Connecting Leeds
TRANSFORMING TRAVEL
ARMLEY GYRATORY

Newsletter

SCAN ME

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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's work on several major highways' schemes, which are all part of transforming travel in the city and across the district.



Aerial photo of Armley Gyratory looking east with Leeds City Centre in the background

The story so far

Since our previous newsletter in May, work has been progressing to facilitate our final road surfacing works, scheduled for the end of July to the end of August 2023. We have been continuing our work to the outer gyratory and to the associated road islands.

Key activities carried out since May include:

- Installation of splitter islands and maintenance bays has begun – topsoiling, installation of crash barriers and paving needed for completion.
- Kerb realignment completed in key areas.
- Most of the underground ducting for traffic signals & street lighting is now complete
- All street lighting columns are now installed within the inner gyratory and continuing around the rest of the project.
- The installation of the storm water attenuation tank, as pictured in our previous newsletter, has been completed.
- Works to the west gyratory NEGAS underpass have continued, to widen this part of the gyratory. This part of the gyratory is scheduled to be open by the end of July, including for pedestrians.
- Temporary traffic lights have been installed on the gyratory to reduce traffic build up on Wellington Road (south). The new traffic lights mean that those travelling onto the gyratory from the New Wortley direction no longer rely on a break in the traffic to join the gyratory, improving safety and journey times.
- Works continue to create footpath widening around the gyratory for improved pedestrian/cyclist facilities.

What happens next?

As previously mentioned, there are major final surfacing works coming up on the Armley Gyratory Project, which marks a significant milestone towards the completion of Phase 1 of construction.

From 8pm Monday 24 July until 5:30am Thursday 24 August, there will be daily night-time partial closures around the Armley Gyratory for these surfacing works. The partial closures are planned to coincide with reduced levels of traffic during the school summer holidays.

These works are complex, and the work areas have been segmented into seven parts, as work progresses clockwise around the gyratory, with a total of 19 phases of activity. This includes excavating the existing carriageway, ironworks, laying binder, tarmac surfacing and associated white lining. Because of the scale of the road surfacing, with different work areas and days, it will need different diversions and local access plans.





Full diversion routes will be in place during this time and local residents will be contacted about how they're affected.

The road will re-open during the daytime with 30mph speed limits and other traffic management measures in place to allow improvements to be carried out safely.

For up-to-date information on the final surfacing works and to view the diversion drawings for each phase of the works, please search Plan Ahead Leeds or visit www.leeds.gov.uk/planahead, visit www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory or follow Connecting Leeds on social media.



Recent progress images (June 2023)





A643 Ingram approach – traffic splinter island and slip road under construction



Newly installed kerbing and crash barriers for protection of existing gantry



Widening of road surface at NEGAS bridge and installation of new ducting for street lighting



The non-motorised user (Pedestrian/Cyclist) widened footpath under construction between Wellington Rd (north) and A643



The non-motorised user (Pedestrian/Cyclist) widened footpath under construction between NEGAS Underpass & Wellington Rd (south)

Social value updates

Armley Gyratory improvements are being delivered by Leeds City Council in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The scheme is a key junction on the A58 (M) Inner Ring Road with approximately 100,000 cars using the roundabout everyday. The project aims to improve the efficiency of the roundabout, creating a safer environment for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians. New landscaping will also aim to improve biodiversity and air pollution in the area.
Balfour Beatty, Leeds City Council and the team of subcontractors are collaborating to maximise social value engagement with residents, businesses, community groups and education establishments.

Leeds City Council · West Yorkshire Combined Authority · SCAPE Civil Engineering · Balfour Beatty

Total Social Value Add: £2.7 million

Local Economy

16 SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) engaged

£1.5 million spent with LOCAL small to medium enterprises (SME's)

£1.1m spent with LOCAL large organisations

worked with **2 social enterprises**

2 apprentices and 2 placement students supported by the project

92 hours volunteered in the local community

£2,210 fundraised for charity

Approx. **2909** car miles saved on the project

106 tonnes saved in emissions not from transport (connecting to the grid, opposed to running a diesel generator)

21,027 tonnes of waste either reused or recycled - equating to 92% of all waste being diverted from landfill

Approximately **1497 students** directly engaged by the project

Almost **7000 days** worked on the project by local people

Supporting the community

Three volunteers from the Armley Gyratory Project (two Balfour Beatty, one Leeds City Council) joined a group of Balfour Beatty volunteers at local charity, Surplus to Purpose.

Surplus to Purpose is an environmental social enterprise who intercept food waste that is destined for landfill. Donated food is usually past its best before date, its packaging has been damaged or it's simply surplus stock from supermarkets and restaurants. Food that is intercepted goes into their community supermarket where people pay a one-off fee to fill a crate. Alternatively, the food is repurposed for schools and community organisations across the North or caters local events.

Our volunteers were put to work in various areas, such as stock taking, accepting deliveries, moving stock, organising food, staffing the supermarket and much more! Thank you to Surplus to Purpose for organising such a valuable opportunity to offer our help to the local community and the environment.



Helping the environment

Continuing from the volunteering outlined in May's newsletter, the Armley Gyratory team returned for two days in June to volunteer again with Roger at Leeds Countryside Rangers.

The team continued laying a limestone gravel path along one of the canal side paths in Gotts Park that gets very muddy and almost inaccessible during the wet winter months. The limestone gravel will help to stabilise the path and minimise the mud. This path in the park is a high footfall area, so it's very important to make it as accessible as possible. Armley once again donated a whacker for one of the days to smooth the gravel path, improving the appearance of the new path but also improving its longevity and the immediate accessibility of the path, as it removed bumps and dips which could be a trip hazard.

The team also completed a litter pick, collecting six full bags of rubbish, and helped for a couple hours to remove weeds from a developing wild meadow, also in the park.

The Armley volunteers totalled 18 hours of volunteering over the two days in June with the Countryside Rangers.







Engaging the Next Generation

Since February 2022, the Armley Gyratory team has visited local schools, primary and secondary, to talk about careers in construction and to help pupils gain confidence and awareness on the number of opportunities available to them. So far on the project, we have directly engaged with approximately 1,497 students in Leeds.

In June, we attended Leeds East Academy to participate in a 'Speed Networking' event, where Year 10 students had the opportunity to ask Balfour Beatty and other local employers about their industries and the different job roles needed.

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 Connecting Leeds Team

