

<p>Committees: Streets and Walkways Sub Committee- (for information)</p> <p>Projects and procurement Sub Committee (for information)</p>	<p>Dates: 07 November 2023 04 December 2023</p>
<p>Subject: Bank Junction Improvements: All Change at Bank</p> <p>Unique Project Identifier: 11401</p>	<p>Gateway 5 Complex Progress Report</p>
<p>Report of: Interim Executive Director Environment</p> <p>Choose an item.</p> <p>Report Author: Gillian Howard</p>	<p>For Information</p>
<h1>PUBLIC</h1>	

<p>1. Status update</p>	<p>Project Description: To improve the safety, air quality and pedestrian experience of the area around the Bank junction to reflect the historic and iconic surroundings with the appropriate sense of place.</p> <p>RAG Status: Amber (Amber at last report to Committee)</p> <p>Risk Status: Medium (Medium at last report to Committee)</p> <p>Total Estimated Cost of Project (excluding risk): £6.67M - £7.3M (max figure includes utilisation of unspent costed risk to deliver public realm enhancements if available, and inclusion of the Cool Streets funding and the recent inclusion of the £500k for the traffic mix and timing review)</p> <p>Spend to Date: £3,476,194 (latest staff costs still to run – 20/10/23 and includes expenditure to date on the traffic and timing review).</p> <p>Costed Risk Provision Utilised: £423,502 (of which £0 has been drawn down since the last report to Committee);</p>
<p>2. Key points to note</p>	<p>Next Gateway: Choose an item. Gateway 6</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has progressed well and to programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works will cease for a few weeks whilst preparation for the Lord Mayor’s Show 2023 is undertaken and will restart towards the end of November. • Queen Victoria Street & Threadneedle Street are closed to motor vehicles. • A substantial part of the programme has been completed which was the most disruptive, and there have only been a limited number of issues. 																						
3. Reporting period	<i>September 2022 to October 2023</i>																						
4. Progress to date	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of the All Change at Bank project commenced in earnest in November 2022 following the Lord Mayor’s Show. The focus of work has been on the areas that are required to be completed for this year’s Show, enabling substantial areas to be made available for viewing the event. 2. The plan in Appendix 2 highlights the areas that have been completed. 3. It was agreed in the Gateway 5 report in December 2021 that as the risk decreases and the risk provision is released, the money will be diverted towards the further delivery of the enhancements of the scheme. In September 2022, those enhancements were prioritised and agreed by Members as set out in Table 1. 4. The approval of the Costed Risk release was delegated to the Chief Officer (now Executive Director) <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="528 1355 1385 2009"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="528 1355 619 1395">Rank</th> <th data-bbox="619 1355 1385 1395">Public Realm priorities</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1395 619 1473">1</td> <td data-bbox="619 1395 1385 1473">Yorkstone crossing outside BoE on Threadneedle St</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1473 619 1514">2</td> <td data-bbox="619 1473 1385 1514">Accessible ramp outside the Royal Exchange</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1514 619 1554">3</td> <td data-bbox="619 1514 1385 1554">Seating on Threadneedle Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1554 619 1632">4</td> <td data-bbox="619 1554 1385 1632">Seating on Queen Victoria Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1632 619 1711">5</td> <td data-bbox="619 1632 1385 1711">Two planting pots near to Wellington Statue (Royal Exchange)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1711 619 1789">6</td> <td data-bbox="619 1711 1385 1789">Two planting pots outside Mansion House</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1789 619 1868">7</td> <td data-bbox="619 1789 1385 1868">Granite setts on the remainder of Threadneedle St cycle lane</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1868 619 1946">8</td> <td data-bbox="619 1868 1385 1946">Removal of planter wall outside the Royal Exchange to open up space</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1946 619 1986">9</td> <td data-bbox="619 1946 1385 1986">Two planting pots outside BoE</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="528 1986 619 2027">10</td> <td data-bbox="619 1986 1385 2027">Three further pots outside Royal Exchange</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Public Realm priorities	1	Yorkstone crossing outside BoE on Threadneedle St	2	Accessible ramp outside the Royal Exchange	3	Seating on Threadneedle Street	4	Seating on Queen Victoria Street	5	Two planting pots near to Wellington Statue (Royal Exchange)	6	Two planting pots outside Mansion House	7	Granite setts on the remainder of Threadneedle St cycle lane	8	Removal of planter wall outside the Royal Exchange to open up space	9	Two planting pots outside BoE	10	Three further pots outside Royal Exchange
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11	Granite setts on Queen Victoria Street
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5. We are now approaching a period where a significant proportion of the work has been undertaken and that some of the Costed Risk provision can be released. This is due to some of the risks closing, or about to close, and no longer able to become an issue for the project. The updated risk register to date is in Appendix 4.
6. It is anticipated that this release will be sufficient to commit to the material of choice of Yorkstone for the raised crossing outside of the Bank of England (Priority 1 above), and granite setts on the remainder of Threadneedle Street (Priority 7). Whilst the granite setts are lower down the priority order, this is an item that cannot be revisited at the end of the construction and needs to be undertaken as part of the next phase of works. If things continue as they have done to date, we would anticipate that we should be able to deliver items 1-7 in the above table. Items 2-6 are all elements that can be done after the main works have completed.
7. The item at number 11 – Granite setts on Queen Victoria Street (on the raised table) will not be taken forward as the programme of works required this decision to be taken well in advance of the ability to release funding from the costed risk budget. As it was low down on the priority list it was decided to continue with this table in black top/tarmac as had previously been agreed.
8. Of the work that has completed to date, the project remains on programme which is in part to do with the excellent partnership working with TfL (Transport for London) to coordinate work, road closures, bus service changes and traffic signal changes both temporary and long term and working over and near the underground structure and entry and exits. Without the ongoing collaboration it would have been difficult to complete such a large and complex area of work in the time available.
9. There have been small delays and issues have arisen during the year, but the overall programme has been maintained. In addition, FM Conway have maintained a high standard of workmanship throughout the work delivered to date, particularly on the quality of the laying of the Yorkstone.

Mansion House Street

10. The most significant pavement widening can be seen outside Mansion House and is illustrated in the photos in appendix 5.
11. Three new granite benches have been installed in this area alongside new heritage light columns and lanterns.
12. The old CCTV column that was in the island of Mansion House Street has been relocated to its new home allowing for the carriageway to be narrowed to two lanes from its previous four (reduced to three in 2020 with temporary pavement widening).
13. The pavement widening has allowed the opportunity for the restaurant at 1 Lombard Street to have a few tables and Chairs licensed outside. Ongoing monitoring of how the new pavement space is utilised as works complete will take place to ensure that the balance between the need for people movement and the desire to activate space is maintained.

Queen Victoria Street

14. Queen Victoria Street with its junction to Mansion House Street at Poultry has been altered and motor vehicles can no longer enter or exit here. This has meant that the bus services using Queen Victoria Street are now permanently rerouted and use Poultry to enter and exit Bank. This change permanently took place in July 2023
15. The carriageway has been raised to incorporate Walbrook to improve the crossing experience for people walking in this area.

Poultry

16. Work on Poultry was limited and focused on the revised crossing points to narrow the carriageway and tie in with the revised vehicle and people movements.
17. In addition to the work the project is delivering, a new taxi rank is also due to be installed (subject to statutory consultation results) on Poultry outside of the hotel entrance. This is privately funded and does not form part of the project.
18. At this stage taxis will still be required to u turn during the restricted hours, and any future changes to this rely on the traffic mix and timing review that is taking place (subject of a separate report to the Planning and Transportation Committee in November and Court of Common Council in December).

Threadneedle Street

19. At Threadneedle Street the entry to the main junction has been completed, which included the extension of the area of pavement further into the junction from the steps that lead to the Duke of Wellington statue, providing greater circulation space for people walking or waiting at the crossing point.
20. Threadneedle Street has changed between Bartholomew Lane and the junction, and no longer allows for motor vehicles at any time along this stretch of street (outside of the Bank of England). This happened in July and bus services that previously used Threadneedle Street have been permanently diverted to use Cornhill. The exception to this is route 133 which now uses King William Street and Poultry following a separate and more recent bus consultation by TfL whereby the route was changed and no longer serves Liverpool Street station. This came into effect in April 2023.

Princes Street

21. The entry exit to the junction has been reduced to one lane on Princes Street. This remains two-way via traffic light control, for buses and cycles. Other vehicles requiring access to Cornhill can use Princes Street southbound and turn left into Cornhill.
22. Prior to any work in 2019, Princes Street had three lanes for traffic, 2 southbound and one northbound. This change is a significant improvement for people walking and using the entrances to Bank station on this corner.

Cornhill

23. Work to narrow the carriageway and widen the pavements into the junction has taken place with an area of raised carriageway for improved crossing. Carriage way work only extends as far as the James Henry Greathead statue.

King Willim Street/Lombard Street

24. Work on this section was one of the first sections to be delivered but has been limited to footway widening and carriageway resurfacing. It includes a large increase of pavement by Mansion House Place to tie in with the new kerb outside Mansion House.
25. Proposals under the Pedestrian Priority Programme to reconstruct King William Street will see a vast improvement to the whole of this street, which will link into the overall upgrade of the movement through the junction at Bank.

	<p>Funding for the King William Street proposals has only recently been agreed and was in its infancy when the construction work at Bank was due to start. There will be a need for the King William Street work to adjust some of the work undertaken at the junction to align the levels for drainage appropriately, but this will be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>26. Overall work has been successful and there are some photos of work undertaken to date in Appendix 5.</p>
<p>5. Next steps</p>	<p>27. Firstly, the formal commissioning of the new traffic signals will take place following the Lord Mayors Show. This should see the full operation of how the junction is due to work with the correct signal cycle times. The temporary lights are not as effective as the permanent traffic signals in terms of their capability and have therefore been running on a longer signal cycle time. There will be some further tweaks to the signal timing as work progresses and completes on Threadneedle Street and Queen Victoria Street.</p> <p>28. From the week commencing 27 November the full impact of the permanent traffic order will be in operation on Princes Street whereby the southbound compulsory left turn for all traffic, except buses and cycles, will be operational at all times (i.e., 24 hours a day and 7 days a week).</p> <p>29. This will include the changing of enforcement signs at the north end of Princes Street to “<i>No Motor vehicles except buses and for access</i>” followed by the ‘<i>compulsory left turn</i>’ sign on the approach to the traffic lights as you travel southbound. Vehicles can still access Grocers Hall Courtyard or turn around in Princes Street to drop off and exit Princes Street northbound.</p> <p>30. The northbound restriction to ‘buses and cycles only’ will also be effective at all times. The signage will be updated to ‘<i>no entry, except buses and cycles</i>’</p> <p>31. In terms of physical construction work, work will be focused on Queen Victoria Street and Threadneedle Street and will begin towards the end of November.</p> <p>32. Work on Queen Victoria Street will be by the Magistrates Court, across the junction with Bucklersbury and stretching further along towards the Bloomberg building. This will include the introduction of the rain gardens, tree planting, improved cycle parking facilities and the relocation of the taxi rank nearer to Bloomberg. Pavement widening along this section on both sides of the road revising the crossing</p>

	<p>between Bucklersbury and Number 1 Poultry, so that the carriageway is much narrower with no need for an island, making it much easier for people walking informally to cross at this location.</p> <p>33. On Threadneedle Street the widening of the rest of street from the junction to Bartholomew Lane will take place. This will include the raised area linking the Bank of England entrance to the Royal Exchange space, which will be done using Yorkstone. The tree pits will also be established. The slightly revised layout for the junction of Bartholomew Lane and Threadneedle Street will also be completed.</p> <p>34. Planting season is usually November to March, so it is quite likely that some of the planting programme will need to be extended into next autumn 2024 to ensure the greatest chance for success. However, we will look to maximise the opportunity for this planting season.</p> <p>35. As the physical carriageway and pavement work draws to an end in the spring, and the risks are closed on the costed risk register, more of the items in table 1 will be able to be programmed and delivered.</p> <p>36. A further progress report will be presented towards the end of the main construction in the Spring of 2024 to update on what else from the prioritised enhancements either have already been delivered or what else is affordable within the budget.</p>
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Appendices

Appendix 1	Project Coversheet
Appendix 2	Plan showing areas of completed work
Appendix 3	Plan showing areas of work left to complete
Appendix 4	Risk Register
Appendix 5	Before and After Photos

Contact

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