

Frequently Asked Questions about the Hout Bay road closures

How long will this take?

Weather permitting, the contract completion date is 25 September 2015.

Is this the most effective way of doing this work?

The volume of work that is required to maintain the road is such that it cannot take place outside of peak traffic hours only and would mean that a 24 hour stop/go arrangement would have to be in place for the duration of the works. However experience has shown that stop/go's do not work on busy urban roads with peak hours as the queues become too long and this in turn affects other intersections.

The alternative is to close the road completely, and divert all traffic or accommodate one-way traffic full time and divert traffic in one direction. Closing the road completely was also not an option due to the access requirements of residents and businesses along the route. Accommodating one-way traffic full time and diverting the traffic in the other direction was thus the best option.

The decision to divert the southbound traffic was taken because this resulted in a left turn at the Victoria Road/Victoria Avenue intersection at the bottom of Suikerbossie Hill. This turning action is made easier by the left turn slip lane that exists at this intersection. Diverting the northbound traffic would result in a right turn movement at this intersection, which is less conducive to traffic flow.

The timing of the traffic lights at the Victoria Road/Victoria Avenue intersection was also investigated and the green phase will be increased and monitored and further adjustments made if necessary.

A team of experienced urban road engineering professionals spent many hours deliberating the different traffic accommodation plans and it was agreed that this was the best solution to carry out the work.

What is being done about taxis that break the law?

We have engaged with the traffic department and requested assistance in law enforcement. We have also engaged with the local community leadership to encourage the local taxi associations to ensure that their members abide by the law and safeguard the lives of pedestrians by not jumping queues and driving on the sidewalks.

On 29 May 2015 concrete barriers were erected on the sidewalk to prevent vehicles from using it as a road. Excavation on the closed lane also started on 29 May and this will make it more difficult for vehicles to use the closed lane as a 'rat run'.

All residents and road users are encouraged to be patient and obey the law while the work is underway.



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