

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 March 2020

Report of the Head of Service - Design and Construction

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Chorley Central;

Toucan Crossing and Shared Use Cycleway, A6 Bolton Road, Chorley

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report outlines proposals to remove footway and provide a cycle track with right of way on foot along three lengths of A6 Bolton Road, Chorley. Proposals for a Toucan crossing required in conjunction with the cycle tracks are also described.

Consultation and formal advertising of the proposals has been undertaken with a number of objections received.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the proposed removal of footway and construction of cycle tracks with right of way on foot and a Toucan Crossing facility as shown in Appendix 'A'.

Background and Advice

Proposals have been developed to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists along a length of A6 Bolton Road, Chorley. A cycle track with right of way on foot, is proposed along lengths of Bolton Road as shown on the plans at Appendix 'A'. This includes a length of cycle track within an existing 40 mph speed limit zone. This will provide a safer alternative for cyclists to the existing on-carriageway cycle lane facilities at this location.

The longest length of proposed cycle track at this location is on the west side of the A6 and will be constructed at least 3.0m wide, which is considered sufficient width to be safely shared by pedestrians and cyclists. The verge which is being used as part of the widening is part of Lancashire County Council's adopted highway.

It is proposed that pedestrians and cyclists both using the shared surface will be able to do so safely due to the good visibility provided by the straight alignment of Bolton Road.

Pedestrians currently use an uncontrolled crossing on the A6 Bolton Road in the vicinity of Albany Academy. Two further short lengths of shared use cycletrack and a Toucan Crossing are proposed, this will improve safety for pedestrians and will also provide a crossing facility that can be used by cyclists. The shared use cycle tracks will be constructed to a minimum 3.0m wide to provide a shared crossing facility for pedestrians and cyclists. To provide this 3.0m the shared use cycle tracks will be widened into the carriageway. A suitable width of carriageway will remain for 2-way traffic through the Toucan Crossing.

Consultations

Formal advertising of the proposed Toucan Crossing was undertaken over a four week period during September 2019. At the same time a consultation was carried out regarding the proposed cycle track with right of way on foot.

Strong support for the proposals was received from the Head Teacher of Albany Academy as a Toucan crossing was something the school had been requesting for a number of years. The Toucan crossing will benefit the school children greatly by providing a safe controlled crossing point.

The county council's elected member for Chorley Central, Local Police and Cycling Group have been consulted regarding the proposals and have raised no objections.

Two objections were received from local residents as summarised below.

Objections

- Visibility towards the crossing will be restricted by parked vehicles, causing a potential accident.
- Cyclists will not be able to use the cycle track as cars will be parked on the single yellow lines which need enforcing.

In response

- Zig zag lines will be provided at either side of the Toucan Crossing. This will prevent vehicles from parking on approach to the crossing and thereby ensure visibility is maintained.
- Parking along the signal yellow lines during the restricted hours is an offence and enforceable. This has been passed to the local Enforcement Team to monitor.

It is therefore suggested that the objections do not undermine the proposal and the recommendation is that the proposal be approved.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Should the cycle track identified in this report not be implemented, cyclists will be required to take a more hazardous route on the carriageway along the 40mph section of A6 Bolton Road with greater potential for conflict with vehicles.

Without provision of the Toucan Crossing, pedestrians and cyclists will be at increased risk whilst crossing Bolton Road without the benefit of traffic signal control.

By constructing the shared use cycletrack with sufficient width it is suggested that safety of pedestrians will be maintained.

Financial

The estimated cost of the proposals detailed in this report is £155,000. This will be funded as part of a Section 106 agreement for the Arley Homes Vertex Training Site housing development.

Legal

Toucan crossings are permitted under the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (2016) and are implemented by the Road Traffic Regulation Act (1984).

The legal procedures to convert a footway to a cycle track are under Section 66 of the Highways Act to remove the footway and under Section 65 to construct a cycle track, although this may involve little actual physical work.

Under Section 66, the Highway Authority is under a duty to provide proper and sufficient footways by the made-up carriageways where it is considered necessary or desirable for the safety or accommodation of pedestrians. It is considered that discrete footways for pedestrians only are no longer necessary as the proposed cycle tracks will include a right of way for pedestrians wide enough for cyclists and pedestrians to safely share.

A decision to remove footways and replace them with cycle tracks with a right of way on foot should be made with proper consideration of the implications for the safety and accommodation of pedestrians. This report sets out these considerations.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
NA		