

Cow Lane Bridge

Scheme Update



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Scheme Overview

- Highway improvement scheme between Portman Road and Cardiff Road
- Being conducted by Network Rail as part of a wider project



Scheme Objectives

- Creating a bridge accommodating 2 traffic lanes and removing the requirement for traffic signal control
- Creating a passage without a height restriction – suitable for HGVs and buses
- Providing safe pedestrian and cycle facilities



Scheme Background

- Intended to form part of Network Rail's main station upgrade works
- Delayed due to CPO process
- Further delays due to increasing costs of the scheme
- Network Rail re-procurement and appointment of contactor
- Works commence



Works Requirements

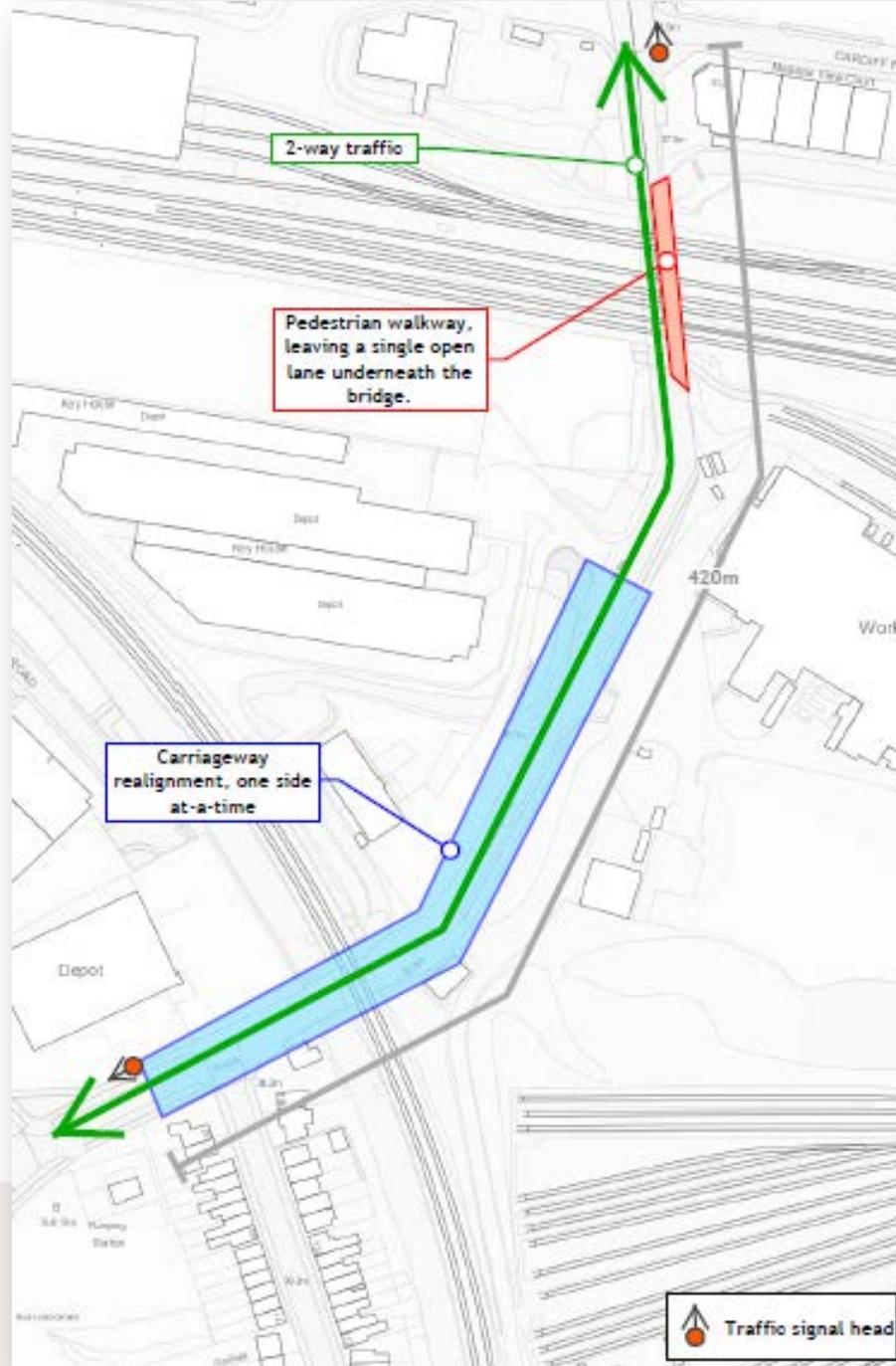
- Construct new carriageway and realign existing
- Substantial drainage works
- Resurfacing
- Requirement for road to remain open
- Maintaining safety for workforce and public
- Managing traffic impact across network



Traffic Management Design

- Initial proposal:
 - 2-way traffic signals, spanning the total 420m works site
 - Safestore & GWR site egress requirement to merge with traffic
 - Required until early Summer 2018



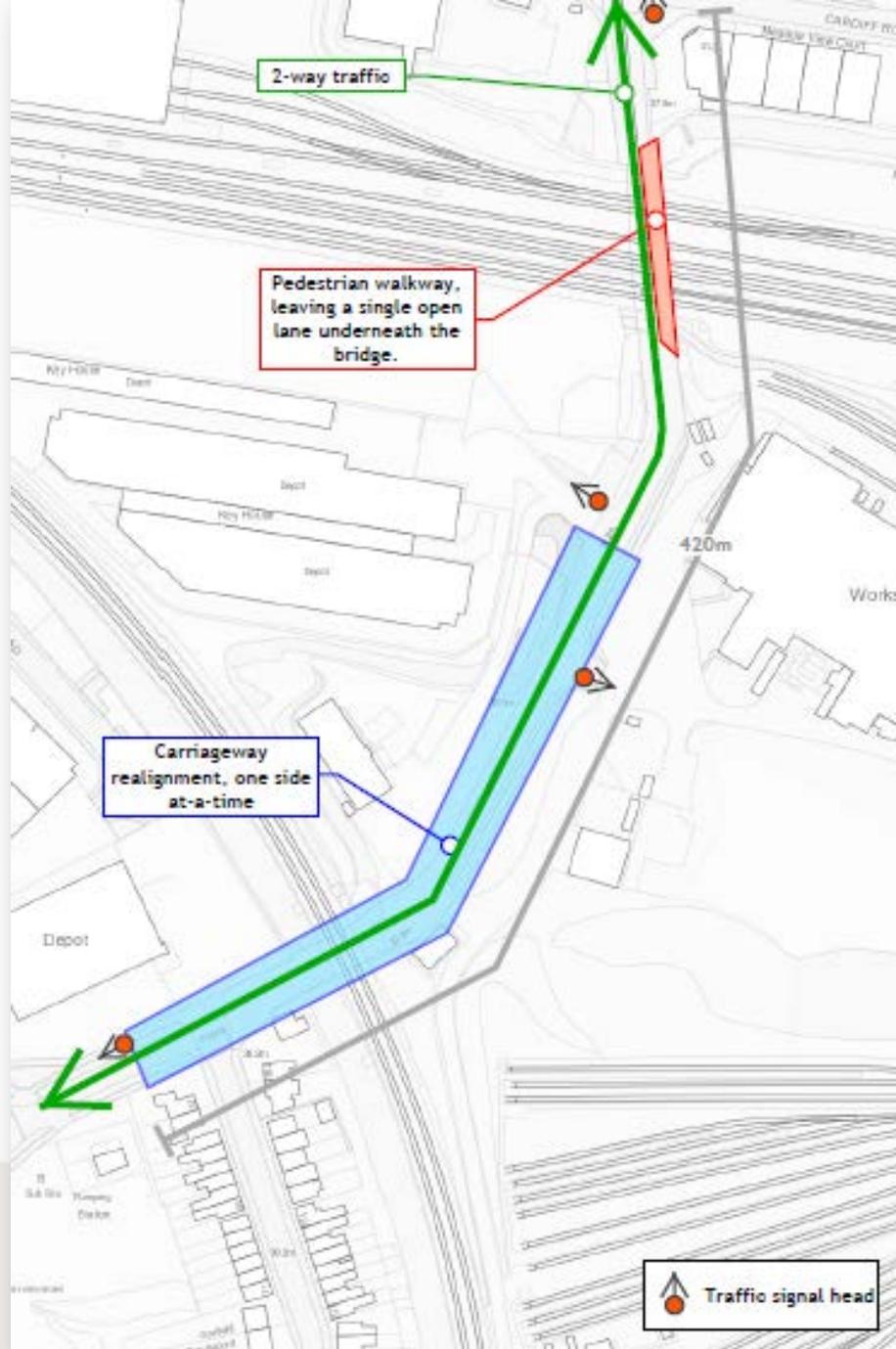


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- Safety concerns for Safestore & GWR site egress.
- Concerns about delays on the wider network
- Revised proposal:
 - 4-way traffic signals, spanning the total 420m works site and including Safestore & GWR site egress





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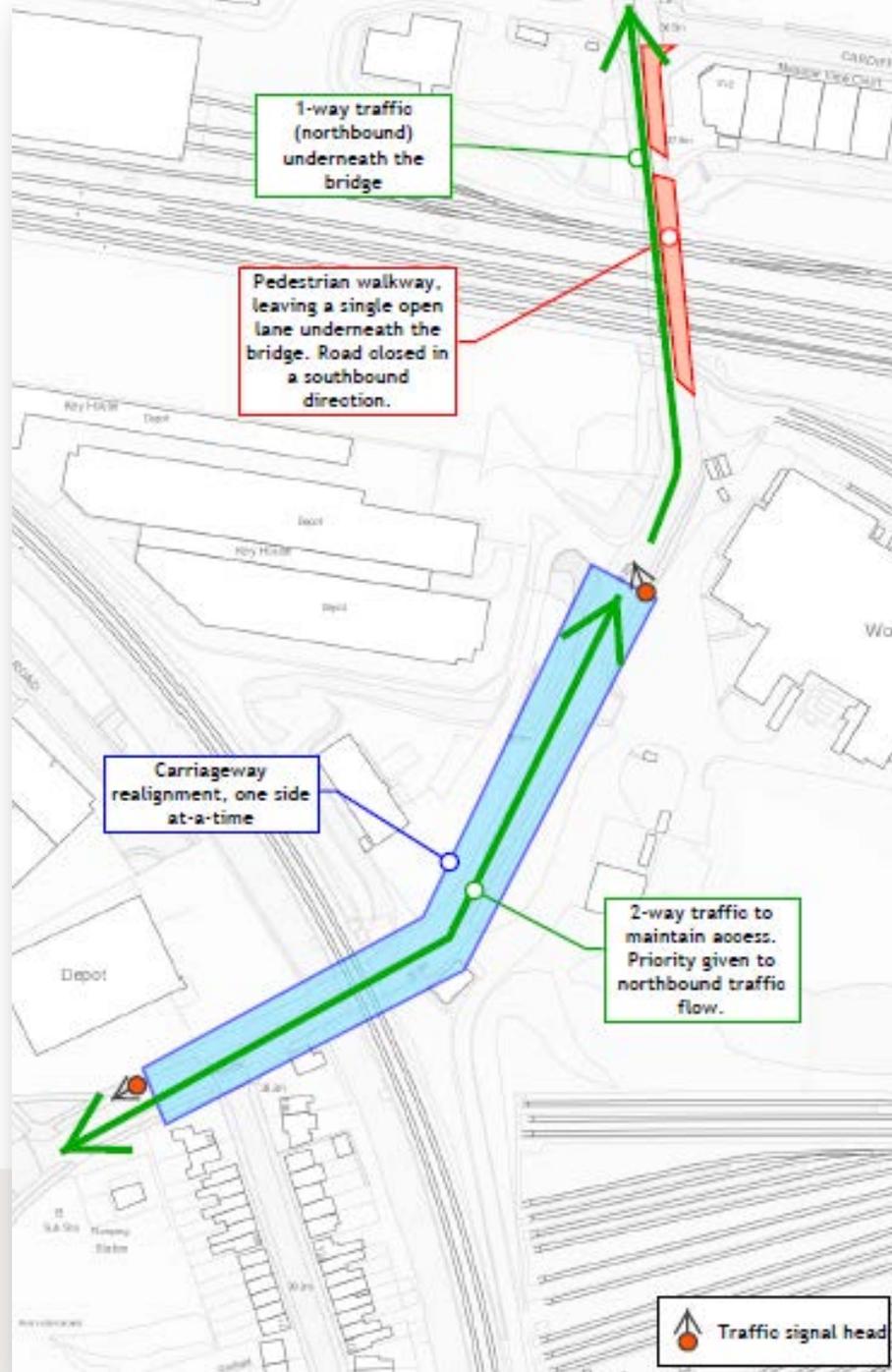
- Overcomes safety concerns for Safestore and GWR site
- Anticipated 5 minute cycle time for the traffic signals
- Concerns regarding significant impact to Reading's road network that these delays would cause
- Considered a one-way restriction



Considerations For One-Way Restriction

- Direction of travel in the context of:
 - Cow Lane bridge still height-restricted
 - The requirement to maintain access to/from Safestore & GWR site
 - Location opportunities for clear advance warning and diversion signing
 - The suitability of diversion route





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- Maintains traffic flow
- Facilitates safe access to/from Safestore and GWR site
- Facilitates safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists
- Provides clear opportunities for advance signing and diversion on the classified road network



Current Site Layout



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Impact to Date

- Northbound traffic flow has been good
- Festive period has caused abnormal traffic conditions
- Increasing awareness by motorists
- Number of vehicles reportedly willingly disobeying the southbound 'no entry'





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Looking Forward

- Continued monitoring of the works and consider opportunities to reduce site length
- Works to prepare the Cardiff Road junction for realignment
- 'Tying-in' of the new road alignment
- Switch to the new road alignment
- Resurfacing

