in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester to design and construct Greater Manchester's first guided busway. Major construction work has been completed and we are now ready to carry out a series of bus journey time testing. There have been positive results on tests for ride quality prior to Christmas and we are now carrying out testing to enable us to provide accurate timetable information. These time trial tests will provide valuable data, allowing First Bus UK to develop and produce clear timetabling and schedules for passenger use, which should be released in February.

The routes we will be testing will be from Atherton, through Tyldesley (including the Stanley Street junction at the side of the market square) to Ellenbrook (and return) and from Leigh bus station, through Tyldesley to Ellenbrook (and return) along the guided busway.

To carry out the time trials, the operator, First Bus UK, will bring two double decker buses to the sites. The buses will be empty, other than necessary staff. The trials will take place during normal site hours on Monday 11 January and for longer hours on Tuesday 12 January and Wednesday 13 January. The buses will be driven along the track from both Leigh and Atherton, starting at 6am on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 continuing until 6pm in both directions (with a possibility of further tests on Thursday and Friday of that week).

To facilitate this testing our contractor, Balfour Beatty, will be opening up the busway earlier than usual on each day of the testing and there will be vehicle marshals at each of the road junctions operating the temporary traffic signals to allow the buses to cross the roads safely. At the open public right of way crossings along the route we will have operatives present to ensure that people can cross the busway safely. Balfour Beatty will open up the busway as quietly as possible so as to avoid as far as possible any disruption to

residents along the route. However, this will involve staff travelling to the junctions in motor vehicles and opening the site gates so there will be some low level noise.

It is expected that one bus on each route will take approximately 15 minutes to get from Atherton to Ellenbrook and from Leigh to Ellenbrook. The buses will then do the return journey in the opposite direction.

This will mean that between Atherton and Tyldesley there will be two buses an hour in each direction. There will be the same number of buses (two per hour in each direction) from Leigh to Tyldesley.

When the buses travelling from Atherton and Leigh reach Tyldesley (Astley Street), this will amount to four buses an hour travelling between Tyldesley and Ellenbrook in each direction.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and we appreciate your patience during the time trial tests as they will allow for us to make progress on the expected start of service during April 2016.

If you would like to speak to a representative of TfGM regarding any wider questions about the bus priority scheme please email buspriority@tfgm.com or call 0300 123 1177.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Price'.

Adam Price
Project Manager