Newsletter

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Project Introduction

Armley Gyratory is a key junction on the Inner Ring Road to the west of Leeds city centre. It is a major entry/exit point for traffic travelling through and into the city with an estimated 100,000 vehicles passing through daily.

Improvements to the gyratory aim to:

- Improve safety for all road users.
- Allow traffic to flow more freely, minimising traffic impacts on local roads.
- Provide more appealing and accessible routes for pedestrians and people who cycle.
- Help facilitate improvements elsewhere in the city, like closing City Square to vehicles.
- Improve the local environment through new landscaping.

This project is part of Connecting Leeds' work on several major highways' schemes, which are all part of transforming travel in the city and across the district.



Armley Gyratory looking east towards Leeds City Centre including the bridges installed on Gelderd Road, Spence Lane.

The story so far

Since our previous newsletter, much has progressed at the Armley Gyratory project and the scheme continues to meet many important milestones.

Most significantly the successful removal of Wellington Road footbridge.



Wellington Road footbridge prior to demolition

The old bridge, which spanned 25m, contained a temporary truss span that was installed in 2001, following the original concrete span being damaged from a collision with a vehicle.

The closure of Wellington Road itself lasted less than two days. This meant the highway was restored to full capacity well ahead of the agreed deadline, prior to the morning commute and ensured there was minimal impact felt by road users during this phase of works.



Demolition of Wellington Road footbridge

The next stage of works is well under way which will see the installation of a new footbridge. This bridge will be 43.5 metres long and approximately three metres wide.



A thorough clean up took place further to a successful demolition programme

This bridge will cross over the A58 and join either side by two accessible ramps. The new bridge will help meet the needs of non-motorised users by providing more accessible, safer and easier to use routes around the gyratory for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and pram users.

All the new upgraded footbridges are designed to ensure they will need less maintenance work and inspection, over future decades.



Night time image of Wellington Road after a successful demolition process

The installation of Wellington Road footbridge in early 2025, will be the final footbridge to be completed since the scheme commenced and following all finishing works, we are looking to open all bridges in the Spring time.

The removal of Wellington Road footbridge and the installation of Spence Lane footbridge are both available to view on YouTube by clicking the appropriate link.

All new footbridges have been designed to offer improved accessibility and are part of the over-arching focus on longevity, sustainability, and the safety of non-road users in and around the Gyratory.

The works at Armley Gyratory are delivered with safety and programme as priority, and therefore, after months of diligent teamwork, the project team are delighted not only with the result but also that the carriageway was re-opened well ahead of the original deadline.

This part of the project has proved a significant undertaking and required detailed planning by the principal contractor, their supply chain, and Leeds City Council to successfully complete such a complex and critical phase of the works.

What happens next?

While finishing works continue to take place on all areas around all areas of the Gyratory, preparation work in relation to the install of Wellington Road footbridge during the early stages of 2025, are well underway.



Indication of new footbridge layout

As part of this groundworks have commenced and continue to take shape. These are a vital element of this phase of works as they will be used to support the concrete superstructure needed to receive the new and improved bridge deck. The preparation works for the new bridge will continue throughout the coming months, as we look forward to 2025 when the installation of the final footbridge will take place.

Pedestrian diversion routes will remain in place until the installation of the new footbridge and after all finishing works are finalised.



Wellington footbridge – pedestrian diversion route

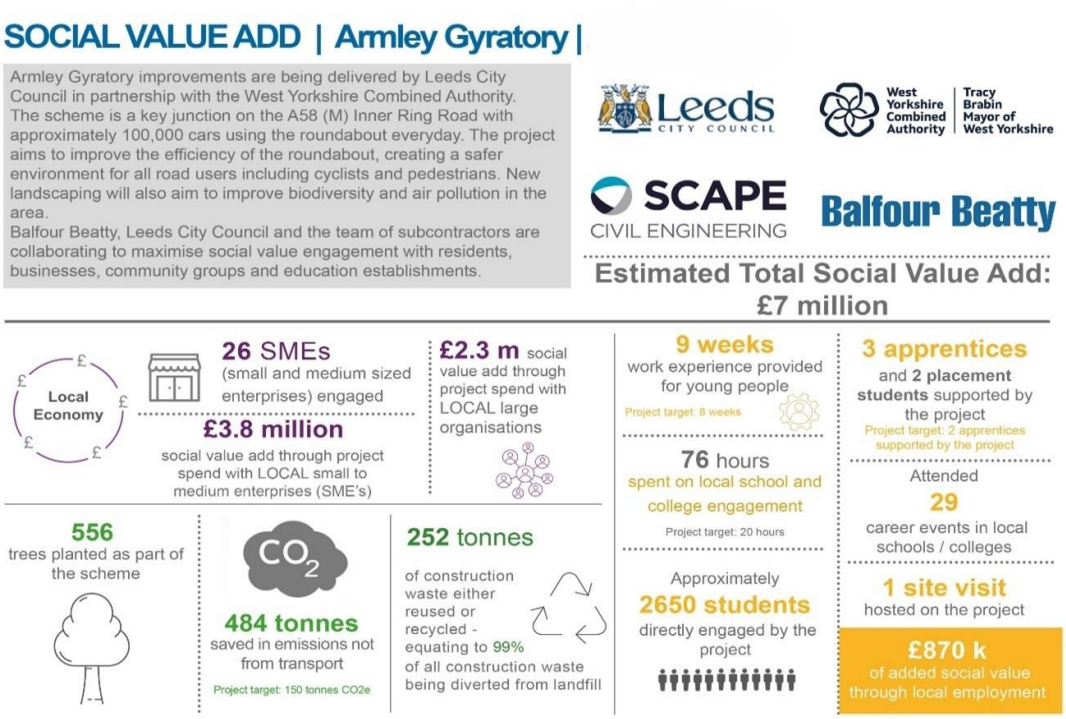
Future partial weekend closures are planned to complete the works, possibly early in 2025, with details available on the project website www.leeds.gov.uk/ArmleyGyratory.

The on-going works at Armley Gyratory are vital and extremely complex and will involve traffic and pedestrian diversions when necessary.

We would ask anyone with concerns to visit Plan Ahead Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk/planahead or visit www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory or follow Connecting Leeds on Social Media for a comprehensive outline of work scheduled and what impact this may have on your journey.

We apologise for any inconvenience felt by the work at Armley Gyratory and would like to express our continued thanks to all residents for their ongoing patience as we work to making the gyratory safer and more accessible for everyone.

Social value updates



Promoting construction

The Armley Gyratory project is consistently working towards the fulfilment of their pledge to promote construction and the wealth of opportunities the industry has to offer.



Whilst they have surpassed numerous targets outlined when the project commenced, they continue to work with local schools, colleges, and businesses to educate, employ and bring to life the benefits of working within the construction industry.

The team are also working to offer volunteer help and work to provide charity donations throughout the region, such as last month's winter clothes donation made to Homeless Street Angels in Leeds.

Upcoming focus includes further engagement with Leeds City College's SEND department, bringing new technology to education facilities across the region, the upcoming Prince's Trust Enterprise challenge, continued environmental initiatives and the support of apprentices and early careers graduates.

Reading between the lines

Since our last newsletter, we have continued to share the Balfour Beatty children's *book Cones and Building Bridges* locally and have now donated over 700 books to local students throughout the duration of the project.



The book helps to raise awareness of the breadth of careers in construction and is accompanied by an age-appropriate careers assembly which also covers the importance of safety in and around construction sites.

Above and beyond

As part of all projects across the region and beyond, safety stands alone as the key element of any scheme, and this is no different at Armley Gyratory.



Therefore, recognising people's achievements in relation to 'doing the right thing', is something we always do with pride. The latest two members of the team to be commended for their contribution to safety are Dan Fortis from Premier and Augustine Imma.

Despite only being involved at the project a short time, Dan has been recognised for not only his welcome and proactive approach in the use of observations, but also how he went above and beyond to diligently assist local authorities in relation to a member of the public incident at the Gyratory.

Augustine was also commended for his focus on safety and in particular the quality and frequency of the submissions he continues to make in relation to making sure the team and members of the public remain safe in and around the project site.



We are grateful to both for their contribution to help ensure that everyone getting home safe is the key driving force of every scheme that we work on.

STEMfest Yorkshire 2024

#STEMfestYorkshire came to life, with more than 3,000 young people in attendance as part of a three day event held in Bradford. The annual festival is a real opportunity to showcase how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are embedded into project life.



Bringing together people from different projects to support the event, proved a great opportunity to strengthen and showcase the social impact capabilities on offer within the region.

The Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin opened the event and delivered a speech to rally the young participants and inspire them to make the most of the learning opportunity.

There was even a special appearance from SPOT the robot dog, who stole the show and was a huge hit with the young faces that gathered to watch him in action.

The success of such an event would not be possible, without everyone's support and enthusiasm, whether that be running the session, attending the tour, or planning activities behind the scenes. This included members from our Armley Gyratory team who took part in numerous activities across day two of the festival.

Those in attendance were given a real chance to see the power of technology and the very best in engineering capabilities, something which was successfully achieved during the entire experience.





Driving positive change

As part of the projects campaign against roadworker abuse a competition was run, for children related to those working at Armley Gyratory to design road signs, which would be used to highlight this issue. The signs are a brilliant visual aid and give an outside view of why such behaviour will never be tolerated from those that can also be affected by such actions.



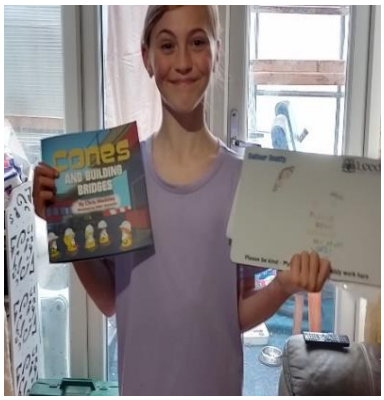
Due to the standard of entries, it was decided that all entries were made into signs, and they all received their own mini version of their entry, a copy of Cones, some sweets, and hand-made postcards to say thank you for getting involved. The two winning participants also receiving a gift voucher and a slightly bigger version of their sign positioned at the project site.



Huge credit to everyone involved in making it happen and the children for taking part and making a positive change through such a focused and well delivered campaign.

The project has made sure that such an important subject and the need to ensure everyone feels safe to work in schemes such as Armley Gyratory, has been helped in such an eye-catching and meaningful way.

No matter what the circumstance, and despite the inconvenience that our schemes can cause, there will never be a place for Roadworker abuse. We should always do anything we can to remind the public of who they are aiming their frustrations at, and the unacceptable nature of these behaviours.







Getting in touch

Please sign up for the ‘latest news’ on the project by visiting the website and registering your email: www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory

If you have questions about the scheme, you can email us at: connectingleeds@leeds.gov.uk

You can also join the conversation on social media by following @ConnectingLeeds on Twitter and Facebook.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience and assure you that every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum.

Kind regards,

The Armley Gyratory and Connecting Leeds Team

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