

To Residents / Businesses

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My ref: G-I180012-B A507 Weight Limit
ETRO

Your ref: A507 Weight Limit

Date: 14 October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

A507 Weight Limit Experimental Traffic Regulation Order - Consultation

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has been exploring options to reduce the impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) through traffic using the A507 in Cottered Village following representations to the Highways Cabinet Panel by local communities. HCC is proposing to implement a weight limit ban affecting the A507 and part of the B1037 in Cottered as an experimental scheme under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for up to 18 months. The purpose is to understand the effectiveness of the weight limit ban before making any decision to make the Traffic Regulation Order permanent.

The weight limit ban will restrict access within the ban area to HGVs in excess of 7.5T. The weight limit ban area extends from the western approach of the A507 into Cottered to the eastern outskirts of Cottered and the B1037 in Cottered from the junction with the A507 to the junction with Warren Lane. The weight limit ban will connect with existing weight limit ban currently at the top of Warren Lane in Cottered. Signage is proposed in advance of the ban to deter vehicles from approaching the restricted areas, in addition to signage at the ban start locations.

The proposal can be viewed on the consultation drawing enclosed with this letter.

The key expected benefits of this proposal are:

- HGV through traffic will be rerouted to more suitable routes, reducing overall HGV traffic in Cottered and along the A507.
- The HGV ban in Cottered is anticipated to reduce HGV through traffic in Baldock due to the weight limit restricting flows for vehicles over 7.5T between the A1 and A10 on this route.
- The A507 will be a safer route.
- The ETRO will allow HCC to determine if a permanent TRO is justified before the permanent TRO is applied.
- The ETRO will allow HCC to make amendments to the scheme as seen necessary before it is made permanent.

The proposed alternative routes for HGVs to avoid the A507 for eastbound and westbound traffic is to utilise the A602 and A505. These routes are slightly longer than the A507 as an east-west/ west-east connection but are both more suitable routes for HGV traffic. To avoid HGVs rerouting to minor roads, HGV rerouting signage and weight limit ban warning signs will be implemented at key locations.

To accommodate for deliveries and the operational needs of businesses and farms in the proposed ban area, access will be maintained with the use of an “Except for Access” clause in the weight limit ban. The terms of access will be set out in the ETRO and will allow for access to any property or land within the restricted ban area. “Except for Access” signs will be installed with the ban warning signs.

Implementation of an ETRO will enable HCC to monitor whether a weight limit ban will be effective in removing adequate numbers of HGVs from the A507 before a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is implemented. To determine the reduction in HGV numbers, traffic surveys will be undertaken before the scheme implementation and during the time the ETRO is in place. We are looking for the experimental scheme to achieve a minimum 10% reduction in HGVs above 7.5T but hoping to see a reduction of 30% or more. This level has been set based on the expected reduction in HGV through traffic, recognising that HGVs accessing properties in the weight limit ban area will not be affected by the TRO.

Next Steps

Following this period of consultation, a decision will be taken as to whether or not to proceed with the ETRO. If a decision is taken to proceed, a Public Notice of Making will be published in The Comet and The Hertfordshire Mercury at least 7 days prior to the Order coming into effect. It is anticipated that the experimental scheme would likely commence in early 2023 and will remain in effect for up to 18 months.

For the first 6 months of the experiment, there will be an opportunity to object to the Orders becoming permanent and details will be set out in the Public Notice of Making.

Adjustments to the scheme can be made in the first 12 months, after which HCC will decide whether to make the weight limit ban permanent.

Have your say

During this consultation, we would like to invite you to provide feedback you may have specific to the outlined proposal. This can be done via an online survey tool using the following link: <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/A507WeightLimitETRO/>. We ask that it is submitted by **Sunday 13 November 2022**.

Alternatively, if you would like a paper copy of the online survey, please make a request using the details provided above.

All comments received in relation to this scheme only, will be considered as part of the decision-making process.

Your personal details will not be published. However, it is helpful for us to know where you live, in order to analyse your specific feedback in context with those made from the wider area. Details given will be stored securely for the duration of the

works/scheme. This data is shared with our third-party consultants for the works/scheme who are acting under contract.

If you have any concerns regarding highway issues or wish to report a highway fault you can do so online via www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/ or telephone **0300 123 4047**.

Yours faithfully,



Miltiadis Nikolaidis
Project Engineer