

Proposed McDonald Road cycle and pedestrian crossing and cycle lanes

Issue:

The levels of traffic on McDonald Road at peak times have been reported to the Council as a barrier to people wanting to cycle along the road from McDonald Street to Broughton Road. Furthermore, the existing cycle and pedestrian crossing at the west end of McDonald Road, across Broughton Road, is challenging for cyclists to access. It also has poor sightlines for people coming from St Mark's path.

Purpose and context:

The scheme will make it easier and safer for cyclists using the western end of McDonald Road. It shall also improve the crossing of Broughton Road at McDonald Road so that it is safer and more convenient for people on foot and by bike.

This will help people on foot and by bicycle reach local and key destinations, such as Leith Walk, Canonmills, The Royal Botanic Garden and Inverleith Park.

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 be with 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 Broughton Road, and the section within cycle lanes along McDonald Road, are key barriers which prevents the route meeting this required standard.

Proposed scheme:

The Council is proposing:

- improvements to the signalised 'push button' crossing of Broughton Road, which could be used by people on foot and by bicycle.
- A raised table across the entrance to McDonald Road to slow traffic make pedestrian and cycle crossing easier and safer.
- Cycle lanes along McDonald Road from Broughton Road to McDonald Street. These lanes link up with existing cycle lanes from McDonald Street onwards to Leith Walk, creating a continuous standard of infrastructure.
- Implementing the cycle lanes shall require the removal of the road centre line. This follows Edinburgh's Street Design Guidance recommendations to reduce traffic speed make the street more cycle and pedestrian friendly.

We would like your views on this initial design proposal and any other recommendations you have.

There is an accompanying overview map of this section of QuietRoute 20 and detailed proposal drawings of the scheme.

Proposal: improved pedestrian and cycling signalised crossing of Broughton Road and cycle lanes on McDonald Road

Advantages:

- Pedestrians and cyclists have better access points and sightlines when using the crossing
- Cyclists will have improved facilities along McDonald Road and the street shall be more traffic calmed
- Driveways along the cycle lanes and crossing way will still have full access

Disadvantages:

- During peak times, motor vehicles may have to wait for short periods behind cyclists using the cycle lanes, before passing them

