Proposed Easter Road cycleway and cycle and pedestrian crossing

Issue:

The high levels of traffic on Easter Road at peak times have been reported to the Council as a barrier to people trying to cross the road by bicycle and on foot. Furthermore, currently, when cyclists follow QuietRoute 20 (details below), they have to use Easter Road to connect between Brunswick Road and Bothwell Street. There is too much traffic on Easter Road to meet the standards of the Council's QuietRoutes cycle network.

Purpose and context:

The scheme will make it easier, safer and quicker for people crossing Easter Road and travelling between Brunswick Road and Bothwell Street on foot and by bicycle.

This will help people travelling on foot and by bicycle to reach local and key destinations, such as Leith Walk, Lochend Park and the shops on Easter Road.

The Council is developing a network of cycle routes across the city, called the 'QuietRoutes' network. We know that heavy or fast traffic is the most significant barrier preventing people who want to cycle from doing so. To address this the QuietRoutes are designed so that people can cycle without having to travel in heavy or fast traffic. QuietRoute 20 links Inverleith, the Royal Botanic Garden, Canonmills, Leith Walk, Easter Road, Lochend Park and Restalrig on quiet roads and traffic free paths. The crossing of Easter Road, and the short section along the road, are key barriers which prevent the route meeting this required standard.

Proposed scheme:

The Council is proposing:

- changing the signalised 'push button' crossing of Easter Road near to Brunswick Road so that it is closer to the entrance of Brunswick Road and can be used by people travelling on foot and by bicycle;
- No left turn will be permitted by vehicles exiting Brunswick Road to Easter Road, this allows the crossing to be located closer to the junction;
- a segregated cycleway that separates cyclists from traffic and pedestrians. This will run between the new crossing at Brunswick Road and Bothwell Street.

We would like your views on the initial design proposals and any other comments you have. Below is an overview map of the proposals.

There are also more detailed drawings of the scheme on the consultation web page accessed from www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk.

Proposed Easter Road cycleway and cycle and pedestrian crossing

Purpose: to help people to cross Easter Road and reach popular local destinations. To remove a key barrier for cyclists using QuietRoute 20.

Advantages:

- Pedestrians and cyclists have greater priority, safety and reduced waiting times over motor vehicles
- Cyclists will be protected from busy traffic on Easter Road
- Accesses along the cycleway will still be accessible from Easter Road
- Pedestrians and cyclists will be physically separated to increase safety.

Disadvantages:

- Loading on the east side of Easter Road between Brunswick Road and Bothwell Street will be restricted;
- Left turns out of Brunswick Road will be prohibited for vehicles.

