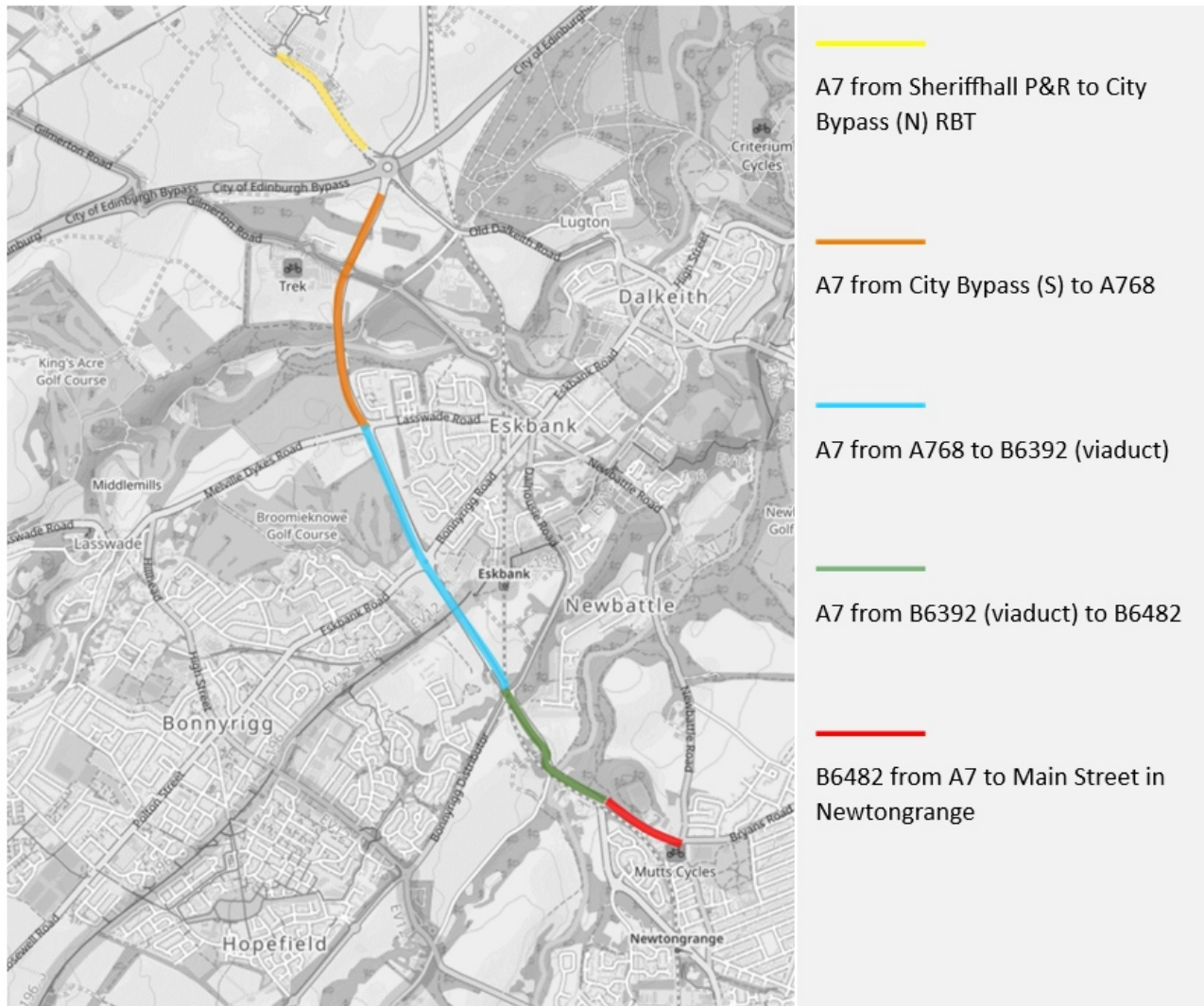


# A7 Sustainable Transport Study - Response Required by 31st July

## Background



This project aims to develop active travel improvements, including public transport accessibility, on and across the A7 corridor between the Sheriffhall Park and Ride site and the B6482 junction, and the section of the B6482 from the A7 junction to the junction with Main Street in Newtongrange. We have broken the corridor up into five sub-sections, as highlighted below.

In line with national guidance, Midlothian Council is committed to improving active travel routes and connections, with the aim to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle for their everyday journeys. This study aims to contribute towards the target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 in Midlothian and Transport Scotland’s ambition to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030.

The project is funded through Places for Everyone (Pfe), an active travel infrastructure programme backed by the Scottish Government and administered by Sustrans, and is currently at Stages 0-2 (concept design). The Council have commissioned Stantec to carry out this study.

To help support sustainable growth along the corridor it is important to enable and encourage safer, more direct, more inclusive and more comfortable active travel journeys. This will contribute towards a shift in transport mode used for everyday journeys.

The study will include an evaluation and feasibility of possible options, technical surveys, public engagement, and the development of concept designs.

The following objectives have been developed to inform the progression of the study:

- Increase the number of people walking, wheeling and cycling on and across the corridor to adjoining communities at all times of the day and at all times of the year.
- Improve walking, wheeling and cycling access to public transport services.
- Enhance the priority for the most sustainable transport modes, including walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport.
  - Support future sustainable land use development adjacent to the study corridor by achieving the highest possible level of service for pedestrians and cyclists.

As part of the engagement programme, we are approaching a number of stakeholders to ensure we reach informed decisions for the project. This is just the beginning of the wider engagement programme that will be conducted in three stages:

- Initial consultation to establish existing issues and opportunities for improvements (**We are currently at this stage**).
- Further stakeholder engagement around initial concepts. (Planned for Autumn 2024).
- Public consultation to validate proposed concept designs. (Planned for Winter 2024/25).

## Questions

To help us identify the right options for the project, we would like to invite you to answer 3 questions relating to the project area. *Please submit one, single, collated response to these questions from yourself or the organisation which you represent.* If multiple responses are received from one organisation, we will only be able to review the first response we receive.

- Are there any issues or challenges that affect your active travel movements (walk, wheel and cycle) either moving along or across the A7?
- Can you think of any specific physical measures or changes that can be introduced along or across the A7 which would encourage more individuals to walk, wheel and cycle for their everyday journeys?
- Are there any other points in relation to the study area or more generally which you consider important for the project team to be aware of?

**The deadline for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2024. We trust this provides sufficient time, if applicable, to collate a single response from all members of your organisation. Please advise us as early as possible if you have concerns about the identified deadline.**

The feedback received will inform the development of the concept designs. This is your opportunity to let us know what the main issues are for yourself and members of your organisation, taking into account the needs of the widest possible range of potential users.

We look forward to working with you to develop active travel improvements for the project area. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

**All the best,**

**The A7 Sustainable Transport Study Project Team  
on behalf of Midlothian Council**