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cc: Spokes <spokes@spokes.org.uk>
date: 13 February 2018 at 18:07
subject: Cycling and walking improvements on Grange Road

These are Spokes' comments on the Cycling and Walking Improvements on Grange Road - Final Design.

At **Lovers' Loan** we welcome the removal of the central island in Grange Loan that currently acts as a pinch point.

The remaining comments refer to the crossings at **Lauder Road** and **Tantallon Place**.

We are not happy that northbound cyclists in Lauder Road and southbound cyclists in Tantallon Place are expected to move to the wrong side of the road in order to cross, but we accept that although imperfect it is a workable solution for these crossings. We also dislike some other details.

Earlier plans had a choice between toucans and tigers (which we understand are zebra crossings with a parallel cycle crossing, controlled by belisha beacons and no traffic lights). We would prefer tigers to toucans here.

Toucans have several disadvantages:

- Southbound cyclists in Tantallon Place and northbound cyclists in Lauder Road will need to announce themselves to the toucan: the pedestrians' push button will be out of their reach so they will need either a push button on a new pole or a detector loop on the approach;
- If someone presses the button, notices the road is clear, and crosses on red, the light will still turn red for the road, frustrating road users as they are waiting for no-one to cross;
- A cyclist arriving just after the light turns red (after someone has crossed earlier) may have to wait for up to half a minute before it turns green again;
- A cyclist arriving when the lights are green will be tempted to rush to cross it before it turns red; in this location he may hit a pedestrian walking along Grange Road and emerging from behind the high wall at the corner.

In contrast, with tigers, pedestrians and cyclists crossing the main road have right of way; there is no temptation to rush; there is no dead time between phases; and they may be cheaper to install and maintain.

In one of the earlier plans there was an island in Lauder Road to the north of the central cycle lane, thus protecting it. That has gone; instead, there is just a painted hatching. We would like to see the island there; there should be room. Whether there is an island or just hatching, the central cycle lane should be moved further south. As it stands, it seems that cyclists will be expected to make two sharp right-angle manoeuvres to reach the lane approaching the crossing, not practical with a long bike such as a cargo or disabled bike.

At Tantallon Place the cycle lane is better than before, but it is still not in line with the crossing. The positions of the traffic light poles are not shown, but we think the one on the south side will be just where southbound cyclists will want to go.