



A52 Clifton Bridge Repair Scheme June 2020 newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the A52 Clifton Bridge Scheme

newsletter. We've started work to repair and strengthen the bridge that carries the A52 over the River Trent, Clifton Lane and Queens Drive in Nottingham.

We expect to complete the scheme by February 2021, although we will begin opening some lanes across the bridge during November 2020. This newsletter gives details on why the scheme is needed and an update on the progress we've made.

Why is this work needed?

Clifton Bridge was built in the 1970s. It is subject to regular maintenance and inspection activity, most of which is unseen by the public or passing motorists. During February 2020, the structure was undergoing planned concrete repairs which had been identified during a routine inspection last year (2019). While this work was taking place, our team were able to investigate the steel underneath the road and this investigation work uncovered the need for further repairs to the steel works, as a result of water damage.

While the structure remains safe, we've taken the precautionary measure of putting in place some traffic restrictions across the top of the bridge to prevent the need for further and more disruptive repairs in the future. These restrictions will also allow our teams to work safely underneath the structure.

The decision for partial closure of Clifton Bridge was not taken lightly, as we know how important this bridge is for getting you, our customers, into and around the City of Nottingham. We're looking at a phased approach to repairs which should allow us to open further lanes as soon as possible.

The story so far

Clifton Bridge is two bridges sitting alongside each other. The northbound bridge (Grantham to Derby) is in good condition, which is why traffic is still using that section. We will be working in the southbound bridge which is the focus of substantial repairs until the end of the year.

Our structural engineers have now completed their investigation and design stage, and the repair work has begun. Clifton Bridge has a complex design, and great care has been taken in planning a repair project that will keep the bridge open for many years to come.

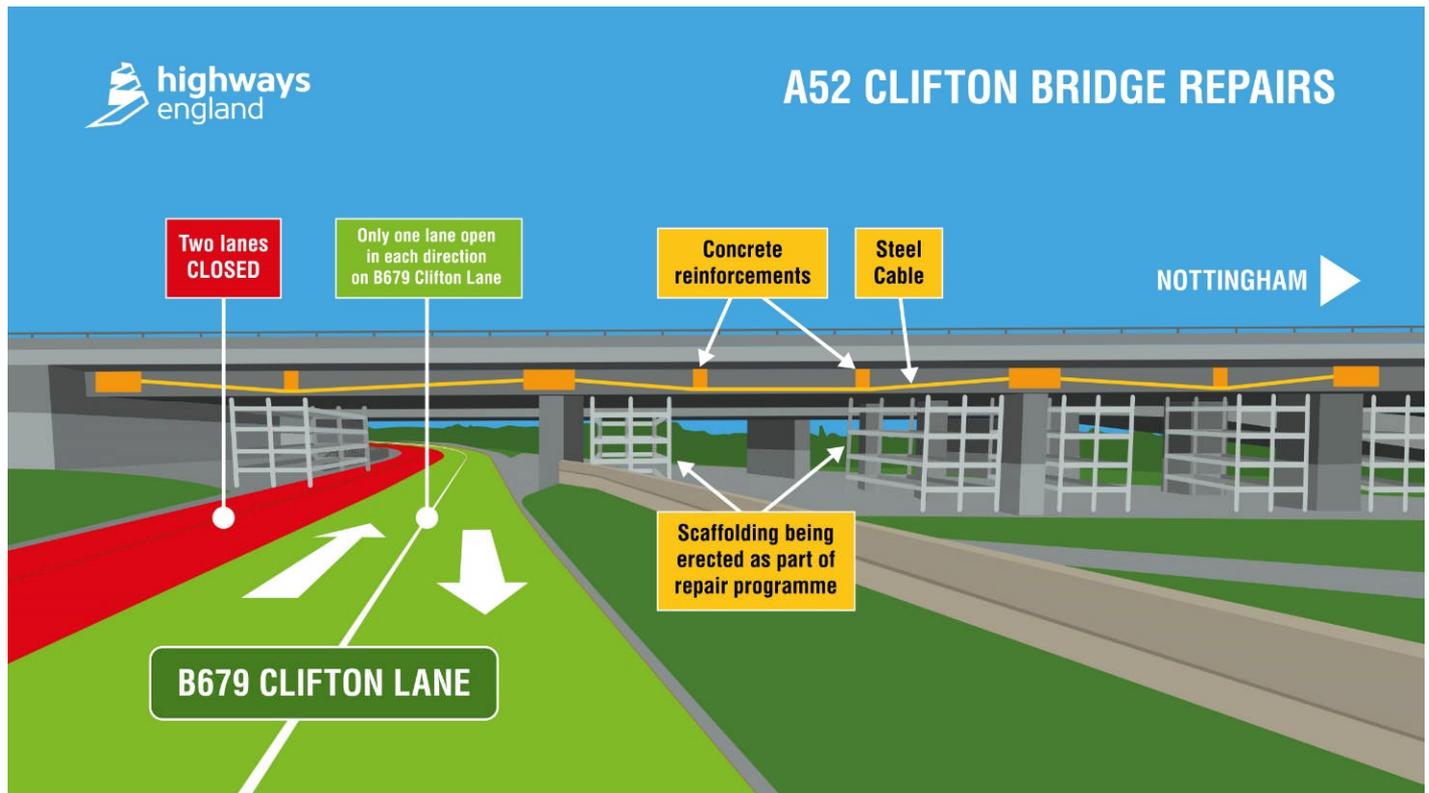
Our teams will be working mainly underneath, or inside the bridge, so you may not see many people as you drive over the bridge. The work involves adding new steel cables to the outside of the structure which will allow for easier maintenance in future. We're also repairing drainage systems and concrete as part of this repair programme.

Safety is our top imperative and we'll still need some lane restrictions over the top of the bridge while the work takes place, so our teams can carry out their work effectively. An example of how the traffic restrictions on top of the bridge will look can be seen below.



As part of the substantial repair work we'll also be erecting scaffolding underneath the road that means Clifton Lane will be reduced to two running lanes (normally four), with traffic running in one lane in each direction from 6am on Sunday 21 June 2020.

This is vital to allow our teams to work safely and access the areas underneath the bridge to repair it. These lane closures will remain in place until our works are finished beneath the bridge. An example of how the B679 Clifton Lane will look can be seen below.



In order for these restrictions to be put into effect;

- We will be closing all four lanes overnight 8pm-6am on both nights of Saturday 20 June and Sunday 21 June.
- We will be putting in cones and lines on the Saturday evening and temporary barriers on the Sunday.

From Monday 22 June, we'd encourage motorists to leave extra times for their journeys as the new restrictions on Clifton Lane will be in place.

We are aiming to reopen additional lanes by the end of November 2020 once it is safe to do so with the bridge back to its former traffic layout with all lanes back open to motorists by the end of 2020. This is complex work and we're exploring all options to see if we can bring this forward to minimise disruption to your journeys.

Working together

We understand the level of disruption this work is causing. We're working closely with the local councils, emergency services and others to make sure we can keep traffic moving and ensure essential supplies can reach their destinations

How we are minimising disruption

We're working very closely with the local councils and utility providers, to coordinate works on roads which might be used as alternative routes to Clifton Bridge. This might not always be possible, but works in the surrounding areas will receive very careful consideration before they are started.

Together with Nottingham City Council, we identified 10 important junctions which were affected by increased traffic. We are working with the City Council to mark these as Yellow Box Junctions, to help your journey go more smoothly.

In addition to the above, we also have put in place comprehensive CCTV coverage of traffic flowing over Clifton Bridge which is linked directly to our East Midlands Regional Operations Centre in Nottingham. These cameras are monitored 24/7 and it means our specialist control room teams can respond quickly and safely to any incidents such as vehicle breakdowns which might cause disruption. To make sure we can deal with any such issue in a safe and timely manner, we also have a vehicle recovery agent in situ near Clifton Bridge to respond to any incidents as and when they occur.

Nottingham City Council has an ongoing programme to promote different types of travel options. Initiatives, such as the Workplace Travel Service, help employers and city commuters to find alternatives to using a car. For more information about the Workplace Travel Service, please go to <https://www.transportnottingham.com/projects/workplace-travel-service/>.

What can I do?

Before you travel, please consider if your journey is necessary and try to limit the amount you travel if you can. Travel off peak if possible, or use a bike or try walking instead, even if it's only for part of your journey to help reduce congestion on the roads. The UK Government and Nottingham City Council are actively encouraging cycling, both for its health and environmental benefits and to reduce the opportunities for Coronavirus to spread. Nottingham has an excellent public transport network, however during the current Coronavirus pandemic, current Government advice is to avoid non-essential use of public transport. Transport operators are working hard to keep you safe if you do need to travel, and to help control the spread of the virus, you should follow the [safer travel guidance for passengers](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=#public-transport) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=#public-transport when travelling. Please do not travel if you are self-isolating, feeling unwell or are showing any symptoms of Coronavirus, including a new continuous cough or high temperature. For more information and advice on symptoms of the virus, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Always allow extra time for your journey and plan ahead. You can keep up to date with all the latest travel and transport news in the city by visiting <https://www.transportnottingham.com/> where you can sign up to Nottingham's Transport newsletter and use the city travel planning tool to help you plan your journey. You can also keep up to date by following Transport Nottingham on Twitter and Facebook.



It's not just about the road users.

We cannot forget that a lot of people live and work in the area around Clifton Bridge. We will do our best to minimise the disturbance to your lives. Equipment is constantly being improved, and the construction teams will be using the quietest equipment and methods they can.

Above all, we will be listening to you.

- Our people will be coming out and trying to meet as many of you as we can.
- We will be talking to your elected representatives.
- We will be keeping you up to date, through: these newsletters, our Highways England website, briefing the local media and through regular visits to your area.

What happens if you break down?

If you break down in the A52 roadworks, or in the Traffic Management section under the bridge on Clifton Lane; please switch on your hazard warning lights, stay in your vehicle and await our recovery team who will take you and your vehicle to a safe location. Only if it is safe to do so, leave the vehicle and stand behind the safety barrier until help arrives.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.

Contact us

If you have any questions, or if you would like to know more about our work, please contact us.

Email: A52PLO@balfourbeatty.com

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

Visit our webpage: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a52-clifton-bridge-repair-scheme>

Write: Clifton Bridge Project Team, Highways England (Area 7), Stirling House, Lakeside Court, Osier Drive, Sherwood Business Park, Nottingham, NG15 0DS