

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Morecambe North and
Morecambe West

Proposed Zebra Crossing and Contraflow Cycleway, Lancaster Road/South Road, Morecambe

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal to provide a zebra crossing and contraflow cycleway on Lancaster Road and South Road respectively, Morecambe, to which objections have been received.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve the installation of a zebra crossing on Lancaster Road and a contraflow cycleway on South Road, Morecambe as shown on the plan at Appendix 'A'.

Background and Advice

It is proposed to construct a zebra crossing on Lancaster Road, Morecambe, south of its mini roundabout junction with Euston Road and Thornton Road. The location was determined by the Local Safety Team following analysis of accident records and as a result of strong demand from local residents.

It is also proposed to allow two-way cycling movements along the western section of South Road (a one-way street to vehicles). The concept of allowing contraflow cycling on South Road was suggested by the County Council's cycling officer, allowing this part of a recognised "quiet road" cycle route to operate fully in both directions. The scheme proposes to formalise contraflow cycling on this road (something which already occurs informally) and makes it safer for all road users. The road is long and straight, providing excellent forward visibility for cyclists and

vehicles, but due to the one-way restriction, receives less than 1,000 vehicles per day enabling it to fit the required criteria.

The provision of a zebra crossing and contraflow cycling will provide a link from the densely populated northern and eastern areas of Morecambe to the 'Lancaster-Morecambe Greenway' thus allowing for safer cyclist and pedestrian movements along the desire line.

Consultations

In July 2016 informal consultations were carried out with County and District Councillors, Lancashire Constabulary and local cycling groups. A letter-drop was also carried out on Lancaster Road and South Road to all affected residents and local businesses. No objections were received.

The zebra crossing and contraflow cycleway were formally advertised between 6 December and 3 January 2016/17.

Objections

Morecambe Town Council submitted a response registering the following member 'concerns'.

Regarding the zebra crossing on Lancaster Road...

"Position of crossing and additional brightly marked crossing area between Lancaster road, Bridge road and Thornton road will be distracting for motorists approaching from Thornton road particularly as there is access and egress onto this road close to the junction from retail car parks on both sides of the road (The road rises towards the main crossing making the Bridge road crossing directly in motorists sight lines possibly missing pedestrians on proposed main crossing)".

Regarding contraflow cycling on South Road...

"Vehicular approach narrowing by hatching onto South road will move turning vehicles to the road centre, just as approaching cyclists exiting this road are moving out past parking bays into the centre of the road and loosing manoeuvrability, because of the steep incline at this point (either contact or sharp braking resulting in rear end vehicular contact)."

Comment

Regarding the zebra crossing on Lancaster Road...

It is proposed to locate the crossing 23 metres away from the junction, this is well within current standards, the minimum distance being 5 metres.

It is very common for pedestrian desire lines to be close to junctions or other areas of traffic interaction. Based on historical experience, it is highly likely that pedestrians would still use the same desire line and ignore the crossing if it were to be relocated.

The areas of concern have been evaluated against the benefits of a zebra crossing, both by the designer and through a stage 2 road safety audit.

A zebra crossing is considered appropriate at the proposed location as it will improve pedestrian safety by providing a controlled crossing point, where drivers must give way once a pedestrian has moved onto the crossing.

The County Council has successfully constructed pedestrian crossings in similar locations, improving safe pedestrian access across main roads.

Regarding contraflow cycling on South Road...

The Town Council has misunderstood that the large build-out at the junction of South Road and Lancaster road is a hatched area. It is in fact a kerbed, built out area with a dropped kerb giving cyclists a safe area to bypass the junction and dismount to cross Lancaster Road.

It is therefore recommended that the zebra crossing and contraflow cycling are approved as advertised and as shown on the scheme drawings attached at Appendix 'A'.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

These facilities will provide greater visibility and conspicuity while reducing the conflict between vehicles and vulnerable users.

Financial

The cost of the scheme will be met from the 2015/16 Starts Capital Programme for Cycling Safety. The works are estimated to cost a further £48,000 against a remaining budget allocation in the Programme of £50,698.

Legal

The proposals have been drafted and advertised in accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to establish a Zebra Crossing on Lancaster Road, Morecambe and under sections 1, 2 and 4 and part IV of schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to revoke the existing 'one-way' restriction on South Road, Morecambe and introduce a 'one-way except for pedal cycles' restriction.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.