

## **ETRO/23/13**

### **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

The introduction of the proposed measures is intended to encourage sustainable travel by public transport. Bus priority at several key locations across the city will reduce bus journey times and make bus services more reliable. The scheme is being introduced by way of Experimental Traffic Order made under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, so as to allow the Council to modify or vary the scheme at short notice once in force, should circumstances require. In 2020 and 2021, the Council introduced a series of measures across the city in response to the public health emergency (Coronavirus (COVID-19)). On 3 November 2022 the Council approved proposals to use Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) for the majority of the existing schemes which facilitate public transport around the city. The proposed 18-month trial is intended to support the approved transport hierarchy, measures included in the City Mobility Plan and Draft Circulation Plan. Edinburgh needs mobility options that by 2030 are carbon emission free, efficient, accessible and affordable. The more opportunity we have to make greener, safer, more sustainable choices in how we move around, the greater the chance we have to reduce the impact of climate change. The perception that bus travel is slow and unreliable is a major obstacle to encouraging more people to use public transport between the places they live, work and visit. We need to trial how we use our road space and how we support safe sustainable travel. Measures will be monitored and evaluated during the first 6 months and considered for retention under separate traffic orders as appropriate.