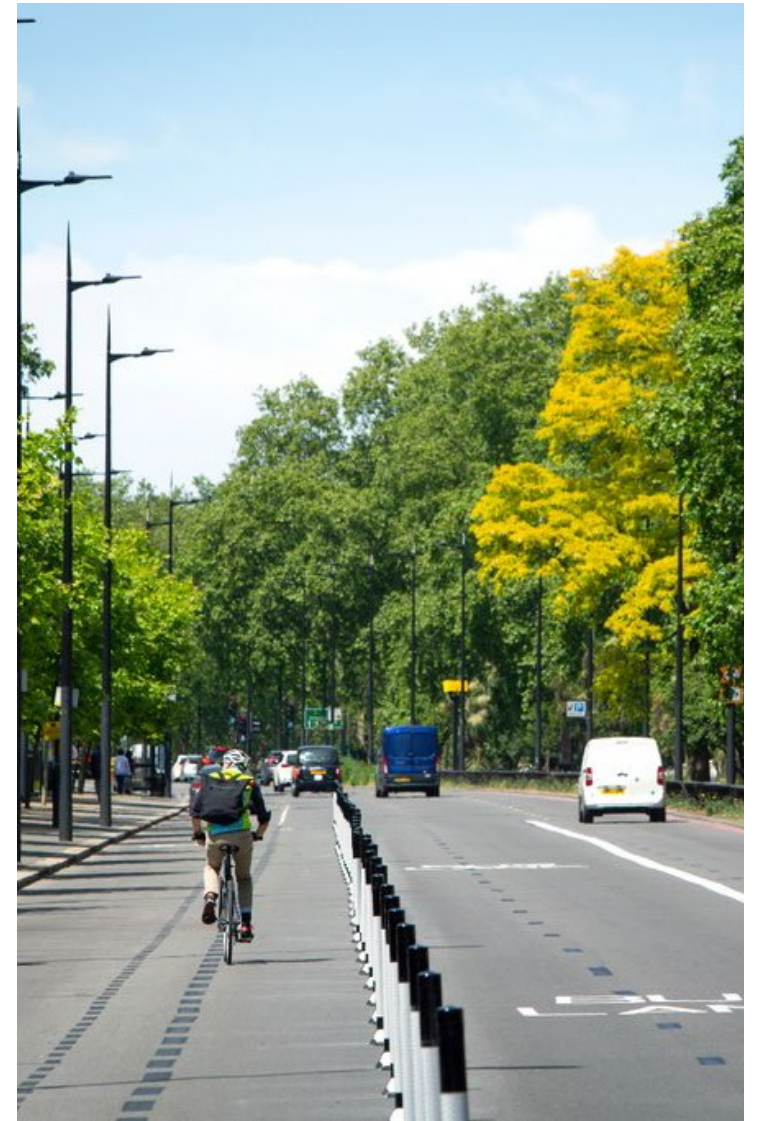


Traffic Wands Review

TfL Lane Rental Industry Publication



Introduction

Traffic wands are a type of light segregation, commonly used on cycle schemes across London, by both Transport for London (TfL) and boroughs. These can be installed quickly, reducing length of construction and network impact, providing a low-cost alternative to kerb segregation. Since 2020, over 3000 additional traffic wands have been installed on the TfL road network (TLRN) or on schemes which TfL maintain, on top of those already in situ pre-pandemic.

Up until now, the approach to traffic wands on schemes and as part of temporary traffic management layouts during road/street works has varied widely, including product type, installation, spacing and maintenance. This has led to inconsistent appearance/layouts for users, increased risk of confusion, varying product performance, maintenance and cleaning requirements, limiting the overall benefit of use. The products also have different installation and removal requirements, potentially causing delays to work undertaken on the carriageway if contractors are unfamiliar with how to remove or a replacement is unavailable.

The project set out to improve consistency of the layout and product specification, helping to ensure wands are removed in a timely fashion, used in a consistent manner and the correct products are reinstated, regardless of whether used as part of a temporary arrangement or within a permanent scheme.



The Project

TfL's Investment Delivery Planning, Asset Operations and Engineering team worked in partnership to deliver the project between summer 2021 and December 2022, which included:

- Network-wide surveys of every location where wands have been used on the TLRN to identify variances and opportunities for improvement
- Engagement with consultants and manufacturers to establish a new product specification
- Research into the legal and regulatory status of wands
- Testing products off and on site to seek solutions
- Consultation with boroughs and associated stakeholders
- Trialling new techniques and products on street
- Collaborating with contractors to establish the most suitable maintenance and cleaning plan for all

The scheme has delivered the following:

- Regulatory statement on the use of traffic wands
- Published guidance and technical specification for the use of wands during schemes and as part of temporary traffic management layouts for works



Outcomes

The aim was to improve consistency across traffic wand infrastructure on London roads, in relation to road layouts, sourcing, maintenance and use and regain the overall benefit derived from their placement.

This has been achieved through the production of guidance and a technical specification, which is available to boroughs, contractors and 3rd parties via the [TfL website](#).

These deliverables will help ensure the following benefits will be realised over time:

- ✓ Reduced risk of confusion through consistent road layouts on permanent schemes and as part of temporary traffic management during works.
- ✓ Reduced disruption from works associated to the placement, maintenance, repair and replacement of wands, along with those that come into contact with them
- ✓ Continued use of effective means to encourage active travel
- ✓ Reduced costs for all parties involved in the placement, inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement of wands, as well as those who come into contact with them as part of works on the road network.



A lessons learned workshop was held on 30 November 2022, with key lessons identified and outlined below. These have been shared with TfL Programme Management Office for inclusion on the knowledge portal.



Positives: quick and clear project initiation, regular product progress meetings and good, productive stakeholder engagement



Negatives: approvals process required greater clarity, with product testing for all and commercial requirements/timescales underestimated. The need for a product trial wasn't established at the start of the scheme, identifying this requirement earlier would have allowed the process to be more formalised.

Lessons Learnt

Conclusion

The project has successfully delivered a regulatory statement on the use of wands for cycle segregation, design guidance and technical specification. This information has been published on the TfL website and is being promoted to all stakeholders. This will standardise wand infrastructure on London's road network and how it is used, to improve customer experience.

The project team will continue to promote the use of the guidance and specification to all external parties through various communication channels, with a presentation to the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC(UK)) members planned for February 2023 to further promote the benefits of consistency and collaboration, to ensure they can be realised.



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TfL Lane Rental Scheme

Optimising customer journeys through the
delivery of safer, innovative and sustainable
roadworks

