

Meadows to George Street Consultation Response

Q1a To what extent do you support/oppose the aim of improving conditions for people walking on the streets within the Meadows to George Street project (Hanover Street, the Mound, Bank Street, George IV Bridge, Forrest Road, Bristo Place, Teviot Place)?

Strongly support

Q1b Could you briefly explain your view?

SEStran strongly support the improvement of infrastructure and improved recognition of the needs of pedestrians throughout the transport network as laid out in the Regional Transport Strategy Refresh 2015.

Q2 To what extent do you support/oppose the aim of improving conditions for people cycling along the Meadows to George Street corridor (Hanover Street, the Mound, Bank Street, George IV Bridge, Forrest Road, Bristo Place, Teviot Place)?

Strongly support

Q2a Could you briefly explain your view?

SEStran strongly support the improvement of infrastructure and improved recognition of the needs of pedestrians and cyclists throughout the transport network as laid out in the Regional Transport Strategy Refresh 2015. This is an important corridor of movement North-South and vice versa, where there is existing segregated infrastructure in the Meadows making important onward connections.

Whilst recognising the improvements for walking and cycling it must be noted that users of public transport will benefit from any reallocation of road space to improve journey times and reduce congestion.

Q3a To what extent do you support/oppose the proposed plan of transforming the streets into places for people and restricting general traffic on certain streets?

Strongly support

Q3b Could you briefly explain your view?

The Regional Transport Strategy Objectives are to support growth and improvements in Economy, Accessibility, Environment, and Health and Safety. The transforming of streets relative to the Scottish Government's Designing Streets Guidance is necessary to see these objectives met. SEStran fully supports the use of sustainable travel whilst ensuring the flow of freight, through the reduction of congestion created by general motor traffic.

Q4a To what extent do you support/oppose the proposals for Forrest Road

Support

Q4b Could you briefly explain your view?

The proposals are a dramatic improvement to the environment that currently exists on Forrest Road, and a better link between the Meadows and onto Forrest Road is required. There are a number of factors that need to be complicit to reach a successful solution.

Loading and Access need to be maintained whilst also encouraging residents and business along this road and Forest Hill to consider appropriate timing periods for this access to occur. SEStran would encourage

the trialling of sustainable logistics solutions within this area to reduce the need for vehicles that may be limited by time restrictions.

<https://northsearegion.eu/surflogh/>

The existing layout of Potterrow with two road lanes in each direction would need to be appropriately re-engineered to match the traffic directions created through this project, taking cognisance of the wider University of Edinburgh Campus Masterplan in this area.

The pedestrianisation of Forrest Road will create a welcoming environment for those on foot passing through the area along with those making use of businesses along the road. However, the route still exists as a movement corridor for those on bike and improvements should not seek to create an additional barrier to this movement by introducing conflict between vulnerable users.

Q5a To what extent do you support/oppose the proposals on Candlemaker Row, which aim to increase pedestrian priority whilst retaining the number 2 bus service? (See website for more details of the limited vehicle access: www.meadowstogeorgestreet.info)

Strongly support

Q5b Could you briefly explain your view?

Given the data collected for Pedestrian Comfort Level and Pedestrian Desire Lines recorded, this proposal reduces potential issues around pedestrian and vehicle conflicts and is an outward example of prioritising sustainable transport over other modes.

Q6 To what extent do you support/oppose the proposed improvements to the public space around Greyfriars and the Bedlam theatre?

Strongly Support

Q6 What would you like to see in this space?

	Support	Not support	Not sure
Seating			
Greenery (such as trees and planters)			
Incorporating elements of play (for children and adults)			
Artistic installation (permanent)			
Artistic installation (temporary)			
Space for street performance			
Heritage and culture information boards			
Places to enjoy the view			

Q6b Do you have any other comments you would like to offer?

As with comments made for Q4 and Q5, these are areas where there is a high demand of use by pedestrians and these improvements are welcome but must be tempered with the need to continue to provide a safe route for those on bike to pass through.

Q7 To what extent do you support/oppose opening up a new public space at the top of the Mound?

Support

Q7 What would you like to see in this space?

	Support	Not support	Not sure
Seating			
Greenery (such as trees and planters)			
Incorporating elements of play (for children and adults)			

- Artistic installation (permanent)
- Artistic installation (temporary)
- Space for street performance
- Heritage and culture information boards
- Places to enjoy the view

Q7b Do you have any other comments you would like to offer?

While supporting the provision of more public space this should not place an increased burden of responsibility upon the local authority with respect to maintenance.

Q8a To what extent do you support/oppose the proposal to retain general traffic on The Mound and Hanover Street between Market Street and Queen Street?

Strongly support

Q8b Could you briefly explain your view?

This corridor is still an important North-South connection with particular access to Waverley Station. It should be noted that where other projects such as the City Centre Transformation, and the Waverley Station Masterplan seek to change the street scape in this area that access is maintained to those who need it.

Q9a To what extent do you support/oppose the proposals to improve pedestrian areas through wider pavements, planters, seatings and new crossings?

Strongly support

Q9b Could you briefly explain your view

The proposals change the environment along the route and place more emphasis on sustainable modes of transport. There are many times in Edinburgh that the current footway provisions are not adequate to accommodate the number of pedestrians. As highlighted in the comfort Level scores particularly on George IV Bridge.

Q9c Do you have any other comments or ideas we should consider regarding the pavements and crossings on these streets?

We strongly support the use of floating bus stops along the route though would have a preference that these are not compromising the width of the cycle track. Additional width could be sought from the other side of the carriage way to maintain a straight edge to the cycle track.

Q10a To what extent do you support/oppose the proposals for segregated cycleways along the route?

Strongly support

Q10b Could you briefly explain your view?

The option for safe infrastructure for this route can only be met by segregation from conflict with other vehicles. In particular as this route has large volumes of taxi carriages, this potential conflict between cycles is eliminated with full segregation.

Q10c Do you have any other comments or ideas to improve cycling along these streets?

Cycle tracks should be obvious in their purpose and design. This requires bold thinking to establish a recognised standard and one that equivalent to the ambition of this project as one of the first large scale infrastructure projects.

Q11a Are you a business owner in the area?

Q11c Where do you feel loading bays are most essential along the corridor?

Loading bays as designed on the Westside should be south of the Library buildings with appropriate capacity to service businesses on the west and east sides from these locations, and in as such be conveniently placed to crossing points to provide safe delivery from couriers.

Q12a Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long term health condition (mental health and/or physical health)?

Q12d To help in our reporting, can you tell us what your perspective is on the project area? Tick all that apply to you

- Resident in or near the area
- Business owner/ manager in or near the area
- Student in or near the area
- Organisation/ Institution operating in the area
- Someone who regularly travels through the area
- Employee in or near the area
- Other

Q13 How do you usually make your journeys in and around Edinburgh?

	most often	2nd most often	3rd most often	4th most often	5th most often
Walk					
Bicycle					
Bus					
Car (as driver)					
Car (as passenger)					
Taxi					
Tram					
Train					
Other					

Q14 How would you prefer to travel assuming you had the opportunities and conditions to do so?

	most often	2nd most often	3rd most often	4th most often	5th most often
Walk					
Bicycle					
Bus					
Car (as driver)					
Car (as passenger)					
Taxi					
Tram					
Train					
Other					

Q14b What prevents you from travelling this way?

Q15 How often do you travel on the streets in our project area?

Several times a day	Once a day	Several times a week
Once a week	Several times a month	Once a month
Less than once a month	Never	Other time period

Q16 Which of the following best reflects your current working status?

In full time employment	In part time employment (including semi-retired)	
In full/part time education	Retired	Volunteer
Unemployed	Other (please specify in the box below)	Prefer not to say

Q17 To which of these age groups do you belong?

Under 16	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54
55-64	65-74	75+	Prefer not to say	

Q18 Please tell us about your gender identity?

Man	Woman	Identify in another way	Prefer not to say
-----	-------	-------------------------	-------------------

Q19 Are you the parent or guardian of children under the age of 16?

Yes	No	Prefer not to say
-----	----	-------------------

Q20 What is your ethnicity?

- White Scottish
- White Irish
- White other British
- Gypsy/ Traveller
- White other
- Black African, African Scottish or African British
- Black Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British
- Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British
- Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British
- Asian
- Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British
- Prefer not to say
- Any other mixed background
- Other (please specify)