

## **Covid 19 Emergency Measures - Proposed segregated cycleways Duddingston Road West**

### **Spokes Party Response**

Spokes Party welcomes and strongly supports the proposed Spaces for People changes on Duddingston Road West. Improved provision for active travel on this road is clearly needed. Aside from the High School travel, there is already a noticeable rise in cycle traffic between the Innocent Railway Path and the coast, no doubt in part due to the new protected cycle lanes on Duddingston Road to which this scheme connects, as well as the increasing popularity of the Just Eat public hire bikes.

Having reviewed the plans and undertaken a site visit, we have the following suggestions which we believe would improve the scheme, making it safer and more attractive, particularly for inexperienced or non-confident cyclists, families with children, and young people.

1. Duddingston Road West has remained a 30mph speed limit, with only a part-time 20mph around the area of Holy Rood RC High School. Given the increase in cycle and pedestrian traffic on this road, and the apparent lack of space for a protected cycle lane on both sides of the road, we recommend that the speed limit should be reduced to 20mph.
2. The narrow section of road without protected cycle lanes between the Innocent Path and the entrance to Duddingston Golf Club has no space for a cycle lane. We recommend a visual warning to drivers approaching from Craigmillar to slow down and to expect cyclists. White painted cycle symbols, as well as warning signs, would help.
3. The s-bends between Bawsinch and Holy Rood RC High School remain one of the more dangerous parts of the route. It is unfortunate that there is no space for segregation here under the current scheme. Given the narrow road and the sharpness of the bends, it can never be safe for drivers to overtake cyclists on this section. We recommend that action be taken here to prohibit drivers overtaking cyclists, for example the introduction of solid white lines, or some other means. Painted cycle symbols would also be helpful.
4. There is a gap in the proposed southbound [toward Craigmillar] segregation at the bend adjacent to the junction of Meadowfield Gardens. It is very much required at this point to prevent southbound drivers encroaching into the lane as they cut the corner, something that is more common as a result of northbound drivers' tendency to take the bend nearer the middle of the road. If the road width cannot accommodate segregation, then road marking to strongly enforce lanes is needed.
5. Due to the mis-alignment of the roads, cyclists travelling from Duddingston Road to Duddingston Road West at the Milton Road junction have to move right, which can lead to conflict with drivers travelling the same way who tend to take a more direct line across the junction, particularly when there is traffic from Duddingston Road West waiting to turn right onto Milton Road. This is an uphill section and, from a standing start at the lights, it can be challenging and intimidating for many cyclists. To mitigate this, we recommend:
  - a. Adding an advanced green light for cyclists travelling across the junction in that direction.
  - b. The southbound cycle lane should be extended out into the junction to provide a visual cue for both cyclists and drivers, and particularly to encourage drivers to move right earlier, leaving space for cyclists entering Duddingston Road West.
6. We understand the difficulty of the remainder of the route (from the Innocent Path to Craigmillar Castle Road) given the lack of space and the pinch point at the bridge. However,

given the proximity of the Royal Infirmary, we feel that efforts should be made in the medium to long term to provide for safe cycling conditions there to provide a continuous safe route for hospital staff, visitors, and patients.

7. On our site visit, we noticed inexperienced cyclists struggling with the right turn into Old Church Lane from Duddingston Road West. We recommend you consider the feasibility and practicalities of signposting cyclists (with blue cycle sign) to Holyrood Park via The Causeway instead which is before the bend in the road.