

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

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of progress made towards planning for the provision of a cycle and pedestrian link from Wetlands Grove to Bridge Street.

### BACKGROUND

The Bexley Residents' Association made several submissions (July and November 2003) to highlight its concern over the need for cyclists and pedestrians to have better provision in this section of the Bexley Road corridor.

Members will recall that this item was reported to the Board's 3 December 2003 meeting. The report advised that the need for a pathway was recognised and that no current financial provision was available but that officers would look to arrange changes within the scheduled projects to endeavour to include the project in either the 2004/05 or 2005/06 financial years.

### RECENT PROGRESS

The options to provide for the movement of pedestrians and cyclists along this section of Bexley Road have been further considered. The option of an interim, rudimentary unsealed pathway being dug out on the west side of the corridor from Bridge Street to link with the western path near Birch Street was rejected by both staff and the Bexley Residents' Association. Unfortunately this would not be practical to undertake on the eastern side of the corridor as an interim measure as it would require significantly more development and costs and there is no capital budget available.

Since December the project of a shared pathway commencing on the east side of Bexley Road, from Wetlands Grove to link with Bridge Street, has been assessed in more detail. This has included developing an alignment plan which allows for the ensuing contour and drainage issues and to link in with the area's developments.

Staff can confirm that this project will be scheduled into the City Transport Unit's capital works programme for early implementation.

### CONCLUSION

The need for the provision of a cycle and pedestrian link between Wetlands Grove and Bridge Street is recognised and has been given a high priority. This new project is being incorporated into the City Transport Unit's capital budget in either the 2004/05 or 2005/06 years.

#### Staff

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

#### Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the Board's submission to the Council's Annual Plan include a request that a cycle and pedestrian link between Wetlands Grove and Bridge Street be funded in 2004/05.