



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Side Road Zebra Crossings in Wales**

DATE **26 November 2025**

BY **Ken Skates - Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales**

To support our vision of safe travel for all, I have approved the drafting of legislation to allow highway authorities in Wales to use side road zebra crossings on 20mph roads if they wish to do so.

This work supports Welsh Government's wider vision of supporting accessible and inclusive travel for all, where everyone can move safely and feel safe in their communities.

These crossings will support the 2022 amendments to the Highway Code requiring drivers to give way to pedestrians who are crossing or waiting to cross a road into which they are turning.

A side road zebra crossing uses black and white zebra markings and give way lines but does not have the other features of the crossings people are more used to such as Belisha beacons or zig zag markings. Side road zebra crossings can therefore be installed on the pedestrian's desired walking line, directly across the mouth of the junction and are significantly cheaper and quicker to install and maintain.

The side road zebras were trialled in three locations in Cardiff in 2022 to support the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in built-up areas and to:

- encourage more people to walk and cycle in our communities
- help to improve our health and well-being
- make our streets safer

The aim of the trial was to understand the impacts and user perceptions of these zebra crossings and to decide on their potential further use.

The Welsh Government commissioned Vivacity to collect anonymised data on the use of the crossings and to conduct user research, including with disability groups. Further engagement with Transport for Wales accessibility and inclusion panel was undertaken this

summer. The side road zebras used in Cardiff have proved to be popular and are still in place following the trial.

The trials in Cardiff and similar trials undertaken in Manchester and Westminster found no evidence that using a side road zebra crossing would have a significantly greater risk than one using the full range of features and showed a significant increase in drivers giving way to pedestrians compared to a junction without them.

The proposed changes to legislation will provide highway authorities with the option of installing a side road zebra crossing at junctions, where both the main and side road have a speed limit of 20mph. There is no obligation on highway authorities to use these side road zebra crossings, but the amendments to legislation will allow them to do so where they believe it will improve pedestrian safety.

A four-week stakeholder consultation has recently been launched and will be closing on the 15th of December. Further work with stakeholders will be undertaken to draft guidance for highway authorities to support them in deciding when and where to use these side road zebra crossings.

Legislation will be laid before the Senedd in February 2026, and it is proposed that it will come into force during March 2026.