



MetroBus



Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension

Consultation document

November 2015

Public consultation

Friday 27 November 2015 to Friday 15 January 2016

Overview

South Gloucestershire Council, together with Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, are working to reduce congestion and improve accessibility for existing and future generations in the West of England. We are delivering a number of large transport projects across the area, including a network of MetroBus routes, enhanced rail services and additional stations through the MetroWest programme. For further information on transport projects in the West of England visit www.travelwest.info/projects

In addition, a package of transport improvements has been identified to support development in the north fringe and in particular the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood and the Filton Enterprise Area. This package will include new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure, enhanced bus services, improvements at key traffic pinchpoints to the benefit of all road users, and the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension.

The focus of this consultation is the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension.

We are committed to ensuring that our communities have a say in planning for new major transport schemes and consultation helps us to ensure that we have taken different views into account when finalising designs. We are therefore consulting on proposals for the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension from Friday 27 November to Friday 15 January 2016. Instructions on how to comment are available at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult and at the end of this document.

We would like to know if you have any particular concerns about the proposals, or if you have any suggestions on how to improve them.

This document summarises the proposals for the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension. Diagrams which illustrate the proposals in more detail are available at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult

Background to MetroBus

MetroBus will be a high quality travel experience that is reliable, fast and easy to use. MetroBus will use comfortable modern vehicles that will help to improve local air quality on routes that integrate with local bus and rail services. MetroBus will be a different kind of bus service, with fewer stops, faster boarding and more frequent services providing direct and reliable connections between the West of England's main employment and residential areas.

MetroBuses will use high quality distinctive, branded shelters, with passenger information. Facilities at MetroBus stops will include raised kerbs to give wheelchair accessibility, real time information, litter bins and cycle stands. MetroBus stops will have 'iPoints' which are distinctive visual markers for the MetroBus network that will provide interactive route and timetable information and off bus ticket purchasing facilities (by credit or debit card).

Smart ticketing will be used on MetroBus with the ability for passengers to purchase tickets online; at bus stops; and through local retailers. It will reduce the need for tickets to be purchased on buses and contribute to quicker journey times by minimising driver interaction and dwell times.

MetroBus routes

There are three MetroBus routes already under construction:

Route	Service Operational
Ashton Vale to Temple Meads	Winter 2016/17
North Fringe to Hengrove	Summer 2017
South Bristol Link	Winter 2016/17

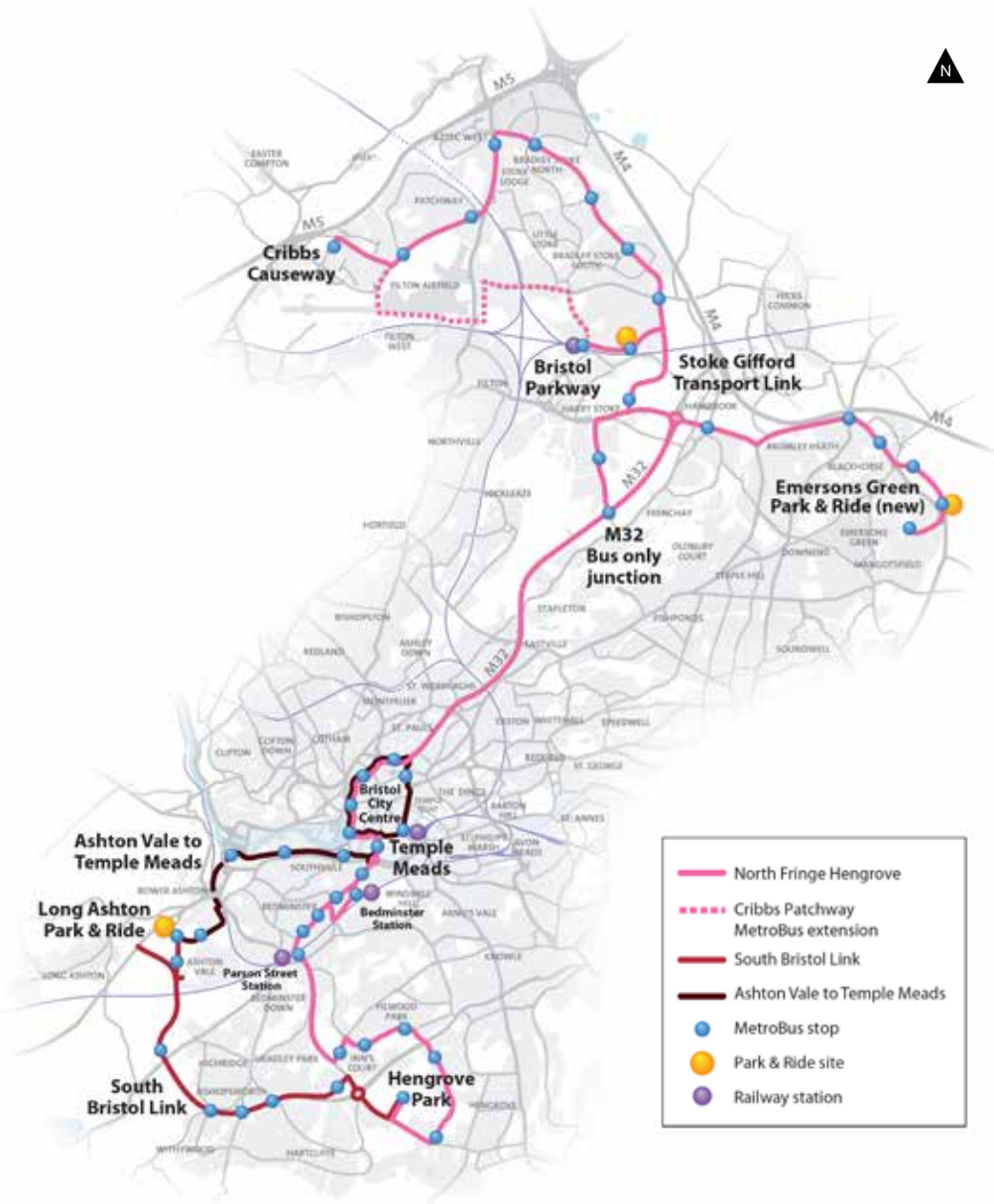
For information about these MetroBus routes visit www.travelwest.info/projects/metrobus

This consultation is on the fourth MetroBus route called the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension. It will extend the North Fringe to Hengrove route and reduce journey times between Bristol Parkway rail station and the employment / retail centre of Cribbs Causeway (operating in both directions). It will serve existing neighbourhoods and the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood (on the former Filton Airfield). It will also connect to the new passenger rail station at North Filton which is due to open in 2021.

We would like to hear your views on the proposals for the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension.

This is the next phase of the West of England MetroBus Network. The council's vision is to provide a fast, efficient and reliable MetroBus network. Technical work demonstrates that the proposals set out in this document will achieve this high quality MetroBus service at this time. We are committed to maintaining the quality and reliability of the MetroBus services and working with local communities to identify any additional bus priority or other measures which might become necessary in the future.

The map on page five illustrates the wider MetroBus network and the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension route.



Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension timescale

Consultation Period	Autumn / Winter 2015
Consultation analysis and design refinements	Winter / Spring 2016
Submit planning application for works at North Way and San Andreas roundabout. 'Prior Notification' application submission (from Network Rail) for the replacement Gipsy Patch Lane rail bridge	Summer 2016
Construction commences	2018
Construction complete and services operating on the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension route	2019

The Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension route

The Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension route will connect Bristol Parkway Station with The Mall bus station, via Hatchet Road, Gipsy Patch Lane, across the A38, and through the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood. This route allows there to be interchange between MetroBus, bus, rail, walking and cycling at Bristol Parkway station and the new North Filton train station.

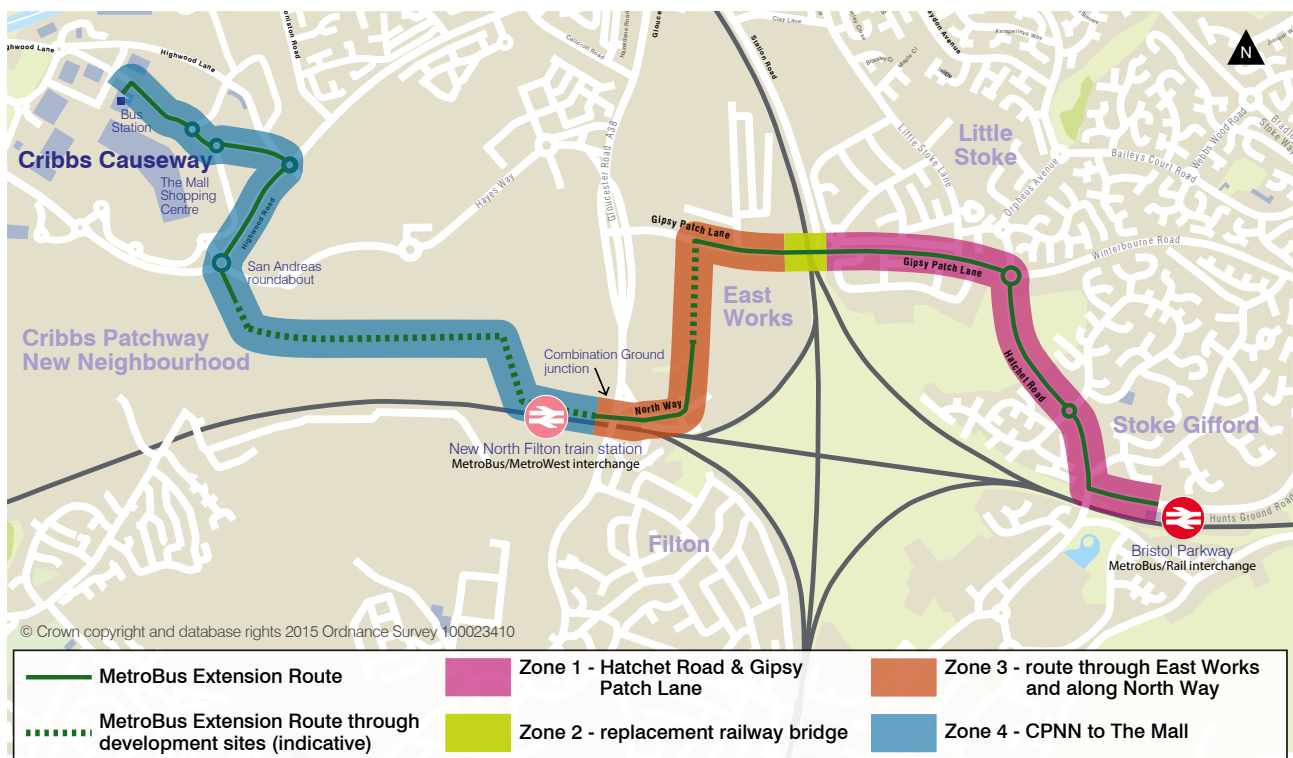
The Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension is part of a package of transport improvements to support the development of the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood. However the development of the new neighbourhood also represents an opportunity to improve transport in the area. On Gipsy Patch Lane and Hatchet Road for example, buses can get caught up in queuing traffic. So one of the aims of the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension is to allow MetroBuses and buses to travel as efficiently as possible in bus lanes which removes them from congestion.

A number of works are proposed along this route, including new bus lanes, a replacement railway bridge over Gipsy Patch Lane and new/widened shared use paths for pedestrians and cyclists. The proposed new bus lanes are 4.2m wide which are wide enough to also be used by cyclists.

The proposals will help MetroBuses and buses to travel as efficiently as possible to offer fast and reliable journey times, encouraging greater uptake of sustainable forms of travel.

To help summarise the proposals we have divided the route into four zones in this consultation document:

1. Parkway Station to Gipsy Patch Lane rail bridge - see page 7
2. Gipsy Patch Lane rail bridge - see page 10
3. Gipsy Patch Lane rail bridge to the Combination Ground junction - see page 12
4. Combination Ground junction to The Mall, Cribbs Causeway - see page 13



Diagrams that illustrate the proposals in more detail are available at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult

Zone 1 - Parkway Station to Gipsy Patch Lane rail bridge

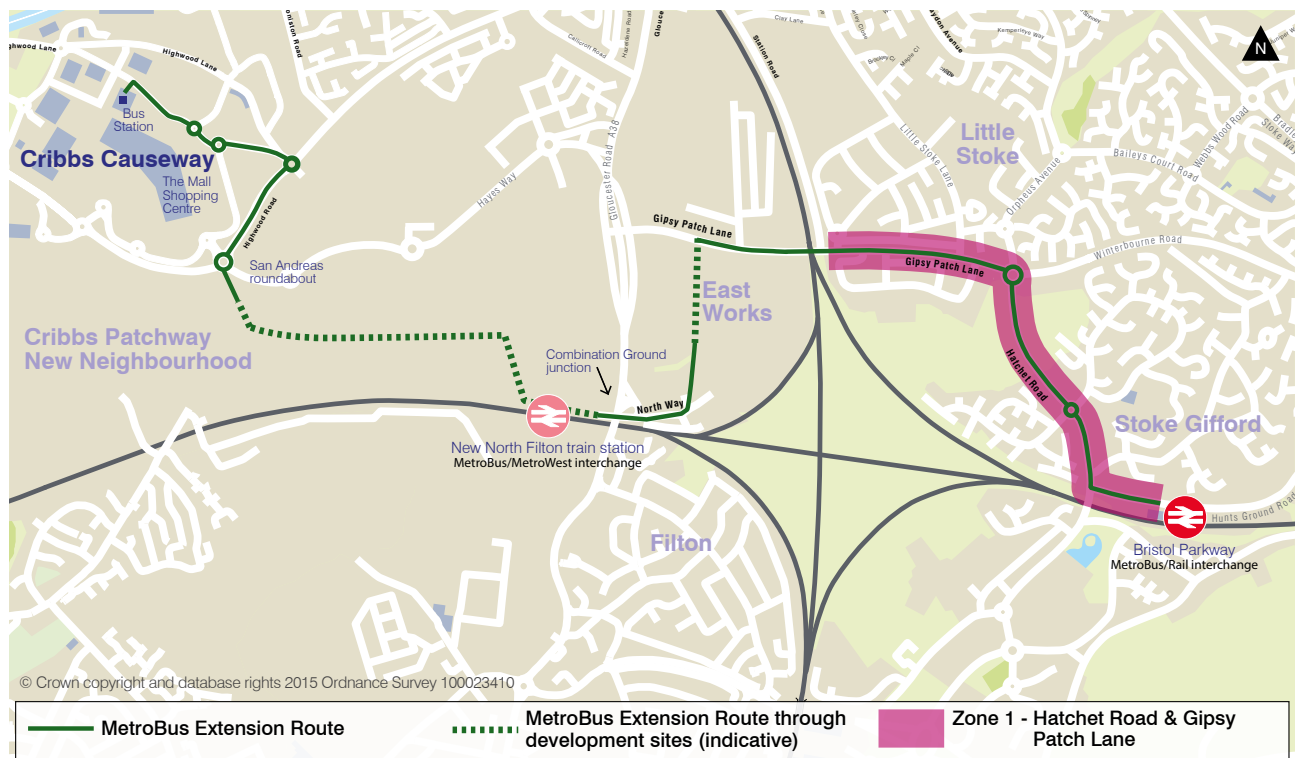
Hatchet Road

The following is proposed on Hatchet Road between the Sandringham Road / Ratcliffe Drive roundabout and the Gipsy Patch Lane roundabout:

- A new southbound bus lane between the Gipsy Patch Lane and Sandringham Road roundabouts.
- Widening the existing footway on the west side of the road to create a shared-use path for cyclists and pedestrians. We would also widen a section of the existing footway on the east side of the road to create a shared-use path near to the Gipsy Patch Lane roundabout.
- The southbound bus stop outside the Co-op store and the northbound bus stop north of the Sandringham Road roundabout would be upgraded to MetroBus stops.
- Existing pedestrian crossings would be retained and updated to accommodate the extra road width.

A strip of land in Meade Park adjacent to the eastern side of Hatchet Road would be required to facilitate the above works. This would result in the removal of some trees which would be replaced with new trees, vegetation and landscaping on the new boundary.

South of the park, the scheme would also result in the removal of hedgerows from both sides of the road and therefore a new boundary would be put in place between residential properties and the road. The Council would work with affected local residents to explore what type of new boundary would be best.



The artist's impression below shows how the proposals could look on a section of Hatchet Road. Please note the image is for illustrative purposes only to give an approximate indication of how the proposals could look.



Indicative artist's impression of proposals on Hatchet Road (looking north).

Gipsy Patch Lane

The following alterations are proposed for Gipsy Patch Lane between the roundabout with Hatchet Road and the rail bridge:

- A new eastbound bus lane to the existing bus stop between the Queensway and Little Stoke Lane junctions.
- Alterations to the Hatchet Road / Gipsy Patch Lane roundabout road markings to provide MetroBus priority.
- Widening and realignment of shared-use paths from the rail bridge to Bush Avenue and Gifford Crescent.
- Two existing bus stops upgraded to MetroBus standard.
- Dedicated right turn lanes for vehicles turning from Gipsy Patch Lane into Station Road and Gifford Crescent.

The above works would result in the narrowing of some of the grass verges and the removal of some trees and hedgerows on Gipsy Patch Lane. As a result, new trees and vegetation would be planted along new road boundaries.

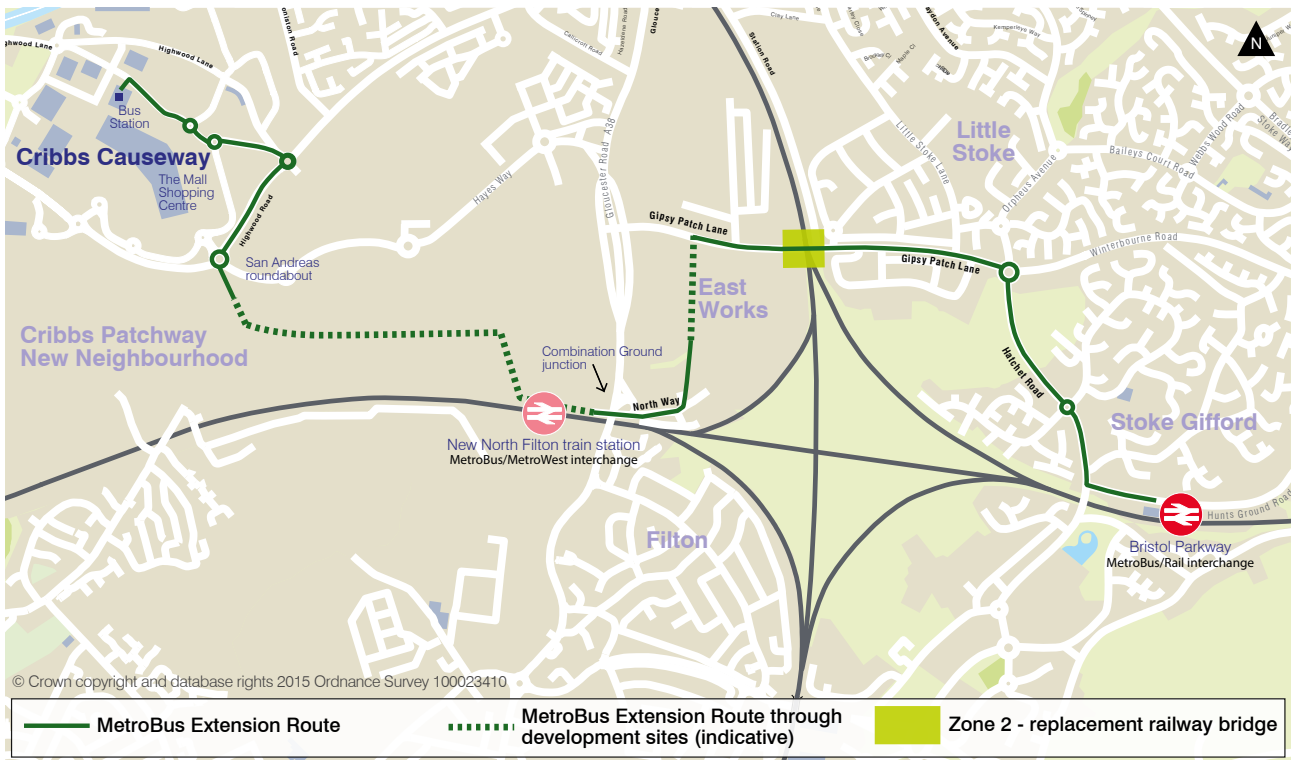
The artist's impression below shows how the proposals could look on a section of Gipsy Patch Lane. Please note the image is for illustrative purposes only to give an approximate indication of how the proposals could look.



Indicative artist's impression of proposals on Gipsy Patch Lane (looking east).

Diagrams which show the proposals in more detail are available at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult

Zone 2 – Gipsy Patch Lane Rail Bridge



A significant element of the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension project is the replacement of the existing rail bridge at Gipsy Patch Lane.

The current bridge creates a traffic bottleneck, causing queues of vehicles on Gipsy Patch Lane. It also provides a poor environment for pedestrians and cyclists, with only a very narrow footway on one side of the road.

In October 2015 South Gloucestershire Councillors approved development of the replacement bridge. The redesigned bridge with a wider span and greater headroom will reduce congestion, provide ease of travel for MetroBus and improve conditions and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

The redesigned bridge would allow for:

- East and westbound traffic lanes for all vehicles to provide unobstructed two-way movement and thus remove the current bottleneck.
- East and west bound MetroBus / bus lanes.
- Shared use paths for cyclists and pedestrians on both sides of the carriageway.
- Safe passage for double decker buses as a consequence of lowering the road level to provide more headroom.

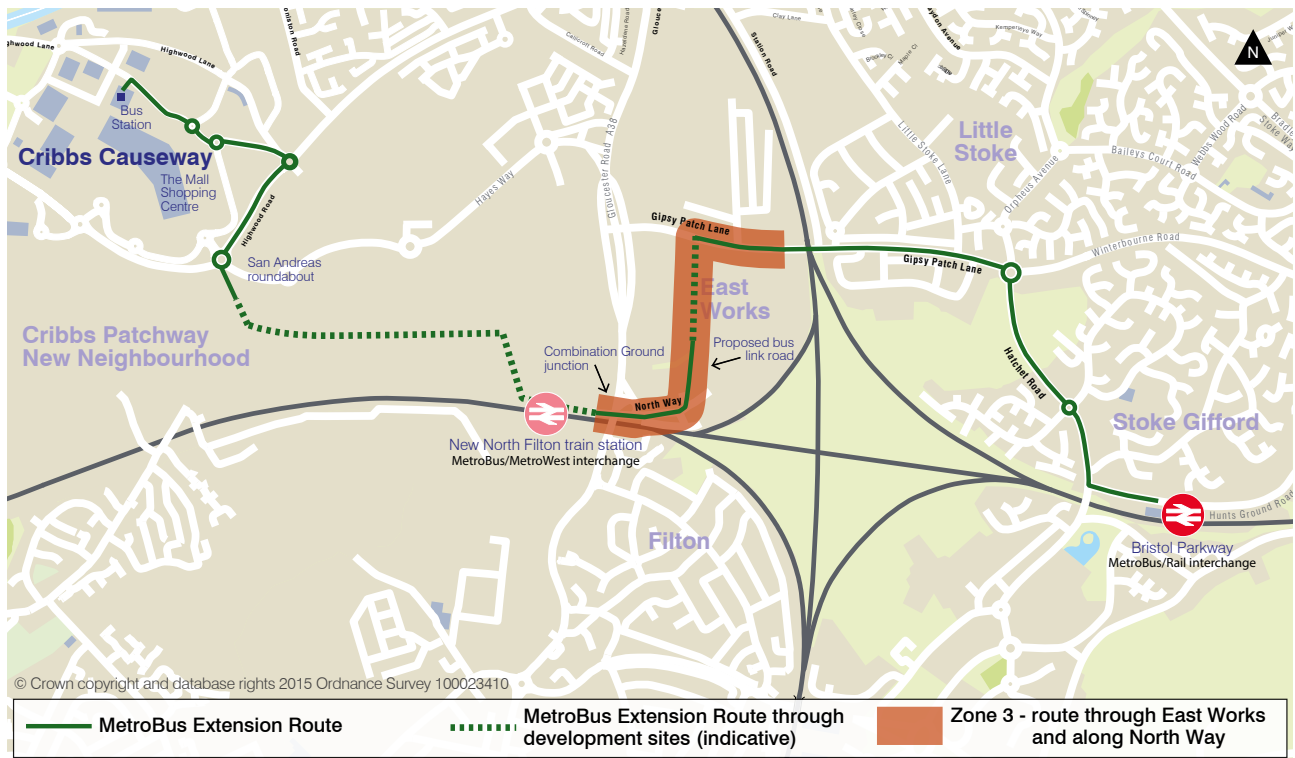
Network Rail owns and operates rail land and infrastructure and they would construct and ultimately own the redesigned bridge. Proposals for altering the bridge will not require planning permission, however 'prior approval' will be required. Further information about prior approval can be read in the council's Statement of Community Involvement which is available at www.southglos.gov.uk

Below is an illustrative example of how the bridge would look. The redesigned bridge would have a smooth concrete finish. Please note that this is an artist's impression and is only intended to give an approximate indication of how the new bridge will look.



Indicative artist's impression of the new railway bridge on Gipsy Patch Lane (looking west).

Zone 3 - Gypsy Patch Lane Rail Bridge to Combination Ground Junction



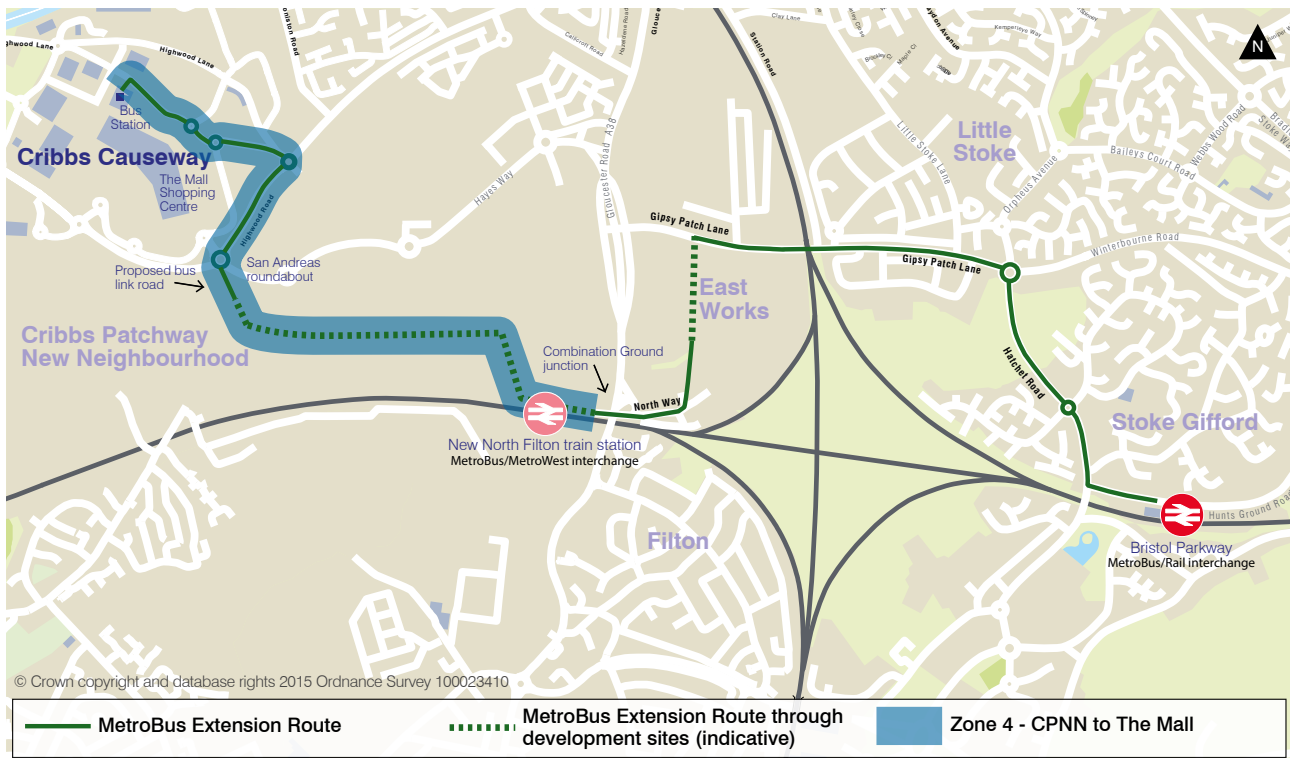
MetroBus would run through the East Works site, across a new bus link to North Way and then to the Combination Ground junction.

In September 2015, the (former Rolls Royce) East Works site (next to the A38, opposite the former Filton Airfield) secured planning consent to be redeveloped for a mix of employment uses. The planning consent shows that the development could accommodate MetroBus and ordinary buses on the site's internal road network.

Although the MetroBus route through the East Works site would be shared with other traffic, this route separates MetroBus from general traffic on the A38 and provides direct access to the new employment sites within the redeveloped East Works site.

A short section of new road would need to be constructed to link the route through the East Works site to North Way. It is proposed that this bus link would be restricted to MetroBus, buses, emergency vehicles, taxis, pedestrians and cyclists to prevent rat-running by general traffic. South Gloucestershire Council would need to acquire the land for this link and planning permission would be required.

Zone 4 - Combination Ground Junction to The Mall, Cribbs Causeway



Heading west from the Combination Ground junction, the MetroBus route crosses the A38 under the existing underpass at the Combination Ground junction. It is proposed that the underpass will be restricted to MetroBuses, buses, emergency vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and access to Airbus. The route continues across the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood through to The Mall bus station. The Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood is a new mixed use development on the former Filton Airfield. This route allows for there to be interchange between MetroBus and rail at the new North Filton train station.

Further details regarding the new neighbourhood are available in the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood Supplementary Planning Document which is available to download at www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/9726-Cribbs-Patchway-SPD.pdf

The Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension route through the new neighbourhood will be built by the site's developers. When completed, the route through the new neighbourhood will be separated from general traffic and will have walking and cycling infrastructure alongside it.

The route through the new neighbourhood will link with Highwood Road at the San Andreas roundabout. In order to facilitate the MetroBus route, a short section of new road is required to link the roundabout and the new neighbourhood. It is proposed the link would be restricted to MetroBus, buses, emergency vehicles, taxis, pedestrians and cyclists. South Gloucestershire Council would need to acquire the land for this link and planning permission would be required.

The San Andreas roundabout would be elongated and signalised to accommodate the new road link. After the San Andreas roundabout the route joins Highwood Road and travels on existing highway and bus infrastructure to The Mall bus station.

Have your say

We would like to hear your views on the proposals for the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension to ensure all potential issues have been considered before planning applications are submitted in 2016. Comments can be made from **Friday 27 November** to **Friday 15 January 2016**.

Further information is available at www.southglos.gov.uk/CPMEconsult and www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension

Our preferred way to receive comments is by email to transport.policy@southglos.gov.uk

Alternatively, write to:
FREEPOST Plus RTCT-JXLE-EET
South Gloucestershire Council
Strategic Transport Policy Team
Civic Centre
High Street
Kingswood
BRISTOL
BS15 9TR

All comments must be received by Friday 15 January 2016. Please include your name and a contact email and/or postal address when making comments so that we can keep you up to date on the project. When making comments please ensure that you state which part or aspect of the proposals your comments relate to.

All comments received will be considered and investigated to help refine the final design of the project. We will respond to each issue raised in a consultation report available to the public.

Data Protection

The information collected as part of this consultation will be used by the Council (and our delivery partners) in accordance with the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. We collect this data to assist in plan making and project development; and to contact you, if necessary, regarding the consultation process. Your response may be made public as it will form part of the evidence base used to inform the decision making process, however personal information will be removed prior to any publication. The above purposes may require public disclosure of any data received, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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