8. Woodhouse Lane

Woodhouse Lane is a busy transport corridor and a major leisure destination. With its wide range of restaurants, bars and clubs, it is a key hub for nightlife in the city centre. The Merrion Centre features various retailers and restaurants, as well as a hotel and offices, and Woodhouse Lane connects a cluster of universities and colleges on the northern edge of the city centre. Merrion House is the main office base for Leeds City Council and hosts the City Centre Hub for council services. The First Direct Arena is also located nearby.

Woodhouse Lane is a key route for buses serving North and South Leeds, as well as towns and villages to the north of the city. As one of the main access routes into the city centre, the volume of car traffic is also high, and Woodhouse Lane forms part of the city’s most popular cycling route into the centre.

We have identified a number of issues facing bus users, pedestrians and cyclists on Woodhouse Lane that we plan to address.

Buses share sections of the road with other traffic, which causes delays, and delays can also be caused at the ‘island’ bus stop, which cannot safely cater for more than one bus at a time.

The contra-flow lane for buses can cause confusion for pedestrians and cyclists. It also creates a road safety risk at the crossing, because pedestrians do not expect traffic to be moving in both directions.

The pavements on both sides of the road are too narrow to cope with the large numbers of pedestrians, while vehicles parking on the pavement outside the Merrion Centre create an obstacle for pedestrians and delivery vehicles.

Our measures will enhance Woodhouse Lane for bus users, pedestrians and cyclists.

- We plan to replace the contra-flow system and ‘island’ bus stop with a simpler layout, with all bus stops on the pavement. Buses travelling into the city centre will benefit from a long and wide stretch of bus lane, which will also benefit cyclists.
- Improvements to the junction with Great George Street will reduce the volume of cars using Woodhouse Lane, which in turn will reduce delays to bus services and further improve conditions for cyclists.
- Footways will be widened by removing one traffic lane, making it more comfortable for pedestrians and allowing us to provide more greenery.

- There will also be more pedestrian crossings and a reduction in unnecessary street clutter.
- These measures will complement the recent work redesigning the Clay Pit Lane junction and the proposals to redevelop the Thoresby House site.
- Some motorists will have to find alternative routes as a result of general traffic restrictions, but we will ensure businesses can receive deliveries. However, some existing taxi bays, pick-up and drop-off points will need to be relocated. We will work with stakeholders to find alternative sites and seek to consolidate taxi provision in strategic locations.

For further information visit www.leeds.gov.uk/connectingleeds
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