Connecting Leeds
TRANSFORMING TRAVEL

ARMLEY GYRATORY

# 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.

## The story so far

Work commenced on site in April 2022 and the project team have been working towards completing the first phase of highways work, despite challenging ground conditions.

Highways work has focused on widening the carriageway into the inner gyratory to provide new capacity. Other areas of improvement include approaches from A58, Canal Street and the A643 Ingram Distributor.

A key milestone has been achieved earlier than planned, allowing the next phase of construction activities to get underway. On the 3 March, a major traffic switch was achieved with traffic moving onto the new alignment around the south side of the gyratory and created working areas around the outer gyratory.

The structures team have been working on widening the Negas underpass, which will provide additional carriageway and footway capacity on the gyratory.

To date we have completed:

- 2,500 tonnes of carriageway surfacing
- Imported 12,000 tonnes of aggregates, of which 6,000 tonnes has been recycled material
- Installed 450m of drainage
- Installed 2,100m of ducting for street lighting and traffic signals
- Placed seven bridge beams and poured the new bridge deck
- Laid 750m of new kerbs
- 600m$^3$ of structural concrete poured





*January 2022 – Armley Gyratory before construction commenced*



*November 2022 – Gyratory widening under construction*



*February 2023 – Gyratory widening complete to temporary levels in preparation for moving traffic onto the new construction*



*New carriageway construction in centre of gyratory*

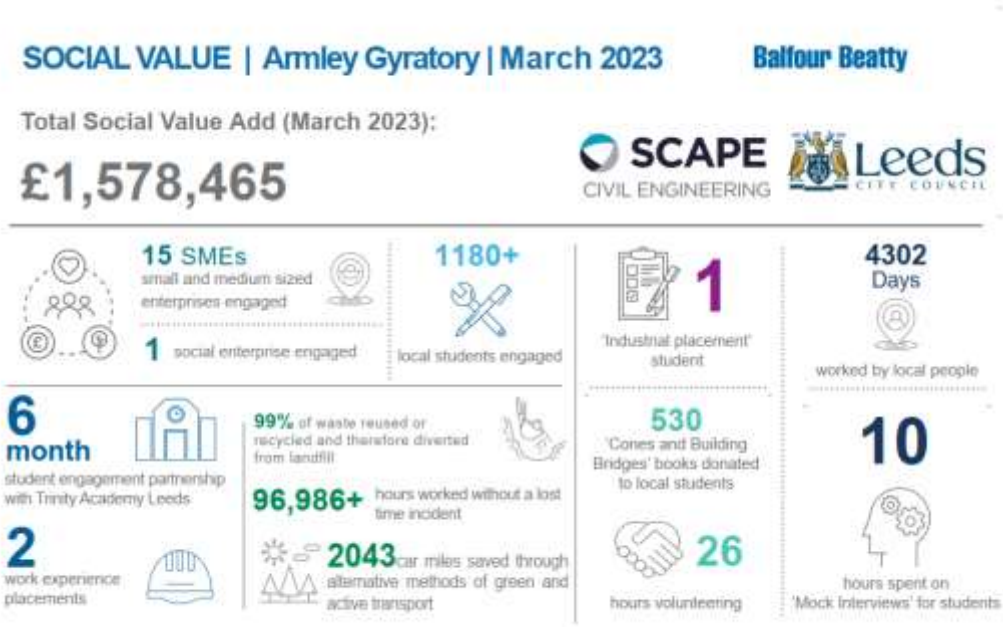


*A58 widening and construction of new maintenance bay*



*March 2023 – Traffic switch, with traffic running on the new carriageway*

# Social value updates




## Helping the environment

Our Armley Gyratory team, including project manager and family, spent the day with other local volunteers, Parks & Countryside Rangers, and local councillors at Brickfield Park in Beeston Hill. The team planted 21 fruit trees and to date a total of 145 trees have been planted through the project.





Our team have also volunteered with the Parks & Countryside Rangers to clear long grass from a meadow in Rothwell Country Park, to maintain the biodiversity in the area.

Without this maintenance, this green space would slowly turn into a woodland, therefore losing the unique ecosystem a meadow offers to insects, small mammals, and invertebrates.

## Growing the relationship

We have continued to support Trinity Academy Leeds in 2022 and 2023. This is our second year supporting the school with their Empower Programme, through which we will have engaged with every student in the school by the summer term.

In November 2022, we embraced the school motto, **'Reach Higher, See Further, Shine Brighter'** by delivering STEM workshops for groups of students. We gave the students an insight into Balfour Beatty and showcased the variety of roles they can one day aspire to. It was a real pleasure to spend the afternoon with the students, many of whom raised their hands to say they would like to be an engineer with us in the future! We look forward seeing them in 10 years' time!






## Sharing the skills

We supported five groups of Year 11 students at Leeds City Academy with important employability skills through mock interviews and an interactive careers fair.

This was a great opportunity to inspire students about the variety of career opportunities and early career pathways into our sector and provide value experience and confidence through mock interviews.



## Supporting young people

In February 2023, we spent another fantastic afternoon with Year 7 students from Trinity Academy, continuing the Empower Programme.

We introduced lots of young minds to the various roles and opportunities available in the construction industry. Students were asked to form construction companies, design a bridge, and finally recreate their designs out of Lego. Just look at the concentration on those faces!





## Inspiring the next generation



We're excited to have received a further 3,000 'Cones and Building Bridges' children's books. When these are distributed this will take the grand total to 8,000 Cones books donated to children across Yorkshire!

These books, based on our Regent Street Flyover and East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR) projects, will be used as part of our school engagement activities. We're so excited to go into schools and inspire future generations of construction professionals across Leeds!

# What happens next?

- Continue highways improvements around the outer gyratory with construction of new kerb lines and traffic islands.
- Continue ducting for new traffic signals throughout the scheme.
- Continue widening of footpaths around the outer gyratory
- Completion of the new drainage network and attenuation tank
- Completion of Negas underpass widening
- Preparation for resurfacing of carriageway

# 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

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