

Trams to
Newhaven



Project Newsletter: 27 March 2020



The Trams to Newhaven project is scheduled to be completed and carry passengers by Spring 2023.

This edition advises of the shut down plans for Trams to Newhaven due to COVID-19.



Shut Down Plans Overview

Construction on Edinburgh's Trams to Newhaven project will stop this week to protect the safety of workers and residents during the current Coronavirus outbreak.

The Council's decision to instruct contractors Morrison Utility Services (MUS) and Sacyr Farrans Neopul (SFN) to cease site works follows advice from Scotland's First Minister that all construction sites should close, unless the project being delivered is essential, such as a hospital.

SFN and MUS will make sites on Leith Walk, Constitution Street, Lindsay Road and Ocean Drive safe and secure by the end of the week before shutting down. There will be contractors on site as necessary for safety and security checks.

Emergency services have access to all sites at all times should they require it.

Work will continue off-site where this can be done remotely, including design, planning and scheduling, as well as drawing up a remobilisation strategy for returning to the site once restrictions are lifted. The project team will also be closely liaising

with MUS and SFN to look at ways of mitigating the impact of work stopping on the wider project.

Council Leader Adam McVey said: “The health and wellbeing of workers delivering key infrastructure schemes like Trams to Newhaven – and those who live nearby – is of utmost importance to us, which is why we have been working with our contractors to halt work since the Scottish Government guidance was issued.

“Of course, this will impact on the wider project, but nothing is more important than the public’s safety. We will be working with our contractors to mitigate the impact of these necessary actions and carefully planning our strategy for returning to the site once restrictions are lifted.”

Depute Leader Cammy Day said: “We’ve listened to national advice and the message is clear – we must limit our interactions with others during this crucial period. This is a major decision, and we remain committed to delivering the tram to Newhaven, but right now it is absolutely necessary if we are to limit the impact of Coronavirus on the city and country as a whole.

“We are making every effort to protect the public while delivering core services and I would encourage people to do their own bit by observing rules on social distancing and looking out for one another where possible.”

SFN Project Director Alejandro Mendoza stated: “We fully back the decision and guidance from the Government this week to shut down

construction sites during this period of great uncertainty. These are extremely challenging and concerning times for all and we will do what is necessary for our staff and the public to help stop the spread of this virus.”

MUS Project Director Mike Thomson said: “The health of our staff, and the residents and businesses in the local community, is our number one priority so we understand and support the decision to temporarily stop work. We will be working hard over the next few days to make the site safe and secure for the shut down period.”

While traffic management due to be installed on Leith Walk on 28 March 2020 will be postponed, existing traffic management on Constitution Street, Lindsay Road and Ocean Drive will remain. Safety and security checks following shutdown will include, but will not be limited to, fenced-off worksites, traffic management signage, diversion routes, logistics hubs and the main compound and satellite offices. This will be in line with current social distancing guidance.

The logistic hub on Mitchell Street will also close. The hubs that were recently set up on Montgomery Street, Albert Street and Dalmeny Street will remain in situ but will not be operational. The planned hub at the foot of the walk will be set up ahead of construction commencing after restrictions are lifted.

The project’s contact centre will remain open for any queries.



Leith Walk, Constitution Street and Ocean Drive / Melrose Drive

Leith Walk

Leith Walk enabling works will finish by Friday 27th March 2020 at which point the running lane will be complete but will not be operational. Barriers will be left in position on the East side with breaks left along the route to allow for deliveries and access. Leith Walk will remain open for two way traffic with all junctions also remaining open.

The installation of traffic management on Leith Walk will commence as soon as advice from the Scottish Government is that restrictions can be lifted.

Constitution Street

Piling works at South Leith Parish Church graveyard are complete and removal of the wall has been suspended. This area of the works will be secured and made safe.

Full closure will remain in place from Foot of the Walk to Coatfield Lane and from Queen Charlotte Street to Constitution Place. Access is provided for emergency services via a running lane.

Open excavations along Constitution Street and Tower Street / Ocean Way are being back-filled to make these areas safe.

Ocean Drive / Melrose Drive

The works at Ocean Terminal and Newhaven have stopped. This area of the works is to be secured and made safe. The traffic management arrangements will remain and pedestrian access will be maintained.



Bus Diversions

Please check the [Lothian Buses website](#) or Transport for Edinburgh App for details of bus services.



SFN Community Benefits

In light of the latest advice provided by the Scottish Government all planned community engagement activities will be suspended with immediate effect until further notice. Laura Sutherland, Communications & Stakeholder Manager for SFN, is working to see how we might continue with the community benefit deliverables attached to the project during the current coronavirus

pandemic. Further information and updates will follow in due course.

Support for Business update



Please note that Constitution Street Itison Vouchers that are due to expire on 31 March 2020 have been extended until 30 November 2020. Itison will be writing to people individually who still have vouchers to redeem to confirm this.

As a result of the Coronavirus the sale of further vouchers for Constitution Street is currently on hold as is the planned voucher scheme for Leith Walk.

Further announcements on this will be made in due course.

Ongoing Communications

We will provide information on the project through the following channels:

[Project website](#)

Twitter and Instagram social media accounts

Project newsletter – we will continue to issue a fortnightly newsletter.

Information posted on the logistic hubs

Our contact centre will remain open during the shutdown for any queries. The hours will remain 8am – 8pm, seven days a week:

Tel: 0131 322 1122

Email: Newhaven.tram@edinburgh.gov.uk

Live chat: www.tramstonewhaven.co.uk



Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council Advice

Please follow the guidelines that the Scottish Government have issued which [you can read here](#) and please be safe.

Please find below some links from the City of Edinburgh Council's website that you may find useful.

[Our latest guidance for businesses](#)

[Childcare arrangements for key workers](#)

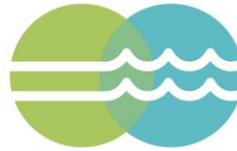
[Homelessness services](#)

[Parks and Greenspaces guidance](#)

[Council Tax and Benefits phone services](#)



Find out more and get in touch



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For further information on the project please visit our website where you can find a range of FAQs. Alternatively, you can contact us via email or by telephone on 0131 322 1122. We're available from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

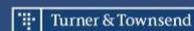
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