



10 August 2012

Consultation findings to inform tunnel measures for shift workers

A first ever survey of shift workers using the Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels has received 64 online responses.

A consultation programme was carried out to discover how many people use the crossing to get to and from work between 8pm and 6am.

The tunnels will be closed later this year for refurbishment and a free timetabled shuttle bus will operate between 6am and 8pm between the Howdon and Jarrow entrances.

The tunnels' owner, the Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Authority (TWITA), carried out the activity to help it decide what measures could be put in place to help this group of people.

The consultation included inviting comment via the tunnels' website and social media tools, gathering feedback on-site and the advertisement of a bespoke online survey.

TWITA's project director Paul Fenwick said: "Although the tunnels are not public rights of way, the Transport Authority feels it has a commitment to help commuting cyclists and pedestrians who may otherwise find it difficult to cross the river during the forthcoming closure.

"It would not be cost effective to keep the shuttle buses operating 24/7 and we needed to gain an understanding of just how many people use the tunnels to get to work between 8pm and 6am in order to know the size of the problem and to help us plan the measures we might put in place to help those affected.

"The survey identified a small group of about 20 to 25 regular users who appear to have no other means of crossing the river during the closure, so we will be considering ways in which we can help these people get to and from their place of work."

TWITA is investing £4 million in the refurbishment of the Grade II-listed tunnels and the work is expected to start in late October and take up to 12 months to complete.



Owing to the scale and complexity of the works required in a confined space, TWITA decided that a complete closure was required mainly for public safety reasons, and also because it would allow the works to be completed more quickly and at a lower cost.

For more information visit www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk

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