

**The Essex County Council (A134 Northern Approach, Colchester)
(Two-Way Bus Lane) Order 202***

Statement of Reasons

Essex County Council is delivering this rapid transit corridor as part of a wider rapid transit system for Colchester to provide a step change in public transport facilities and support sustainable transport provision. The goal is to reduce traffic congestion, cut air pollution and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The rapid transit corridor will run alongside the A134 Northern Approach Road and will connect existing bus priority infrastructure to the north along A1341 Via Urbis Romanae with the existing bus gate to the south along Bruff Close. The core of the scheme will be to deliver infrastructure that enables improved journey times and reliability for the mass transit vehicles using the corridor. As well as the busway, high quality pedestrian and cycle facilities are to be implemented, transforming the A134 Northern Approach Road into a sustainable corridor, and promoting inter-modal travel. The above order will facilitate the introduction of the proposed facilities.

The bus lanes are to be restricted to local buses only to ensure only mass transit vehicles are afforded priority along the corridor at the expense of regular traffic. Cycles are also not permitted to use the bus lanes due to the high-quality dedicated infrastructure running adjacent. Mass transit services will be given a 'green wave' in that their approach to traffic signal junctions will place a demand for a green signal, providing priority at these junctions.