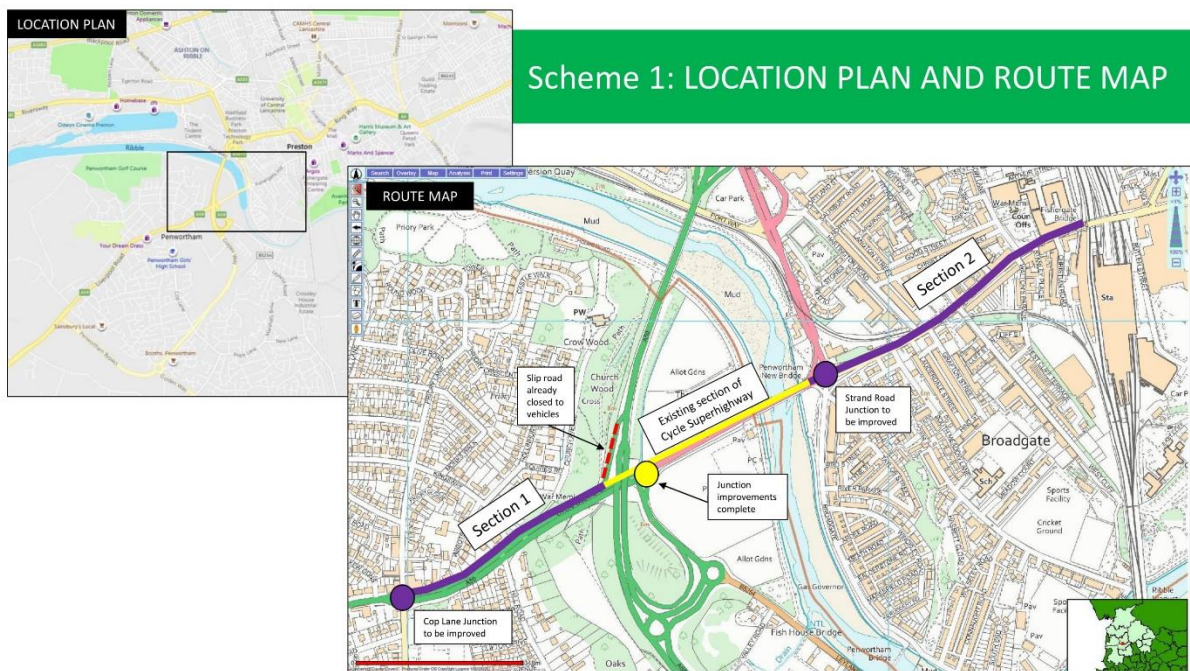


Penwortham to Preston Cycle Superhighway



Following on from the success of the Liverpool Road pop-up cycle lanes, the Penwortham to Preston Cycle Superhighway scheme has been selected as a suitable intervention for delivery as part of the DfT Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2).

The coronavirus pandemic brought into sharp focus an urgent need to quickly change the way we live and move around. Through the Emergency Active Travel Fund, the UK Government aims to make it safer for people to walk, cycle or wheel for essential trips and exercise that's why we've seen more active travel interventions appear in our cities and towns.

The scheme is proposed to be delivered as a permanent intervention located along a key strategic corridor south-west of Preston that links the town of Penwortham in South Ribble with Preston City centre, Preston main line railway station and the University of Central Lancashire (please see Scheme 1 – Location Plan and Route Map).

Data captured through our monitoring of the pop-up cycle lanes showed the Liverpool Road intervention to be well used by cyclist. This aligns with finding from the DfT's National Propensity to Cycle Tool (NPCT) project which shows a high latent demand for cycling along this route. The route, identified in the Central Lancashire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), is also a popular walking and cycling route for journeys into the City Centre.

Completion of the Penwortham Bypass in December 2019 – delivered as part of the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal – has resulted in a significant reduction in vehicular traffic through Penwortham and along Liverpool Road (formerly A59).

This presents a real opportunity to deliver a step change in provision for pedestrians and cyclists along this desire line corridor connecting residents with local facilities, education sites and the city centre, helping to realise significant potential to encourage increased walking and cycling journeys along this route. Increased active travel journeys can not only reduce the number of car on our roads, reducing congestion and improving air quality, but also provides health and wellbeing benefits.

In combination with junction improvement works to support completion of the bypass, a section of kerb segregated bi-directional cycle superhighway was installed on Liverpool Road between the junctions with Leyland Road and Strand Road in readiness for further cycling and walking improvements along the corridor.

The northbound Golden Way slip road between Liverpool Road and Guild Way was also closed to vehicles removing a significant obstacle to active travel created by vehicle conflict, and further supporting additional improvements.

Once complete the proposed scheme will provide a direct and coherent route between Penwortham and Preston, safe for all levels of ability.

Engagement and consultation will be carefully planned to ensure the proposed cycle superhighway meets the needs of all road users and will start in early in 2021.

