

## 7. BEXLEY ROAD CYCLE FACILITIES - WETLANDS GROVE TO BRIDGE STREET

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on progress made in meeting concerns expressed by the Bexley Residents' Association in its deputation to the Board concerning the lack of cycle facilities on a section of Bexley Road.

Members will recall that the Bexley Residents' Association made a deputation to the Board and a later one to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee in October 2003 expressing concern at the lack of cycle facilities on Bexley Road, from Wetlands Grove to Bridge Street.

Members of the Board have received a memorandum on 19 November 2003 from the Transport Planner (Cycling and Pedestrians) backgrounding the subject and advising on the progress being made. The following is a copy of that memorandum:

### ***"Bexley Road Cycle Facilities from Bridge Street North to Link with Existing Shared Paths and Road Shoulders - Update***

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of progress being made to address concerns expressed by the Bexley Residents' Association over the lack of adequate cycle access alongside Bexley Road to Bridge Street. A further report will be made to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee informing it of the progress made in response to its decisions.

#### **Background**

The Bexley Residents' Association presented submissions to both the Board and Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee recently. Their concerns held were over the lack of facilities to provide adequately for cyclists who currently want to travel alongside Bexley Road from the Wetlands Grove intersection to the Bridge Street intersection. Particular concern is held for the safety of children who use this route to travel from home in the newly developed subdivisions alongside the Wetlands Reserve to the South New Brighton School.

Currently there is no developed pathway on either side of this section of Bexley Road and the road shoulders are very narrow, which effectively force cyclists to share the road lane in parts with traffic in a posted 70 km/h environment. There are no alternative routes without substantial additional distance being added to the trip. There are also no pedestrian facilities on either side of this section of Bexley Road, which does not encourage walking in the area.

The Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee decided that:

1. The City Streets Manager be asked to consider repair/reforming of the road shoulder as a maintenance issue and also to investigate the provision of a future off-road cycleway in conjunction with the work being undertaken by the Parks and Waterways Unit in this locality.
2. Transit New Zealand be written to informing them of the Committee's concerns regarding this section of the road with reference to the fact that control of the road is due to pass to Transit New Zealand from 2004.

#### **Response**

##### *Shoulder Widening*

The Maintenance section of City Streets Unit is assessing the costs and options for adding to the road carriageway width, however it does not have any identified funds for the works. Transit New Zealand is being approached to ascertain its position over this matter.

##### *Off-Road Pathway*

Staff from the City Streets and Parks and Waterways Units have met to discuss provision of an off-road pathway along the eastern side of Bexley Road from Wetlands Grove to Bridge Street (a map is attached for reference). Adjustments to the pathways planned in the Bexley Wetland Reserve have been agreed to that will look to provide an off-road pathway for a section of the length needed. The Bexley Wetlands Reserve is expected to commence implementation in February 2004 and will provide 260 metres of pathway from a total required length of 920 metres.

The City Streets Unit is currently reassessing its Cycleways five-year capital budget to identify any project that could be delayed or adjusted to allow for the remaining 660 metres of pathway required for this project's completion within 2004 or 2005.

Along with budget identification there are several other potential complications:

- The lack of width in the corridor available means that the proposed off-road pathway will need to be quite close to Bexley Road. This will have the potential to affect a section of pathway approximately 150 metres long, as it may transgress current best practice guidelines. Transit New Zealand may determine that the pathway's alignment is not acceptable and require us to look to adjacent property purchases to create more distance between the path and Bexley Road.
- There is a length within the 150 metres section mentioned above where the corridor is not physically wide enough to align a path through, it is approximately 70 metres long. The abutting land is part of a soon to be developed residential subdivision. Staff are currently exploring possible options to allow access through this length and any progress will be reported.

#### *Conclusion*

There is a definite need to provide some type of cycle facility through this section of Bexley Road as it is currently very poorly served. This need has been accentuated by the recent additional demand generated by residential housing developments in the area. The provision of an off-road cycleway would benefit pedestrians also and assist the Council towards achieving a higher level of safety for vulnerable road users. This would be compatible with the Council's Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies, which look to encourage these forms of transport."

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board Chairperson has requested that a report be made to the Board at this meeting.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Bexley Residents' Association have highlighted a need for cycle facilities within their area. The Transport Planners have assessed the need and given it a comparatively high priority and are endeavouring to identify and substitute a lower priority project(s) that have scheduled funds from within the 2004 or 2005 years. The detail of the type of facility and its alignment along with gaining agreement from Transit New Zealand is being worked through as part of the planning process.

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That if no substitute project is identified in the 2004/05 draft budget the Board in its submission of the 2004/05 Draft Annual Plan request that provision be made for the completion of the Bexley Road cycle facility.