

Cllr Fiona Gourley, Ward Councillor for Bathavon South, has put together the following information in light of concerns raised by residents and Parish Councillors about the A36 closure.

Why is the A36 Closing between 12 August 2024 and Spring 2025?

National Highways are responsible for the A36 and they have announced that it needs to be closed between Midford Lane/Church Road, Freshford, and the Viaduct in Monkton Combe for urgent repairs. They explain that the road is slipping down the hill and the dangerous erosion means that both lanes need to be closed so heavy machinery can be used to stabilise the road. More details here:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west/a36-limpley-stoke-carriageway-repairs-and-stabilisation/>

What are National Highways Doing about Diversions and Signage

- HGV traffic will be diverted via A350 through Wiltshire to the M4 and back into Bath along the A4. Signage with increasing severity will be in place for several miles along the A36, the A350, the A4 & M4 before the roadworks. Marshalls will re-direct north-bound HGVs via the A36 roundabouts and south-bound on the A4 to the diversions.
- Lighter traffic will be diverted via the A350 through Wiltshire onto the A4 into Bath.
- These diversions will add considerable distance to drivers' routes so we anticipate that local drivers will find alternative routes along the B3110 and other local roads.
- Temporary signage ("unsuitable for diverted traffic") will be erected along the narrow lanes from the A36 into Freshford, Limpley Stoke, Norton St Philip, Hinton Charterhouse, Monkton Combe and Claverton Down, to try to deter rat-running.
- Temporary parking restrictions may be put in place in Norton St Philip and Hinton Charterhouse to keep the B3110 open for traffic, including buses. We have asked for temporary signals to enable residents to exit side roads and cross safely.
- Branch Road in Hinton Charterhouse will be resurfaced in early August as it is anticipated that this will take much of the traffic from the A36 onto the B3110.
- Houses within the road work area will have special access arrangements organised by National Highways.

What will happen about the Buses?

- **The 94** from Trowbridge to Bath via Limpley Stoke, Freshford and Monkton Combe will not be affected as the B3108 from Winsley and across the viaduct to Brassknocker Hill will remain open. <https://www.libratravel.co.uk/current-timetables>
- **The D1** from Warminster via Bradford on Avon to Bath will have slight changes to its timetable from September and will continue to serve Claverton. It is hoped that with the reduction of traffic on the A36, this may speed up the journey.
- **The D2** from Frome to Bath will take in Beckington but keep its normal route via Norton St Philip, Hinton Charterhouse, Midford into Bath. It is anticipated that it will run more frequently from September (roughly hourly) but running times may vary with the increased

traffic. Off peak journeys will terminate at Frome Station rather than Sainsburys and some trips will not serve Rode.

- **Service D2x** will operate between Bath & Frome Sainsbury's on every trip. Buses will leave Bath via the Wellsway before serving Orchard Way in Peasedown, providing a bus service to the Hospital. Buses will then operate via the bypass down into Radstock. From here they will operate through Writhlington & Buckham Dinham before coming into Frome. The D2x will pass along Whatcombe Road & Welshmill Road before rejoining the current route at the Market Place and heading up through Critchill. It is hoped that the most Frome passengers travelling to Bath will take this service as it will be quicker and will drop pupils off at the schools in Bear Flat.

For more information about these buses:

www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west, <https://travelwest.info/>

Cycling and Walking

The Two Tunnels Route remains unaffected and residents who can use it, are encouraged to do so, as the B3110 and other surrounding roads get busier.

What Happens Next?

B&NES Council, Ward and Parish Councillors will meet National Highways in early October to review the situation and the impact on residents, to see whether the measures are sufficient, or if National Highways have any other mitigations to allow traffic to flow into and out of Bath and the surrounding areas. If you would like to comment, please contact National Highways or your Parish or Ward Councillors.

info@nationalhighways.co.uk

[0300 123 5000](tel:03001235000)

Thank you for your patience and this may be difficult until traffic settles down. I think people find ways to travel to work at different times, on different days or use the buses more, to reduce the inevitable traffic on the roads and through our villages. The diversion, signage and any mitigations are the responsibility of National Highways, not B&NES, but we recognise the safety imperative. I will continue to keep a close eye on the situation and lobby them on behalf of my residents. None of us like having such a disruptive road closure, but the alternative is unthinkable.