



- > COLAS UK
- > MANCHESTER
- > NOVEMBER - JUNE 2020

## Chorlton Road Cycle and Walking Provision

Area 1a – Chorlton Road is one of the early phases of the £13.4m investment into the Manchester to Chorlton Cycling and Walking route being developed by Manchester City Council, the One Trafford Partnership, Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester’s Cycling and Walking Commissioner, with funding from the Greater Manchester Mayor’s Challenge Fund and the Government’s Cycle Cities Ambition Grant. The scheme is part of the Bee Network which will form the UK’s largest joined up cycling and walking network, covering 1800 miles.

Chorlton Road forms the most northern section of the Manchester to Chorlton Cycle route, and connects Brooks Bar junction to the off-road cycle tracks at Chester Road roundabout, which lead into the city centre. The route is already well used and is popular with commuters and students.

This section links to the existing cycle lanes being developed along Stretford Road from Old Trafford by Trafford council, and the rest of the route leading to Chorlton Park through the centre of Chorlton.

The scheme features an innovative and trail blazing CYCLOPS (Cycle Optimised Protected Signals) junction at Royce Road and is a UK-first. It is an “orbital cycle route”, separating cyclists from motor traffic and providing more space for pedestrians, reducing the possibility of collisions or conflicts with traffic, creating a safer environment for all users.

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This is a big step forward in our work to create permanent, high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure which will support the long-term shift to active travel that we want to see right across the city. The trailblazing new CYCLOPS junction will maximise opportunities for safer cycling and walking in this area and we are really proud and excited to deliver this innovative project.

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**Angeliki Stogia**

Executive Member for the Environment,  
Planning and Transport Councillor



## Our Approach

Key to the programme was causing least disruption to the traveling public and local residents. Colas developed a programme which delivered the works in small low impact phases, and were planned to progress with the flow of traffic, again allowing for the least disruption.

Working on three smaller phases at any one time was a major factor in enabling us to reduce time on programme from the client's overall duration for these planned works.

The innovative CYCLOPS junction (Cycle Optimised Protected Signals) at Royce Road has been designed to fully segregate cyclists from general traffic, improving safety for all road users. The junction allows bicycles to approach from four 'arms' which converge onto a cycle track that completely encircles the junction. This means that bicycles can make a right turn at the junction, protected from traffic, and can complete the manoeuvre in one movement, dependent on signal timings.

Incomplete pre-construction fibre-optic service diversion works were a major risk towards project commencement and achieving the target programme completion date. Working with the client, we re-phased our works to the CYCLOPS junction of Royce Road, allowing the planned diversion to be completed during the early weeks of our contractual programme. Unfortunately, this planned diversion could not be completed as intended, so we designed and installed a concrete cover slab allowing us to progress our works in-line with the planned programme timetable.

A further major risk to the project was COVID-19. The UK wide lockdown occurred midway through the project and placed the construction programme under the potential risk of several weeks delay but, due to our collaborative approach with the client, we progressed the works under key worker status, and were also able to accelerate some works during an 8 week period by taking advantage of lower traffic counts on the network.

- > Area 1a, Chorlton Road, Manchester
- > November 2019 - June 2020
- > Total value : £700k
- > Innovative CYCLOPS junction constructed
- > 100% of material excavated was recycled onto our nearby project at Mancunian Way
- > Low impact phased approach minimised disruption for users
- > Works programme of 3 smaller phases running concurrently reduced time on programme
- > Shared management & facilities with Mancunian Way / Princess Road project reduced costs

## Associated Benefits

Costs savings were generated by running two projects concurrently, through setting 100% recycling targets on Chorlton Road, and the sharing of management and facilities for both projects – Mancunian Way/ Princess Road and Chorlton Road.

100% of excavated material was recycled and reused on the Mancunian Way project.

We developed further cost saving for Manchester City Council during the ECI stage by design development of the rain garden islands, and the more for less approach by specification changes and additional work areas.

