The map below outlines the diversion route. The traffic management measures such as the no right hand turns are designed to keep traffic flowing as far as possible.
Chislehurst Road Bridge

Chislehurst Road Bridge is located on the A208 Orpington Road / Chislehurst Road next to the ancient woodland of Petts Wood and Hawkwood Estate, an area of National Trust owned land. Initial preparation works are taking place from late September 2011 with the bridge being closed to traffic in November. The construction method has been developed so that pedestrians and cyclists will still be able to use the bridge during its 12 month closure.

Why do we need a new bridge?

The decision to rebuild the bridge follows safety inspections which revealed severe structural weaknesses in the bridge. Width restrictions and temporary traffic lights were installed in 2009 to prevent heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and buses from using the bridge, as it was no longer capable of carrying the 44 ton weight load of a HGV.

This was a temporary measure and subsequent engineering studies have concluded there are no other alternatives than to re-build the bridge, with traffic being temporarily diverted along other routes. Once rebuilt buses and HGVs will be able use the bridge again and the diversion route will no longer be needed.

The new low maintenance bridge will be a much more reliable structure with a life span far greater than the current Post Tensioned 1950s bridge design, found to be structurally very weak.

When will the bridge be completed?

The bridge reconstruction is planned to take 12 months, and the bridge will be re-opened in autumn 2012.

This 12 month period is required due to works being carried out over the railway. In addition, all of the main utilities – gas, water, electric, BT and Virgin cross the bridge and have to be dealt with during demolition.

Motorists - how will it affect me?

The A208 will be closed to all through traffic between the junction of Leesons Hill and Poverest Road for the duration of the project. There will be a diversion route in place, during the reconstruction of the bridge. This will take drivers along Leesons Hill, Cray Avenue and Poverest Road – the same route currently used by buses and HGVs due to the bridge’s current 7.5 ton weight limit.

To relieve likely congestion in the area, traffic management measures will include suspension of the bus lane in Cray Avenue between the junction of Poverest Road and Cray Avenue / Sevenoaks Way, allowing all traffic to use it, and a ban on right hand turns at the junctions with Station Road and Leesons Hill. New parking restrictions in Leesons Hill, at the Cray Avenue junction are also planned.

Pedestrians / cyclists – how will it affect me?

Vehicle access will be maintained for residents on each side of the bridge and pedestrians and cyclists will still be able to use the bridge throughout.

In summary

- Once the new bridge is complete buses and HGVs will be able to use the route.
- Width restrictions will no longer be in place which will alleviate disruption caused by HGVs attempting to cross the bridge and instead having to reverse back down the road.
- There will no longer be a risk of the bridge collapsing on to the busy railway line below.
- The new bridge will make the route easier for all traffic, whether pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle or rail.

How can I keep up to date?

To keep up to date on all the Chislehurst Bridge news, follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/chislehurstbridge or for further information visit www.bromley.gov.uk/chislehurstbridge

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