

Report of Chris Way, Principal Traffic Engineer

Report to the Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

Date: 24 March 2020

Subject: Proposed Changes to Classified Road Network – A6029 Rein Road

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Morley South	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report was drafted before the COVID-19 crisis. To expedite matters, no changes have been made at this stage but future reports will more fully reflect the current and ongoing situation.
2. The current classification of the A6029 Rein Road has been classified as an A Road.
3. The current review of roads within Leeds City Council has highlighted the A6029 Rein Road not meeting the current characteristic criteria of an A Road. This is laid out within the current Department for Transport guidance document, *'Guidance on Road Classification and the Primary Route Network January, 2012.*
4. This report requests the re-classification of the A6029 Rein Road from an A Class Road to the proposed designation Unclassified Road.

Recommendations

Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

The Chief Officer is requested to:

- a) Note the contents of this report; and

- b) Approve the reclassification of the A6029 to a Classified Unnumbered route in line with the guidance of the Department for Transport.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seek approval to change the classification of the A class road to a Classified Unnumbered route.
- 1.2 The road which is to be re-classified is the A6029 Rein Road located south west Leeds, Tingley

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council as the Highway Authority for Leeds is responsible for determining the local classification and Primary Route Network (PRN) which falls within the authority's jurisdiction. This includes A Class, B Class and unclassified roads.
- 2.2 The power was granted to local authorities by the central Government in April 2012. A guidance document was produced by the Department for Transport in January 2012. The document sets out requirements and offers guidance on appropriate classification of assorted classified road types.
- 2.3 The guidance document outlines the local highways authorities responsibilities, these are as follows;
- To manage all local classification decisions and ensure that the network is adequately signed.
 - To consult neighbouring highways authorities where relevant.
 - To keep records and inform certain national bodies of any changes.
 - To be prepared to explain any changes in the event of appeals.
- 2.4 As per the above criteria, highway authorities are free to set their own policies regarding classification of roads.
- 2.5 Road classification should ensure feasible, logical road networks throughout the country be sufficient for purpose and therefore should reflect ways in which a community is linked and connected.
- 2.6 In setting standards and uniformly throughout the country, there has been disparities in which local authorities have adopted. There are however no set criteria to benchmark reclassification, which allows the highway authority to set its own standard.
- 2.7 Classification must however be set such that it reflects the road network in the local areas, and considering the following;
- An A road will generally be among the widest, most direct roads in an area, and will be of the greatest significance to through traffic

- A B road will still be of significance to traffic (including through traffic), but less so than an A road
- A Classified unnumbered road will be lower significance and be of primary local importance, but will perform a more important function than an unclassified road
- An Unclassified road will generally have very low significance to traffic, and be of only very local importance

2.8 In addition to the above roads can be assessed with additional parameters that bring a reclassification into context;

- Directness of potential/route
 - Primary destination to primary destination
 - Primary destination to none primary destination etc....
- The standard and capacity of potential/route
- Environmental surroundings of each road

3 Main issues

3.1 There have been requests to the Highway Authority to downgrade the A6029 Rein Road, Tingley from an A Class Road to Unclassified road.

3.2 Rein Road connects the A650 Britannia Road and the A653 Dewsbury Road, which both meet at Junction 28 of the M62. In effect, the single carriageway Rein Road forms the third leg of a triangle with the other two legs being dual carriageways.

3.3 Rein Road serves a local high school and a number of residential properties is subject to a 20mph speed limit with traffic calming and a 7.5 tonne weight restriction. Concerns have been raised with the status of the A Class road legitimises its use by through traffic which should travel via the A650/A653 route, and that high volumes of through traffic are not appropriate given the school and residence.

4 Proposals

4.1 Given the nature of Rein Road and the details above, it is not considered appropriate that the A classification is maintained.

4.2 It is proposed to downgrade Rein Road from an A classification to Classified Unnumbered route (a 'C' class)

4.3 These re-classifications will require a number of signs to be replaced, and for relevant parties to be informed per the Department for Transport circular. Costs will be met from the Traffic Management Revenue budget.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

5.1.1 The Department for Transport circular guidance document states that changes to road classification do not require consultation or advertisement, and local authorities do not traditionally do so.

5.1.2 Local ward members have however been consulted and expressed support for the proposals.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

5.2.1 The proposal has no impact on these issues

5.3 Council policies and City Priorities

5.3.1 Approving this report supports the Council's Best Council Plan: Sustainable Infrastructure priority:

- Improving transport connections, safety, reliability and affordability
- Improving air quality, reducing pollution and noise

5.3.2 Climate Emergency

These changes in classification will de-emphasise the status of these roads for through traffic, which should remain on the major route network. The major network is designed for free flow traffic rather than stop-start nature of more local routes, and this should help reduce vehicle emissions as a consequence.

5.4 Resources and value for money

5.4.1 The cost of this proposal chiefly comprises the review and replacement of existing traffic signs. This cost can be met from the Traffic Management Revenue budget.

5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

5.5.1 The proposal is not eligible for call in.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 There are no specific risks associated with this proposal

6 Conclusions

6.1 Approval of this report will allow Rein Road to be reclassified to a more suitable classification in line with the DfT guidance document and in line with Leeds City Councils Best Council Plan and Climate Emergency policies.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

The Chief Officer is requested to:

- a) Note the contents of this report; and
- b) Approve the reclassification of A6029 Rein Road as detailed in this report in line with the guidance of the DfT.

8 Background documents

8.1 None