Cycleway 43 Scheme Consultation Executive Summary

Introduction

Westminster City Council is proposing to deliver a new cycle route, Cycleway 43 (C43), connecting Hyde Park with the existing facilities at Gloucester Place. The C43 route is proposed to run via Stanhope Place, Connaught Square, Connaught Street, Porchester Place, Kendal Street and George Street. The proposed route is part of the Westminster cycle route programme and would become part of the London wide Cycleway network (previously known as Cycle Superhighways and Quietways).

In December 2021, Westminster City Council's Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality approved the route of Cycleway 43 between Bayswater Road and Gloucester Place. We originally consulted on the route in 2016 as 'Quietway 7'. Since then, proposals along the route have been updated to meet up current cycling standards.

The scheme aims to enhance cycle safety and connectivity between Hyde Park and Marylebone with improvements to nine junctions. It will benefit all people who want to walk and cycle in the area. Proposed changes include:

- Wider and less cluttered footways;
- Shortened pedestrian crossing points;
- Improvement of cycle facilities;
- Introduction of traffic calming features;
- Reallocation of parking to make the route safer;
- Clear cycle route wayfinding signs;
- Additional trees and benches.

In May - June 2023 we asked for your views on the updated proposals during this initial design stage to refine and improve them further. The consultation activities and materials included a website with maps, annotated plans of proposals, FAQs and a link to an online survey, a letter drop to 3,057 addresses in the local area 50m either side of the route, emails to statutory consultees, 18 lamp column wraps along the route, and use of social media to promote the scheme. The scheme website will be kept up to date as the project progresses.

Consultation Results

The consultation website contained a link to a survey that sought people's views on the proposals, including a question whether they support, do not support, or not sure, with an option to comment. All responses required a post code to be entered.

There were 1374 responses received via the online survey form, received via email or letter. Below is a summary of the responses via all channels, responses from within Westminster, and the responses from within the immediate vicinity which is the postcode areas that the proposed route passes through (including all addressed that received a consultation postcard).

Cycleway 43 Proposals:

	No. of Responses	Support		Do Not Support		Don't Know	
		%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
All Responses	1374	60%	823	36%	500	4%	51
City of Westminster	699	41%	290	52%	364	6%	45
Marylebone Ward	231	22%	50	71%	164	7%	17
Hyde Park Ward	176	40%	70	50%	88	10%	18

When the data is weighted to reflect the age demographics across the borough (based on the City of Westminster 2021 census age profile) to provide a more representative view by compensating for under-represented age groups, the level of Support increases to 74%, Do Not Support decreases to 24%, and uncertainty is at 3%.

The results show a majority support for the proposals overall, but from within Westminster and the wards the routes passes through, there are higher levels of concern.

The following organisations provided feedback on the proposals: Portsea Hall Residents Association, Westminster Cycling Campaign, Wetherby School, Connaught House School, HyPer (Hyde Park Estate Residents group), Marble Arch London BID, Conservative Group of Councillors, Baker Street Quarter Partnership (Business Improvement District), Buro Happold Engineers Ltd, Balmoral Hotel, Marylebone Forum, Marylebone Association, FORE Partnership.

Main support themes

- In favour of the proposals (generally) (122 comments)
- Proposals will improve safety for cyclists (53 comments)
- Support for segregated cycle paths (39 comments)

Main concern themes

- Comments on the disruption to school buses and parents pickup (96 comments)
- Oppose removing on-street parking across the proposal (81 comments)
- Comment that proposals will cause congestion / worsen traffic (75 comments)

Suggestions/comments on the proposals

- More segregation and protected cycle lane measures (76 comments)
- Comments on walking/cycling opportunities [e.g cycle storage, alternative routes, signage] (63 comments)
- Other design suggestions (62 comments)

Next Steps

Following the feedback from public consultation, the Council will continue to develop the permanent proposals for Cycleway 43 to address the concerns raised at consultation. The team will further review the feedback received and consider it in the upcoming design stage. Responses to the items raised in the consultation will be addressed in the Council's *'You Said, We Did'* response to consultation report.

Subject to agreement with WCC Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality, statutory Traffic Management Order (TMO) consultation will be carried out at the end of the next design stage.