

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Temporary Pedestrian Crossings – A Motion by Councillor Bagshaw

Item number	8.2
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P28 and P33
Council outcomes	CO19 and CO21
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

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Executive summary

Temporary Pedestrian Crossings – A motion by Councillor Bagshaw

Summary

This report outlines the current practice and future use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians at road works and the reasons for these procedures.

It follows a motion put forward by Cllr Bagshaw at the Transport and Environment Committee on 15 January 2013.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1 approves the future use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians at road works where appropriate;
- 2 acknowledges that the Highways Agency specifications should be followed and only type approved equipment used;
- 3 notes that Public Utility (PU) and other road maintenance contractors will be consulted on the appropriate use of portable traffic signals, for pedestrians, whenever roadworks are being planned;
- 4 notes the intention to incorporate the use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians into a revised version of the Edinburgh Roadworks Ahead Agreement (ERWAA); and
- 5 discharges the Motion from Cllr Bagshaw remitted to the Transport and Environment Committee from Council on 15 January 2013.

Measures of success

Inspection of Council and PU road works sites will continue to be carried out to ensure compliance. Agreement will be reached with PUs on the appropriate use of portable traffic signals, with pedestrian phases, to be incorporated in the ERWAA.

Financial impact

The additional cost of the hire of this equipment, when compared to normal portable traffic signals for vehicles, is to a scale of 10:1 (£1,000 to £100 per week). Due to high setup and removal costs of the pedestrian phase equipment provision may only be viable for works that last a week or more.

The additional costs will be borne by whoever has initiated the works PU, Council or other contractor.

Equalities impact

The impact on young people, older and people with disabilities has been considered and provision will be made when suitable equipment is available. However, supply of portable equipment, approved for this purpose, is limited and has only recently become available.

As this equipment has been type approved by the Highways Agency information will be sought to ensure this has been impact assessed by them.

Sustainability impact

There are no sustainability impacts arising directly from this report.

Consultation and engagement

Internal consultation has taken place to determine the appropriateness of using portable pedestrian traffic signals at road construction sites where pedestrian crossing facilities have been switched off.

Further consultation with PU companies is now required so that it can be incorporated in a revised version of the ERWAA, from January 2014.

Background reading/external references

[Signal-controlled Pedestrian Facilities at Portable Traffic Signals - Traffic advisory leaflet 3/11, Department for Transport April 2011](#)

[Portable Traffic Signals for the Control of Vehicular Traffic - Traffic advisory leaflet 2/11, Department for Transport April 2011](#)

Temporary Pedestrian Crossings – A motion by Councillor Bagshaw

1. Background

- 1.1 The following Motion by Cllr Bagshaw was remitted from the Council meeting of 15 January 2013 to the T&E Committee. The Motion:

“Calls for a report within two cycles on the feasibility of providing temporary pedestrian crossing facilities at all planned road, or other works, where pedestrian lights are turned off, the arrangements to be made with utilities to ensure compliance, and the timescale required for providing equipment to achieve this.”

2. Main report

- 2.1 The Highways Agency has only recently given type approval for portable pedestrian traffic signals equipment and it is available for hire to contractors.
- 2.2 There are three circumstances where portable pedestrian traffic signals may be considered:-

2.2.1 To replace an existing pedestrian crossing that has failed or has been switched off for repair.

Where an existing pedestrian crossing has failed, or has been switched off for repair, there is a 2 hour maximum call-out time for the repair contractor to attend. Most of these repairs are completed in less than 24 hours and, at most, a few days. However, if the crossing site cannot be repaired within a week, then portable pedestrian crossing lights will be installed.

2.2.2 To maintain a pedestrian crossing when a pelican or puffin crossing is affected by road works.

Pedestrian crossings are generally switched off to facilitate the safe undertaking of road works, either by Transport Scotland, the Roads Authority, or a PU contractor. This is carried out to discourage pedestrians from crossing at that location, as it is incorporated within a ‘live site’.

Portable pedestrian crossing signals incorporating traffic control through a site can now be provided. Sites where this is appropriate, and the duration of the works prior to sanctioning these signals, need to be consulted on with PU companies to seek agreement. It is intended that the use of the equipment will be incorporated in to the ERWAA.

2.2.3 To maintain a pedestrian crossing at traffic signalled junctions affected by road works.

Current practice for large or lengthy schemes is, where possible, to modify the permanent traffic signals to accommodate the works while retaining the existing pedestrian facilities. This process involves connecting the temporary pedestrian/traffic portable or temporary signals into the signalised junction control box.

The decision on whether or not such a facility is required is decided at the Neighbourhood Roads team level in conjunction with the Statutory Consultees, such as the Police. The safe passage of pedestrians is always considered when approving traffic management proposals.

- 2.3 All work on the road network requires the permission of the Roads Authority. All works, with the exception of emergency works, are required to be notified on the Road Works Register in advance of the works being carried out. This notification is assessed by the Neighbourhood Roads teams and any specific requirements are discussed. This includes pedestrian facilities and movements.
- 2.4 For shorter works or less busy sites the expense and work involved in providing any portable pedestrian facility would be difficult to justify and would have significant financial implications for contractors, PUs or the Council. This provision could also increase the delays encountered by other road users, thus potentially adversely affecting congestion on the strategic road network. Consultation with all parties will seek agreement that all work, with a duration of less than one week, is exempt from the requirement to install portable pedestrian signals.
- 2.5 A member/officer working group has been established, including Cllr Bagshaw, to revise the ERWAA for presentation to T&E Committee in January 2014. The provision of these facilities will form part of the discussions and recommended changes to the ERWAA.

- 2.6 It should be noted that the current version of the Traffic Signals Manual Chapter 8 - Traffic Safety Measures and Signs for Road Works and Temporary Situations does not require portable pedestrian lights to be provided. Contractors are under no legal obligation to provide them. It is possible that some companies could simply refuse to use this apparatus. In order to make this a condition for PUs to carry out their work this will be consulted on for the revision of the ERWAA.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that Committee:
- 3.1.1 approves the future use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians at road works where appropriate;
 - 3.1.2 acknowledges that the Highways Agency specifications should be followed and only type approved equipment used;
 - 3.1.3 notes that Public Utility (PU) and other road maintenance contractors will be consulted on the appropriate use of portable traffic signals, for pedestrians, whenever roadworks are being planned;
 - 3.1.4 notes the intention to incorporate the use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians into a revised version of the Edinburgh Roadworks Ahead Agreement (ERWAA); and
 - 3.1.5 discharges the Motion from Cllr Bagshaw remitted to the Transport and Environment Committee from Council on 15 January 2013.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P28 - Further strengthen links with the business community by developing and implementing strategies to promote and protect the economic well being of the city. P33 Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used.
Council outcomes	CO19 - Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm. CO21 - Safe – Residents, visitors and businesses feel that Edinburgh is a safe city.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
Appendices	None