



Onchan

15 Year Road Map

2018 – 2033

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
INTRODUCTION.....	3
VISION	3
STRATEGY.....	3
TIMESCALE	4
ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS.....	5
1. Kaighin's Lane	5
2. Additional Crossing Point on Hillberry Road, Upper Onchan	6
3. Governor's Road Crossing Point	7
4. Governor's Footpath Crossing Point.....	8
5. Onchan / Douglas Cycle Route.....	9
6. Cycle Lanes.....	10
7. Royal Avenue	13
8. Pedestrian Environment Review System (PERS) Study.....	14
9. King Edward Road	14
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.....	15
10. Filter Lanes on Hillberry Road	15
11. Governor's Roundabout.....	16
12. Onchan Roundabout (Corkills)	18
13. Avondale Junction.....	19
14. Wayfinding / Signage	20
15. Residential Highway Improvements	20
ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS	21
16. Summer Hill.....	21
17. Speed Restrictions in the Village.....	22
PARKING PROJECTS.....	23
18. Parking Study	23
19. Mount View Road / Victoria Avenue Junction	23

INTRODUCTION

Highway Services Division and Onchan Commissioners worked together in 2018 to develop a road map for the long term development of Onchan's highway infrastructure.

This document summarises these strategic visions and objectives for the future of Onchan. The development of Onchan will be ongoing with visions and objectives being reviewed every few years to ensure additional opportunities are captured along the way.

VISION

The vision is to:

- Update, maintain and improve the standards of highways, junctions, footways and footpaths.
- Increase and improve pedestrian friendly zones.
- Increase and encourage more people to opt for walking or cycling as a means of active travel, benefitting health and wellbeing.
- Provide a sense of place for visitors and residents to enjoy their environment.

This vision is for the increased amenity of the highway, creating a better place to live and work, in collaboration with the Area Plan for the East.

STRATEGY

Highway Services Division and Onchan Commissioners have recognised various opportunities for Onchan and developed a set of initial strategies listed below. It is the intention to carry out works over the course of the next 15 years in order to achieve this vision.

Public consultation hosted by Onchan Commissioners took place in 2018, to consult and involve the public in the decision making process.

TIMESCALE

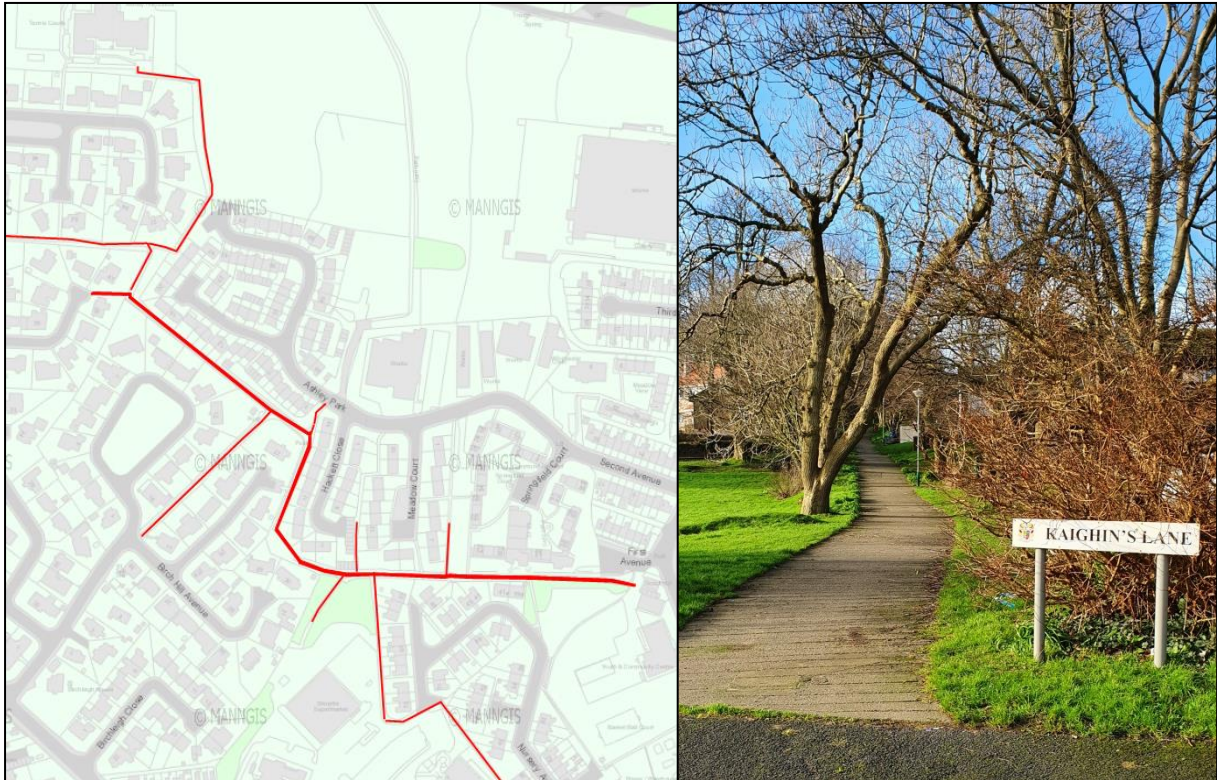
The Department recognises that some projects will be a higher priority than others and so a timescale has been created to establish where each project lies.

Short term projects are for consideration within two years, medium term projects between two and five years and long term will be for any projects for consideration from five years' time or more. Below is a table that summarises each of the projects listed in this document and their likely timescales.

Project	Timescale
Kaighin's Lane	Short Term
Additional Crossing Point on Hillberry Road, Upper Onchan	Short Term
Onchan / Douglas Cycle Route	Short Term
Royal Avenue	Short Term
Onchan Roundabout (Corkills)	Short Term
Avondale Junction	Short Term
Wayfinding / Signage	Short Term
Residential Highway Improvements	Short Term
Summer Hill, Road Safety	Short Term
Mount View Road / Victoria Avenue Junction	Short Term
Parking Study	Short / Medium Term
Governor's Road Crossing Point	Medium Term
Governor's Footpath Crossing Point	Medium Term
Cycle Lanes	Medium Term
Pedestrian Environment Review System Study (PERS)	Medium Term
Speed Restrictions in the Village	Medium Term
Filter lanes on Hillberry Road	Medium / Long Term
Governor's Roundabout	Medium / Long Term
King Edward Road	Long Term

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

1. Kaighin's Lane



Kaighin's Lane was identified as a key link for the residents of Onchan walking or cycling due to its many branching connections. The lane runs through upper Onchan connecting residential areas with local shops, businesses and schools.

The lane has a number of uneven surfaces which would benefit from surface improvement works. Handrails along this lane have been suggested to assist the elderly and more vulnerable pedestrians.

The Commissioners will look into lighting options in the area, whilst the Department will look into various materials and designs that could be used for the resurfacing of Kaighin's Lane, taking into account the preference of an anti-slip surface for the steepest parts of the path. The Department will review the possibility of widening the path to accommodate cyclists. This is on the Department's medium term agenda and a design brief will be put together for this project.

Status : Design brief required.

2. Additional Crossing Point on Hillberry Road, Upper Onchan



Hillberry Road is an important part of the village that connects upper and lower Onchan. Either side of Hillberry Road there are housing estates with schools, play-parks, convenience stores and a kindergarten.

The Commissioners would like to see a controlled crossing put in place to improve permeability across the road, making it easier to travel between them on foot. The section of highlighted road above has one crossing aid which consists of an island in the centre of the road, but no controlled pedestrian crossings.

Improving links and accessibility between the areas will encourage more people to opt for walking and cycling in the area. With Kaighin's Lane also connecting into one side of Upper Onchan it seems practical to connect both sides for easier access to and from the lane. The Department will undertake a review of traffic and pedestrian movements in the area to determine whether a controlled crossing would be beneficial and practical. This is on the Department's medium term agenda.

Status : Survey required.

3. Governor's Road Crossing Point



The Department will be undertaking a review of traffic and pedestrian movements in Onchan. This will enable the Department to determine whether a pedestrian crossing along Governor's Road, between Wybourn Drive and Blackberry Lane would be useful and practical.

The Commissioners would like to see a pedestrian crossing along this stretch of the highway. The Department are to survey and assess this road to understand the requirement and suitability of a pedestrian crossing. This is on the medium term agenda.

Status : Survey required.

4. Governor's Footpath Crossing Point



The Commissioners would like to see the existing traffic island on Governor's Road replaced with a pedestrian crossing. The traffic island links up with the footpath on Governor's Hill which is an important route for those walking, particularly as there is a school in this area.

The Department will be undertaking a review of traffic and pedestrian movements in Onchan which will determine whether a controlled crossing would be safe and practical in this area. This will be placed on the medium term agenda.

Status : Survey required.

5. Onchan / Douglas Cycle Route



With the Area Plan for the East due to be published, the Department seeks to ensure appropriate Active Travel options are in place.

The Department are developing a design for a new, dedicated cycle route that will connect Onchan and Douglas. The proposed path follows the desirable route for commuters and families wishing to walk or cycle into town. This will encourage more active travel, reducing the dependence on vehicular use.

The proposed route runs up Prospect Hill, towards St Ninian's, through Noble's Park and out onto Glencrutchery Road and through to Onchan Roundabout. The route serves those that may not find Douglas Promenade a practical or direct route, and links with the Promenade through Blackberry Lane which it passes. The route also passes through and serves popular locations between Onchan and Douglas, including several residential areas.

This scheme is on the Department's short term agenda.

Status : In the design phase.

6. Cycle Lanes

The Commissioners would like to see the addition of cycle lanes considered throughout Onchan and have proposed three sites; Governor's Hill, Blackberry Lane and the perimeter of Onchan Park. All three areas are populated and in close proximity of each other which is important for providing connectivity to promote cycling over driving.

- Governor's Hill



Governor's Hill is a busy and popular route providing access into and out of Onchan, as well as to various residential areas, schools and shops. Located between Governor's roundabout and Signpost Corner it is an attractive route for cyclists, picking up from where the proposed Douglas to Onchan Cycle Route ends.

There is an existing footpath sheltered from the road by hedges and shrubbery that if cut back may allow room for a cycle lane. The Department will look into the feasibility of this and has placed this on the medium term agenda of 2-5 years.

Status : Survey required.

- **Blackberry Lane**



Blackberry Lane is located between Summer Hill and Governor's Road, providing a useful potential link for cyclists in Onchan. As with the proposed Governor's Hill cycle lane, it is a natural route picking up from where the proposed Douglas to Onchan Cycle Route ends and is therefore suggested for a cycle lane.

The route is in close proximity to Douglas Promenade which comprises of a popular cycle route. A footway is in place along Blackberry Lane with a green area and shrubbery dividing it from the road. The commissioners favour either removing or cutting back some of this shrubbery to create space for a dedicated cycle path, alongside the footpath. The Department will look into the feasibility of this and has placed this on the medium term agenda of 2-5 years.

Status : Survey required.

- **Onchan Park**



Onchan Park is a leisure park located in lower Onchan, by Port Jack. It holds a children's playground, a boat lake, a golf course, a restaurant, a café, a raceway and much more. As a popular amenity for Onchan, and to encourage active travel to and from the area, the Commissioners would like to see a cycle lane around the perimeter of the park.

The Department will look into the feasibility of this and has placed this on the medium term agenda of 2-5 years.

Status : Survey required.

7. Royal Avenue



Royal Avenue is located in Lower Onchan between Port Jack and The Village Walk. It provides access between the two retail areas which consist of convenience stores, hair and beauty salons, fast food shops, a supermarket and Onchan Park. It is a busy road and a main route for traffic with a large and staggered junction at the bottom by the glen.

The junction consists of five roads (including Royal Avenue), with a bus shelter and the entrance to the Port Jack Glen. This area is generally catered towards vehicles with no crossing aids in place for pedestrians when trying to cross the large junction. As a connecting route for locals and to encourage the uptake of more active travel in these areas, the Department will look into the feasibility of crossing aids in this area.

Status : Design brief required.

8. Pedestrian Environment Review System (PERS) Study

A review of the pedestrian environment in Onchan has been carried out to enable the Department to provide suitable and appropriate designs around the town encouraging and engaging more people to move actively, minimising the use of motor vehicles. We aim to create areas that are pedestrian friendly and accessible, creating a sense of place and benefitting users' health and wellbeing.

Status : The Onchan PERS study can be found at the following location

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/infrastructure/highway-services/highway-and-asset-management/pers-audit-2019/>

9. King Edward Road



King Edward Road is the coastal route linking Port Jack and Groudle as well as providing access to the North of the Island. The road has a pavement along the coastal side with fencing that provides a barrier from the cliff edge for pedestrians. There are sections along the road where the fencing is in need of repair or replacement. The Department has looked into this and found that the current land owner has responsibility for keeping and maintaining the fence in good condition and repair.

King Edward Road is also on the Department's Long Term Strategic Maintenance for Roads Programme.

Status : No major works will take place until completion of the Douglas Promenade scheme. Plans are under review for this area.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

10. Filter Lanes on Hillberry Road



Upper Onchan can become congested during the Island's '*rush hours*'. To alleviate some of the traffic in the area the Commissioners would like to see a filter lane introduced on Hillberry Road. The filter lane would allow those wishing to turn down into Heywood Avenue to move over into a separate lane, allowing the traffic behind to safely pass by.



The Commissioners also favour the introduction of a second filter lane slightly further up on Hillberry Road. The purpose of this filter lane would be to reduce the congestion caused by traffic turning left onto Governor's Hill, allowing those travelling straight ahead onto the A18 towards the Mountain to continue their journeys. The Commissioners have proposed to widen the road by removing hedgerow to make way for this filter lane.

The Department will look into the feasibility of these filter lanes and has placed these works on the medium to long term agenda of 2-10 years.

Status : Survey required.

11. Governor's Roundabout

Governor's roundabout is the main entry and exit point for Onchan and is located on the border of Onchan and Douglas. It sees a great deal of traffic particularly during peak times where it becomes congested, backing up into both Upper and Lower Onchan. The addition of a new school in the area has also increased the amount of traffic being directed through Governor's Roundabout.

The Department would also like to factor in the potential increase in traffic as outlined in the Area Plan for the East. The Department will undertake a review of traffic flow through Onchan to establish potential solutions to reduce or minimise the traffic issues. Each of the below proposed options will be taken into consideration and reviewed through traffic modelling. This is on the Department's medium term agenda of 2-10 years.



1. Remove the verge on the approach to Governor's Roundabout and introduce the filter lane earlier on, specifically for traffic turning left onto Governor's Hill.



2. Extend the filter lanes at the bottom of Governor's Hill further up the road towards The Nook so filtering begins earlier.



3. Introduce a filter lane between the roundabouts for those turning left onto Victoria Road.
4. Construct a new road from Governor's Road allowing those turning left down Victoria Road to filter off earlier.



5. Reduce the size of the roundabout to allow traffic to flow easier in their lanes.
6. Introduce part-time traffic lights during 'Rush Hour' to allow even traffic flow from all directions using Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique (SCOOT).

Status : Design briefs required.

12. Onchan Roundabout (Corkills)



Onchan Roundabout is the entry and exit point to the centre of the village. It directs the traffic of those travelling into or out of Onchan, as well as those travelling to and from the North of the Island as well. Whilst the roundabout itself functions well and distributes traffic relatively equally, the traffic issues from the Avondale Junction ahead and the Governor's Roundabout can often result in traffic backing up into the roundabout. The Department is looking into both of these problem areas with the intention to alleviate traffic concerns.

As this is the key entry and exit point to the village the area could be enhanced to create a welcoming zone and sense of place. Suggestions of planting, statues and clocks have been made and these could be incorporated into the roundabout itself and/or existing buildings or features surrounding it. The Department is happy to review any schemes that the Commissioners wish to progress and can place this on the medium term agenda.

Status : Onchan Commissioners to propose potential improvements.

13. Avondale Junction



Avondale Road is a connecting road that runs between upper Onchan and Main Road. It is an important and popular route leading to many residential areas as well as the Village Walk, which consists of a large car park, supermarket, café, cash machine, fast food chains, doctors' surgery and many other businesses.

The Commissioners expressed that the traffic light timings around the Avondale junction are often out of sync with its users and this can cause issues. The Department is currently looking into different options for the area including a new traffic light programme known as Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation, or MOVA for short. MOVA learns traffic and pedestrian movements, adjusting its settings throughout the day in order to provide a constant, efficient flow of traffic and pedestrians.

Status : Traffic light timings and lane markings have been changed; these works have improved traffic flows. The area will be monitored for future performance.

14. Wayfinding / Signage

Both the Department and Commissioners agreed that additional signage in Onchan would be useful as well as important for creating a sense of place. The Commissioners will look into this and progress the designs and positioning of signage to ensure pedestrians and motor vehicles are appropriately directed throughout Onchan.

Status : Design brief required.

15. Residential Highway Improvements



The Department has a programme of works for improving residential roads across the Island. Onchan Commissioners had suggested the resurfacing of Ballachrink Drive (sections repaired), Bemahague Avenue (mostly resurfaced), Wybourn Drive (planned, with works undertaken on Lhon Vane side), and Sea View Road leading onto Mountfield Road.

Status : Residential roads programme ongoing. Some of the suggested roads have had works undertaken, Wybourn Drive is planned.

ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS

16. Summer Hill



The Commissioners would like to see improved visibility and road safety for those leaving Alberta Drive and Ridgeway Road onto Summer Hill.

Summer Hill is a popular route and the visibility from these junctions is restricted by the streetscape and parked cars. A mirror is in place at the Alberta Drive Junction but generally they are considered inappropriate for these issues, and the Department will look into additional options, including the physical issue of the parked cars.

Status : Design brief required.

17. Speed Restrictions in the Village



The Commissioners would like to see a feasibility study of traffic flow management in the Village to create a calming, pedestrian orientated feel. The Department will review this with other schemes for this area. The Department has placed this on their medium term agenda of 2-5 years.

Status : Design brief required.

PARKING PROJECTS

18. Parking Study

The Onchan and Douglas parking study was undertaken to develop a parking strategy for the Douglas and Onchan conurbation, taking into account the Area Plan for the East.

Status : TBC

19. Mount View Road



The Commissioners would like to see the junctions along Mount View Road improved. Vehicles can often be found parked close to these junctions making it difficult for other road users to get by. There are currently double yellow lines in some of these areas confirming that parking is prohibited, however, the Department will look into whether there are any additional measures to deter vehicles from parking in these areas. The Commissioners would also like an assessment of the one way system as well as improved traffic signage and road markings. The Commissioners would like to include Victoria Avenue in this.

The Commissioners would also like an assessment of a one way system as well as improved traffic signage and road markings for the area of Stoney Road, Nursery Avenue and Elm Drive.

Status : Design brief required.