

Transition Newcastle



Newcastle Inner City Bypass Rankin Park to Jesmond Response to the EIS

Transition Newcastle believes it is vital that we promote alternatives to car travel such as public transport, cycling and walking. We are thus very concerned that the current plans for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass Rankin Park to Jesmond has a negative impact on the shared path through Jesmond Park.

Despite numerous calls for changes to the plans, the current plans for the bypass still mean that pedestrians and cyclists using the shared path to Jesmond shopping centre or to go towards Wallsend need to use three sets of traffic lights. This is not adequate.

We welcome the proposed shared path bridge across Newcastle Road near Steel Street that will improve access from the Jesmond Park to the shared path towards the University. This is an improvement and we support the change.

We believe that it is important that alternatives are also found to allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross the Jesmond Interchange without having to use multiple sets of crossings. The cost of providing appropriate options for pedestrians and cyclists now is much less than if attempts are made to retrofit solutions in the future.

We thus urge you to ensure that there are safe, easy-to-use options that encourage people to use the shared path.

The path is currently used frequently by people going to Jesmond shopping centre or traveling towards Wallsend. The options of using the shared path bridge at Steel Street and then the shared path bridge at Michael Street is quite a detour which adds time and distance. The current plans involving the three extra lights add danger (particularly for children) and time.

Given the increasing momentum for the proposed CycleSafe network in Newcastle, it is more important than ever to ensure that provisions for cyclists, and pedestrians, are an essential part of transport planning. In an age when it is vital to promote clean forms of transport, we expect better provisions for shared paths than the plans currently in the EIS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "GR Stuart".

Dr Graeme Stuart
Convenor
16 December 2016