

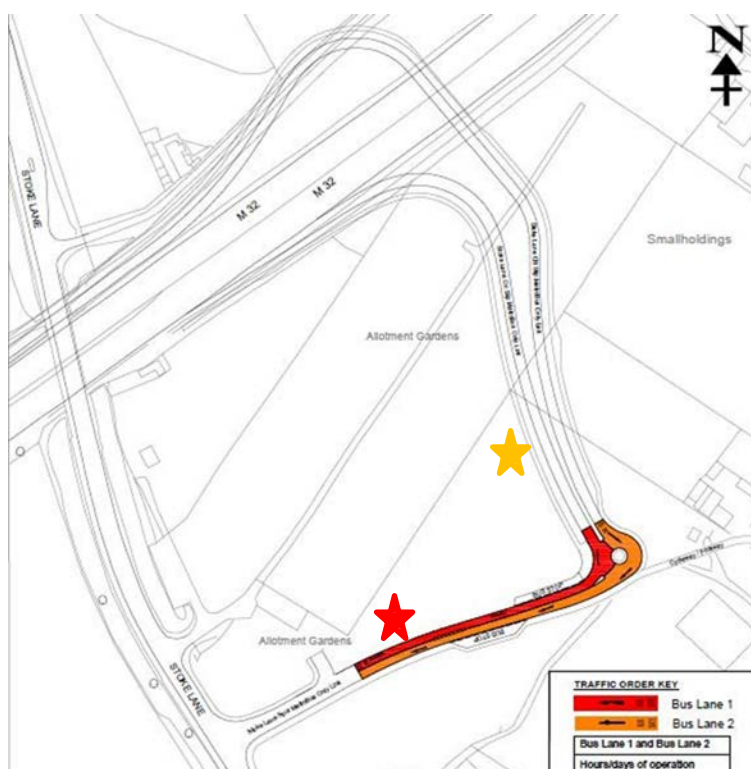
Enforcement of the M32 Bus-Only Slip Road North Fringe to Hengrove MetroBusRoute

Background

These slip roads and adjoining bus lanes were constructed as part of the MetroBus rapid transit system in Bristol. They are classified as private slip roads; one off the north bound M32 just north of junction 2 and one onto the southbound M32 at the same location. They have been constructed with the full approval of Highways England and Department for Transport. As part of the approval by Highways England, enforcement of unauthorised vehicles using the exit was paramount in its agreement to it being built. Enforcement is being carried out on the adopted highway section of the link road using a traffic regulation order (TRO) and approved devices under the Transport Act 2000 and Traffic Management Act 2004.

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

The TRO for two bus lanes on 'Stoke Lane Spur MetroBus Only Link' was advertised in January 2018 and came into force on 29 April 2018. The area covered by the TRO is shown below.



With the exceptions of; emergency services, highway maintenance vehicles, Highways England vehicles and local buses, no other vehicle type is permitted to use the slip roads or bus lanes/bus gates at this location.

“Local Bus Only” Slip Road off the M32 motorway

The red “**NO ENTRY**” signs and the annotation “**except for buses**”, makes it very clear to drivers of any vehicle other than a local bus that this slip road is not to be used.

There are, as you approach this slip road, three large motorway standard signs marked with red “**NO ENTRY**” signs and annotated “**except for buses**”. There is no junction number or indication of to where it leads. The signs are placed on the northbound carriageway of the M32 motorway, at the one mile and half a mile points prior to the slip road, and at the slip road itself.

The second and third of these signs additionally note that J1 of the M32 is further ahead, indicating to drivers thinking that they are already at J1 not to use this slip road.

Highways England has directed that no further signage or markings are to be installed at this location. This directive has been made due to **major road safety concerns** that drivers who may start to make the turn, could veer back into lane one of the motorway when realising their mistake.

Pictures of the signs

View of the “One Mile” sign



Close up of the “One Mile” Sign



View of the “Half Mile” Sign



Close up of the “Half Mile” sign



View approaching the “Bus Only Exit” Slip Road



Close up of the Slip Road Sign



Slip Road:

Having taken the motorway off-slip, a driver will pass signs advising them that there is a route back to the motorway (below left), then the entrance to the bus gate (below right), also a final warning sign **'in order to avoid penalty charge'** follow route back on to the M32, which is situated as you approach the roundabout.



This bus gate/bus lane (Stoke Lane Off Slip MetroBus Only Link (Bus Lane 2) is clearly signed (as shown above). The road has not been marked with a red surface at the request of Highways England (HE), They have major safety concerns that drivers who may suddenly realise they have gone the wrong way, may attempt to reverse back over the bridge and back onto the northbound M32 carriageway.

Signage of the entrance on to the Metro Bus only Link off Stoke Lane (eastbound)

The sections of bus lane are marked and signed as a bus gate. The signage in place is shown in the photograph below.



Advanced warnings of this bus lane/bus gate have been installed on Stoke Lane as you approach this location. Signage approaching this location is shown below:





Summary:

It is our conclusion that these bus lanes/bus gates have been and are clearly indicated, signed and marked; given the constraints and taking into account the safety concerns and requirement placed on this location by Highways England. Furthermore, we consider that all approaches to this location clearly indicate what vehicles are permitted to use them.

Given the above, we consider that the issuing of PCN's, using approved devices, is fully justified in this instance and at this location.

Any future misuse of this route may result in the issuing of a PCN for £60.