

REACHOUT

Keeping you onboard with our progress

issue
04

August 2015



Welcome to the **Pennine Reach newsletter**

www.blackburn.gov.uk
www.lancashire.gov.uk/penninereach



PENNINEREACH

RAPID BUS TRANSPORT THROUGH **PENNINE LANCASHIRE**

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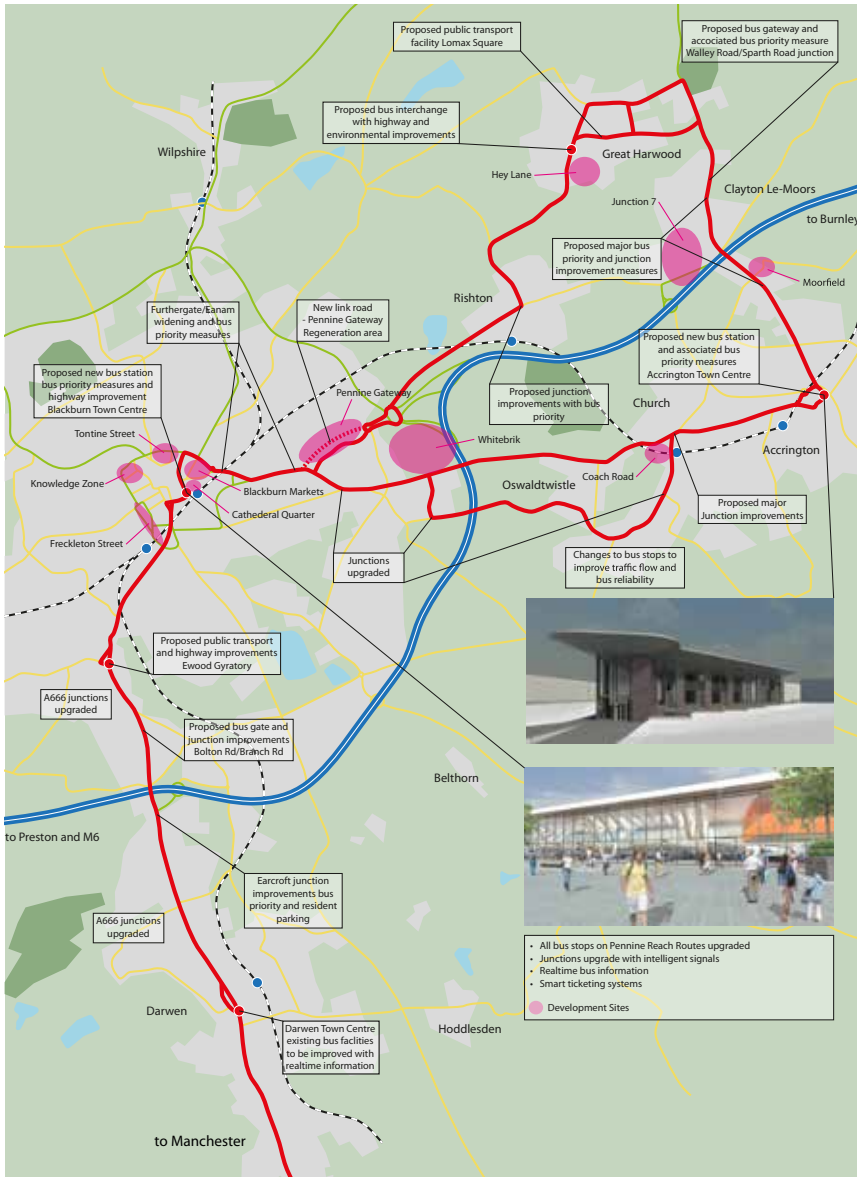
2.14 Oswaldtwistle, Stanhill,
West End and Knuzden

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1. Benefits of Pennine Reach

Pennine Reach is a £40m major transport scheme which will see significant investment in our highways and public transport infrastructure between Accrington, Blackburn and Darwen. The project is jointly funded by the Department for Transport, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.



- All bus stops on Pennine Reach Routes upgraded
- Junctions upgrade with intelligent signals
- Realtime bus information
- Smart ticketing systems
- Development Sites





The aims of the project are to:

- Support the regeneration of Pennine Lancashire's towns.
- Reduce congestion on the road network.
- Reduce bus journey times and improve the reliability of bus services.
- Improve public transport provision to key strategic employment sites.

Through a mix of highway improvements, new technology and high quality buses operating along improved routes with greater ticketing choices, Pennine Reach is designed to make public transport more attractive and a real alternative to the private car.

Pennine Reach sees the largest single transport investment in the area since the extension of the M65 Motorway. The project will deliver benefits for local companies involved in the scheme's construction and in the future by opening up areas of land for redevelopment and investment which will help to transform Pennine Lancashire.

Pennine Reach will help to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors in Blackburn with Darwen and Hyndburn by making it easier for people to:

- Commute to work.
- Travel to schools and colleges.
- Access health, leisure and retail facilities.
- Get quickly and easily to and from our town centres.



2. Blackburn with Darwen Programme Updates

Through a mix of highway improvements, new technology and high quality buses operating along improved routes with greater ticketing choices, Pennine Reach is designed to make public transport more attractive and a real alternative to the private car.

Detailed plans for Pennine Reach can be found on the Council's web pages at:

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Pennine-Reach.aspx>

For real time updates on Pennine Reach works please visit the following weblink:

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Roadworks.aspx>



PENNINEREACH

RAPID BUS TRANSPORT THROUGH PENNINE LANCASHIRE

The completion contractor for Blackburn's new bus station is Preston based Eric Wright Construction Limited who are constructing the Town's Cathedral Quarter project.

2.1 BLACKBURN BUS STATION

New contractor appointed for bus station

Eric Wright Construction Ltd have been appointed as the new main contractor for Blackburn Bus Station. Councillor Phil Riley, Executive Member for Regeneration at Blackburn with Darwen Council, said: "I am delighted that Eric Wright have now been appointed to complete the bus station development. They have now set up on site and are working closely with their supply chain and the designers, Capita. I am bitterly disappointed but as a result of the large amount of investigative work carried out by new contractor, it has become clear that the amount of remedial work that is needed to prepare the site, this important project will not be completed before Christmas. I think it would be wrong to put another date for its completion in view of the troubled history of this scheme but I am optimistic it will be open for and operating in early 2016."



A Capita spokesperson said: "We are pleased that Eric Wright has been appointed as the new contractor for the bus station. We look forward to working with them as they build our design for a first class bus station for the people of Blackburn."

Eric Wright have now set up the site compound and site preparation works have been completed. Construction works have now re-commenced.



2.2 HOLLINS GROVE STREET JUNCTION

Work at Hollins Grove Street have been completed. New traffic lights and improved pedestrian facilities have been installed.

DARWEN TO EWOOD

The Council will no longer be progressing the Hollins Road car park element of the project. Open space in this area will be maintained.

Johnsons Baths

Work on the resurfacing of the road adjacent to the baths was completed in January 2015.





2.3 EARCROFT JUNCTION

Highway works have started at Earcroft as part of Pennine Reach. Utilities diversion works are being carried out on footpaths next to Darwen Vale. The kerb build outs have also be removed at the junction of Hector Road and Redvers Road.

Traffic will be down to a single lane in parts on the A666 near the junction with the M65 with temporary traffic lights in operation when necessary.

Major works to be carried out will include:

- Future provision for bus priority on the Blackburn approach to the Earcroft junction, from Birch Hall Avenue to Moss Fold Road.
- The retention of the mini roundabout at the Birch Hall Avenue junction with the A666.
- A new zebra crossing located to the North of Moss Fold Road. This is a change to the originally proposed location and has been amended to create more parking off-peak in the bus priority lane and to aid crossing the A666 with an additional pedestrian refuge. Plans are available at: www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Pennine-Reach.aspx
- Enhanced traffic signals to provide bus priority at the Earcroft junction.
- Enhanced cycling facilities at Earcroft junction.

Work is due to be completed in the Autumn.



2.4 OAKDALE JUNCTION

The works include improved traffic signal equipment to provide bus priority at the Oakdale junction. This work will be undertaken after the works to the Earcroft junction.





2.5 BRANCH ROAD JUNCTION

Work on the Branch Road junction is now substantially complete with additional sensors for bus detection now installed. The new junction includes improved pedestrian access and enhanced cycling facilities and is working well. Additional protection of the footway through extended railings / bollards is being looked at following requests from the public. Bus priority will be introduced later in the Summer.

CRAVENS BROW CAR PARK

The Council has not reached an agreement over the purchase of land at Cravens Brow, and consequently the length of bus lane at Cravens Brow is proposed to be reduced in length, ending at 582 Bolton Road.

JACK WALKER WAY A666

Following positive feedback from residents to the temporary arrangements on the A666 in this area, the Council decided to consult on what residents wanted to see in the area – a new roundabout or the retention of the traffic lights. Hundreds of comments have been submitted and are now being evaluated. A final decision will be announced shortly. There is unlikely to be any construction works until later in the year.





2.6 EWOOD GYRATORY

Opening of new Ewood link road

A leaflet detailing the changes has been produced and is being distributed to households and businesses close to Ewood and is also available at: www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Pennine-Reach.aspx

Part of the new link road at Ewood opened on Monday, June 22. The Blackburn-bound side of the new carriageway is now open to traffic heading along Bolton Road towards the Old Infirmary and Blackburn Town Centre.

This will allow work to start on the other side of the link road and the construction of a new roundabout at the bottom of Livesey Branch Road at the junction of Bolton Road. The new road will be clearly signposted for motorists and pedestrians.

2.6 EWOOD GYRATORY

Opening of new Ewood link road



- The final junction layout is planned to open in October with the introduction of the new bus priority section to Bolton Road from the junction with Aqueduct Road to Calico Street. Access to motorists will be restricted beyond this point, with buses having priority for this part of Bolton Road.
- In addition to the new priority bus lane on Bolton Road, the new roundabout outside McDonald's will be fully open to motorists travelling to and from Blackburn, Darwen and Feniscowles.
- Two new bus stops (one in each direction) will be installed on Bolton Road, between Calico Street and Kidder Street to enhance the new bus only area.
- A new bus stop with full shelter on Livesey Branch Road (for services to Chorley) opposite Orchard Street will replace the McDonald's stop at the bottom of Livesey Branch Road.
- There will be no change to the current parking arrangements on Bolton Road. Access to Bolton Road will be restricted to buses and local traffic only who wish to access existing parking or local businesses.
- There will be no change to the current parking arrangements on Nuttall Street. Access via Bolton Road will be restricted to local traffic only who wish to access existing parking or local businesses. Please refer to the key and map for access routes.
- A public consultation and information exercise will take place on 18th and 19th September 2015 at Ewood Park in relation to the scheme and the final arrangements at Fernhurst Street / Livesey Branch Road and Catterall Street / Albion Street.

The works are due to be completed in the Autumn.



2.7 FURTHERGATE

Work is continuing at Furthergate as part of the scheme. The construction of the new link road is well underway too. Demolition of the Hole House Mill site is now complete and this element of Pennine Reach will improve access to Blackburn with Darwen and will open up new regeneration opportunities next to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

Key Improvements along this part of the route include:

- Bus priority in both directions between Copy Nook and Burnley Road. Road widening on the south side of the existing carriageway. Separate signals for buses on the Blackburn approach to the Copy Nook / Higher Eanam junction with retained parking for businesses in this area.

- Major improvements to provide a new junction adjacent to Burnley Close to aid traffic flow to M65 Junction 6. Enhanced traffic signal equipment to provide bus priority at the new Burnley Road junction.
- Gorse Street is now re-opened following the completion of utilities diversion works. The main contractor has encountered significant problems with the job with an unusually large amount of uncharted electrical cables, gas and water mains which have significantly slowed the project down. Contaminated land has also caused problems in the Copy Nook / Higher Audley area. This has lengthened the amount of time Higher Audley Street has been closed. We are endeavouring to open this as soon as possible for the benefit of highway users and businesses in the area.

2. Hyndburn Programme Updates

Improvements carried out in Hyndburn will make travel faster and easier throughout the area. For full details of the proposals please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk and search for 'Pennine Reach'.

Major works at Rishton have recently been completed with the new road layout at the Church Gateway also complete. The only remaining element at Church Gateway is the completion of the signal controlled pedestrian crossings.

The development of the new bus station in Accrington is on course for completion at the end of April 2016 with the facility expected to open a month later to allow for staff training.

The next major highway works to be undertaken are at King Street, Accrington (September 2015) and Sparth Road, Clayton-Le-Moors (January 2016).

Works at King Street start on Monday 28th September 2015 and are expected to last for 9 weeks. These works include the upgrading of traffic signals at the King Street/Blackburn Road junction and public realm improvements in the area surrounding the new bus station. Works around the bus station site are expected to continue intermittently until the bus station is complete.

More details of these schemes are provided in the sections listed below:

Accrington Bus Station – Section 2.8

Rishton – Section 2.10

Clayton-Le-Moors – Section 2.11

Church – Section 2.13





2.8 ACCRINGTON BUS STATION

A new bus station in Accrington is one of the major elements of the Pennine Reach scheme in the Hyndburn area. The new station, which will be located on the site of the former Crawshaw Street car park between Union Street and Blackburn road, will replace the existing sub-standard facility on Peel Street.



The new bus station will be manned during operational hours and will also be covered by a CCTV system.

Other features of the bus station include 11 bus bays, electronic passenger display screens, shop mobility facilities, a manned travel desk and public toilets including a disabled access toilet, baby changing facilities and changing places.



2.8 ACCRINGTON BUS STATION (CONT):

Works on the new bus station started on Monday 2nd February with initial works including the demolition of redundant buildings and the clearing of unneeded street furniture. Service diversions, reduced level digs and the installation of the new drainage system have all been completed.

Following the completion of these works, the construction of the retaining walls at the edges of the site commenced, some of which are now nearing completion. The erection of the steelwork required for the station building started on Monday 10th August and was completed on Friday 28th August with the frame of the building now in place.

The latest updates on the progress of works can be found on the Pennine Reach website which can be accessed at www.lancashire.gov.uk and then searching for Pennine Reach.

More photos are available on the Lancashire County Council Flickr page, www.flickr.com/photos/lancashirecc/ which has an album dedicated to the Accrington Bus Station.



Site Overview from Railway Bridge August 2015

Accrington Bus Station August 2015



2.9 GREAT HARWOOD

1. Park Road and Harwood Lane

Completed December 2013

Minor road widening works on Park Road to improve parking facilities, general traffic flow and bus movements are now complete. The bus stops on Park Road have also been improved.

Pictured left is one of the upgraded bus stops on Park Road

2. Queen Street, Lomax Square

The bus stops on Queen Street near to the Tesco Superstore are due to be upgraded as part of the wider programme to improve bus stops throughout the Pennine Reach route.



Towngate before and after the completion of the Phase 1 Public Realm Improvement works.

2.9 GREAT HARWOOD (CONT)

3. Towngate

Works to regenerate and improve the visual appearance and use of the Towngate area commenced in April 2014 and are now complete. The highways works at the site is now complete with only one bus shelter remaining to be installed.

- A new zebra crossing on Blackburn Road is now in operation.
- A lay by has been introduced on Blackburn Road, adjacent to the Town Hall square.
- The shelter on Commercial Road has been upgraded.
- The old shelter on Holgate Street has been removed as planned.
- The lay by and shelter on Blackburn Road adjacent to the Holgate Street car park has now been completed.



The only remaining element left to be completed at Great Harwood Towngate is the installation of the new heritage shelter on the town square. This shelter is being produced and installed by a specialist provider. The date for the installation of this shelter is currently being awaited.



2.10 RISHTON

The main road works at the junction are now complete, including minor road widening to improve the left turn from Harwood Road to High Street, a give way marking on the left turn and resurfacing of the road at the junction.

Pedestrian crossing and cycle facilities at the junction have been improved.

The bus stops near to the junction have also been upgraded with the westbound shelter relocated further away from the junction in order to help traffic flow.



2.11 CLAYTON LE MOORS

1. Whalley Road, Hare & Hounds Junction and proposed bus lane

The Phase 1

Preliminary works at the Hare & Hounds junction were completed in November 2014, including the installation of new traffic signals, resurfacing of the highway and footway and kerbing works.

The Phase 2

Works are planned to start in Spring 2016

The remaining works include the introduction of a new dedicated bus lane running northbound along Whalley Road towards the junction, the relocation of the existing southbound bus stop and the ongoing introduction of car parking spaces in the area to replace current on street parking on Whalley Road (see section 2.11.3).

The proposed works at the Hare & Hounds junction are listed on the following page.



North of the junction

- The right turn lane on Whalley Road on the approach to the Hare and Hounds junction will be extended.
- Duke Street will be made one-way out, left turn only.
- The current one way flow on Earl Street will remain.
- There will be improvements to the junction of King Street and Whalley Road.
- There will be improvements to the junction of Mount Street and Burnley Road.
- The existing southbound bus stop (towards Accrington) will be relocated to the other side of Duke Street.
- Some on street parking will be removed.
- There will be improvements to car park areas on Canal Street behind the shops, to mitigate for any loss of on-street parking (see section 2.11.3).

South of the junction

- There will be a dedicated bus lane on Whalley Road on the approach to the Hare and Hound junction, northbound. Before the bus lane can be introduced, the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) must be advertised and publically consulted upon. This has not been scheduled yet but is expected to be undertaken in late 2015.
- On Street parking will not be permitted along the length of the bus lane on both sides of Whalley Road.
 - There will be new, alternative (replacement) parking areas created behind the houses, on the site of the former St James' church and proposals are being developed for providing resident parking for behind terraced houses on Frank Street
 - The junction of Melbourne Street and Whalley Road will be made one way 'out' only.
 - The current one way flow on Clayton Street will remain.

2.11 CLAYTON LE MOORS (CONT)

2. Whalley Road/ Sparth Road junction

Planned start - **Early 2016**

Expected duration - 12 weeks



The main element of this scheme is the introduction of a bus lane on Whalley Road in a southbound direction between Lynwood Avenue and Sparth Road. In addition, there will be a bus gate at the junction of Whalley Road and Sparth Road to allow buses to have priority at the junction.

Before the bus lane can be installed the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) needs to be advertised and publically consulted upon. The consultation period will start in October 2015 for a 4 week period. Following the consultation period a decision will then be made, based on the response to the consultation, before works can commence.

The introduction of the bus lane would remove on street parking on both sides of Whalley Road along the length of the bus lane. As a result alternative car parking will be introduced (see section 2.11.3).

Other improvements that will be made to the junction include:

- The provision of cycle priority and pedestrian crossing facilities.
- Relocation of the northbound bus stop (towards Great Harwood) on Whalley Road further from the junction.
- Creation of drop off bays to cater for the nursery on Whalley Road.
- Improvements will also be made to the highway in the immediate surrounding area:
 - The introduction of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Whalley Road between Sparth Road and Clayton Hall Drive.
 - Making Lancaster Drive 'out' left turn only and Milton Street 'out' only.
 - Introduction of a right turning bay on Whalley Road for northbound vehicles turning into Devonshire Drive.



2.11 CLAYTON LE MOORS (CONT)

3. Car Parking

New parking areas are being created to mitigate for any loss to on street parking once the bus lanes are introduced. These parking areas will be completed prior to the introduction of bus lanes.

The Hare and Hounds Junction

There are 3 parking areas in the vicinity of the junction. The first, on Clayton Street at the site of the old St James' church, has been completed and will be opened for use before the bus lane becomes operational.

The second is the Canal Street car parking area which has been improved to accommodate more spaces. Construction of this area has now been completed.

The third area under consideration is for residents parking behind the terraced houses on Whalley Road to the south of the junction. Plans are currently being developed

Whalley Road/ Sparth Road Junction

2 car parking areas have been introduced near to the junction. These are

- Warwick Avenue – existing parking bays improved and extended (pictured)
- Clayton Hall Drive – near to the entrance of Wilson Playing Fields.

The areas provide parking for recreational visitors to the park/playing fields to reduce the potential for vehicles parking on local side streets. Both are now available for use.



2.12 ACCRINGTON

1. Accrington Town Centre

The new bus station in Accrington is in a different location to the existing one on Peel Street and so changes will be required to the routes that bus services take through the town centre. The bus routing strategy is currently being worked on and discussions with bus operators are being undertaken. Suggested routes have been established for consideration and consultation with the bus operators.

Every effort is being taken to ensure that services are able to operate through the town centre effectively. Where possible bus priority measures will be introduced at key signal junctions on bus routes to help move buses through the town centre as quickly as possible.

The bus stops in the town centre are also being reviewed to determine the most appropriate locations.

2. Blackburn Road, Accrington – Between Willows Lane & Church Gateway

The resurfacing of Blackburn Road between Willows Lane and Church Gateway has been completed.

As part of these works improvements will be made to bus stops along Blackburn Road, replacing old shelters with new and rationalising the number of stops. Works are currently ongoing and will be progressing from stop to stop.



Church Gateway before work started

2.13 CHURCH GATEWAY

Started - End of January 2015

The new signal controlled pedestrian crossings are still to be completed but this work will only cause very minimal disruption to traffic flow.

Pictures of the completed junction are on the following page.



Church Gateway, July 2015

After works completed.



2.14 OSWALDTWISTLE, STANHILL, WEST END AND KNUZDEN

There are no major highways works that are being undertaken in these areas as part of the Pennine Reach scheme. There are however works to improve the bus stops along the Pennine Reach route in these areas.

There are some areas where bus stops are being relocated to alternative, nearby, locations to help improve general traffic flow. Additionally there are some stops which have been programmed to be removed completely. This is only being done where passenger numbers using these stops are relatively low and alternative stops are located nearby.

The following stops have been identified for removal:

- Market Street, outside Oswaldtwistle Railway Station, towards Stanhill, West End and Knuzden.
- Market Street, outside Oswaldtwistle Railway Station, towards Accrington.
- Union Road, corner of Rhyddings Street, towards Stanhill, West End and Knuzden.
- Union Road, corner of Spring Street (opposite Rhyddings Street), towards Church and Accrington.
- Union Road, opposite Roe Greave Road, towards Church and Accrington.





3. Bus Stops

Pennine Reach sees the largest single transport investment in the area since the building of the M65 Motorway, delivered in partnership with our local bus operators:

Transdev Lancashire United
Darwen Coach Services
Pilkington Bus
M&M Coaches
Rosso
Stagecoach
Moving People
Rigbys Coaches
Holmeswood Coaches
Coach Hire Bookings
National Express

A total of approximately 200 bus stops will be improved with over half on the Pennine Reach route now complete.



BUS STOPS

There will be improvements to all bus stop waiting areas, bring the route to a “Quality Bus Corridor standard”. A total of 200 bus stops will be improved.

There will also be raised kerb levels to improve access levels to low floor buses for passengers and the paving will be laid out to show where the bus stop areas are.

There will also be clear bus stop markings on the roads along the route.

Upgrading of stops within Blackburn with Darwen is now at an advanced stage with only a small number remaining



4. Technology

From digital displays in bus stations to dynamically changing traffic lights, the Pennine Reach scheme will feature the latest technology to help you plan and enjoy your journey.

As a minimum we will be providing the following in the bus station:

- Journey planning units.
- Display screens above each of the departure gates.
- Large timetable display boards.



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