

## **MINOR WORKS AT A21/A225 ROUNDABOUT AND CREATION OF CYCLE PATH**

### **Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – 11 December 2013**

Report of the: KCC Head of Transportation – Tim Read

Status: For Member recommendation

---

**Recommendation:** Members are recommended to endorse the proposal to redesignate approximately 140 metres of footway as a shared-use “Cycle Track” on the east side of Riverhill and London Road adjacent the A21/A225 roundabout, as described in this report, provided that no insurmountable obstacles are raised in safety audits.

---

### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 The proposed works are intended to provide a less hazardous and intimidating route for cyclists at the A21 / A225 roundabout, while they travelling from B245 London Road to the A225 Riverhill in the direction of Sevenoaks.
- 2 If Members endorse the proposals, it is intended to discuss them with the Highways Agency (HA) to confirm whether they would be eligible for funding from their budget for cycle route improvements in the A21 corridor. If funding is not secured from the HA we can bid for funding from other sources such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
- 3 Where the B245 London Road meets the A21 roundabout, traffic travelling towards Sevenoaks is diverted around the roundabout, crossing and re-crossing the A21 before turning onto the A225 Riverhill. While this is appropriate for motor traffic it is potentially hazardous for cyclists and certainly intimidating.
- 4 This issue has been highlighted in work initiated by the Highways Agency to route cyclists away from the A21 and onto suitable alternative routes.
- 5 The proposals shown on the accompanying drawing would provide an alternative route for cyclists from the B245 heading towards Sevenoaks on the A225. The proposals would direct cyclists onto the east footway of London Road and Riverhill over a distance of approximately 140 metres. The width of the footway has been measured to be approximately 2.3 metres, which is considered to be adequate considering the low existing usage.
- 6 A survey of the existing usage of the footway was undertaken in the morning peak period on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Between 7:45am and 8:45 the footway was used by 3 cyclists travelling towards Sevenoaks and by no pedestrians.
- 7 It is intended that the safety audit will have been completed before the Transportation Board meeting and that a survey of the results can be made available if required.

## **Other Options Considered and Rejected**

Alternative routes for cyclists at the roundabout were investigated and proved to be impractical due to the presence of extensive crash barriers and the costs of any modifications to them.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

The proposed works are minor and would primarily comprise signage and the provision of five dropped kerbs. The design has not yet been finalised or formally estimated but is likely to be less than £9000. It is intended to seek funding from the Highways Agency's *current year* budget for cycle route improvements.

### Legal Implications.

"Cycle track" is the legal term used to describe a way (constituting or comprised in a Highway) over which the public have rights of way on pedal cycles. The legal basis for redesignation of all or part of a footway to a cycle track is sections 65 and 66 of the Highways Act 1980.

Section 66 of the Act is used to remove the designation of footway and Section 65 is used to formally create the Cycle Track. There needs to be clear evidence that the local highway authority has exercised its powers, and this can be provided by a resolution of this Board.

### Equality Impacts

A Disability Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and there are no residual concerns.

## **Conclusions**

The proposals would provide a simple and low-cost solution to the problem of providing a safer route for northbound cyclists at the A21 / A225 roundabout. Members are recommended to endorse the proposal to redesignate approximately 140 metres of footway as a shared-use "Cycle Track" on the east side of Riverhill and London Road, as described in this report, provided that no insurmountable obstacles are raised in safety audits.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Proposed improvements for cyclists at the A21 / A225 roundabout (Drawing)

## **Sources of Information:**

Kent County Council

## **Contact officer:**

Peter Slaughter (08458 247800)

Appendix A



