



Responses to consultation:

Extended lighting proposals - Bristol Bath Railway Path

Comments

To encourage more people to use the cyclepath more lighting along the tracks are a must. Too many of us are too scared to use it. Most of all regular Police patrols (in plain clothes) at random times not regular ones so that the general public - feel safe and are not in danger of being attacked.

I support the proposal that lighting be improved on the path. Care needs to be taken when (if) the work is done. In the past work on the path has left trenches across the width of the path making the path dangerous to use. The contractor will also need to be given instructions about not obstructing the entire width of the path and ensuring that works on the path are suitably 'signed' and lit. As well as the path itself, consideration needs to be given to better lighting access to and from the path.

Wanted to add my support to proposed light extension from Fishponds to Staple Hill Tunnel.

I know it's a bit late but Bristol South Cycling Club would like to express its support for the proposed extension to the lighting on the Bristol Bath Railway Path.

I cycle along the stretch from Greenbanks to Fishponds and back every working day and have done so for the last seven years. While I would tentatively support an extension of lighting in this area, I would certainly not support the cutting down of mature trees and shrubbery which is integral to the green corridor that makes for pleasant cycling and protects wildlife. It should be quite possible to enhance lighting on this stretch by pruning and perhaps using lower than usual street lights. I would also suggest that lights are used that reflect maximum light downwards rather than lighting up the sky which is wasteful and contributes to light pollution. On other stretches of the Bristol- Bath I would suggest that 'stand-alone' street lighting might be piloted, in conjunction with Sustrans, as a showcase experiment in implementing renewable energy solutions along what is a successful and high profile environmental transport route.

I am in agreement and support the proposed extension of the lighting in the Fishponds area to the Bristol/Bath cycle track. Your proposal and method of installation and consideration to the wildlife and trees seems appropriate and considered. The benefits of the extension to the lighting will be appreciated as I live in Fishponds and leave the cycle track after the Thicket Avenue bridge on the Railway Terrace exit and so the lighting in the winter months will definitely increase safety for all users.

Comments

Besides the obvious positive security considerations I wanted you to be aware of the additional benefit of this proposal. I cycle against the main flow of traffic - out to Emerson's Green and back to Fishponds. On winter evenings I find it very difficult cycling on the unlit parts of the path as I am dazzled by the many, really powerful lights on bikes coming towards me from the city centre- lighting would minimise this.

I use the cycle track regularly, mainly from Fishponds into the centre of Bristol for commuting, and would welcome the extension of lighting. I don't use the unlit parts in the dark, and probably as many people do, in the winter I usually come off the track onto the road where the lights end. Also to add, in terms of safety, that I am always pleased to see the police or community support officer cycling on the track.

As part of the Cycling City Project I understand that BCC are proposing to encourage more users on the Bristol Bath Cycle path even when it starts to get darker by extending the lit section from Alcove road in Fishponds, a further 2 kilometres to the Staple Hill Tunnel. I would like to express my support for this proposal as a regular user of this section. Currently during the winter I leave the cycle path and take my chances with the traffic rather than use the dark sections of cycle track. These dark sections pose a number of problems including avoiding unlit pedestrians (and cyclists) as well as the potential personal safety risks.

As a resident living alongside the path I am opposed to lighting because of impact on wildlife. I'm also upset that the rapid transit proposals were not taken forward for public debate as not everyone can cycle. I feel the proposal is a waste of council resources particularly if rapid transit is taken forward in the future. Lighting will provide a false sense of security as the Railway path is not safe. Will cause light pollution into my property impacting on quality of life.

Having moved to a house next to the cycle track 2 years ago I discovered what a valuable asset it is. Working in Bristol city centre I go on a bike for the first time in 25 years and cycled to work. It is great, quick clean and keeps you fit, very quickly we sold our second car. The only 2 problems are the lack of lighting in the proposed section, and crossing Newfoundland Circus. During the winter the section between Alcove road and Morrisons is very hazardous as it does not receive any ambient light. It is very difficult just to stay on the track due to the lack of lighting and the fading white line. With no background lighting oncoming cycles with lights also make it very difficult to see any other track users or indeed the track itself. Can I suggest the white line along the track is repainted as this is a sure fire way to follow the track when visibility is poor.

Comments

I think this is a vital and useful thing to fund under cycling city. The lack of lighting on that stretch of the path definitely deters users and makes people feel more unsafe when walking later in the evening or in the winter. Some people have had accidents on the stretch and you certainly need to cycle very carefully to make sure you don't hit anything/anyone in the dark, even with the light from your own bike lights. Sometimes pedestrians in dark clothes walking along there cannot be seen until you are almost upon them. I think this will enhance the path and encourage more people to walk and cycle along this stretch. As someone who lives very close to the cycle path, by the Devon road junction, on the stretch which is already lit, I do not think that the extra lighting will significantly impact the housing alongside the path and alot of this stretch is either next to industrial land or not directly next to housing.

I have just seen the proposals for the lighting on the Bristol Bath Railway path while commuting home via the path. As I cannot make the consultation times, I am writing to tell you my opinion- I think it's something that is an essential and long-needed improvement. I commute along the path all year round and find cycling there at night in winter quite a scary prospect- not only, as a single female, do I feel a little vulnerable cycling in the dark when no-one is around, but, when the path is busy and dark, it is equally scary but due to the fact that there are so many people on the path with no lights or reflectors on- walkers and other cyclists. I don't know how many accidents there are along the path in winter, but I've had several near misses, and I'm a careful cyclist! So I would say - YES! Please put the lights in as soon as possible! It will make me much less likely to take the car in winter if I know I can cycle along a well-lit path!

Think that extra lighting would be a good thing. However concern that if done in conjunction with seating may create place for youths to congregate and cause antisocial behaviour.

I fully support the extended lighting proposed. This will allow greater use of the path by pedestrians and cyclists alike, giving them an increased sense of security. The path is a wonderful resource and enabling its accessibility throughout the dark winter months will be a huge public benefit.

We favour the proposal in principle on the grounds of improved security, and consequent increase in numbers of people cycling on the path after dark. We note that the first batch of lighting failed to leave adequate clearance from lamp posts to the asphalt path. There should be at least 0.5 metres to allow users to make full use of path width, but additionally allowance must be made for future widening of the cycleway, and it would be desirable to set the posts back 1 metre, to retain the feeling of an uncluttered path and verges.

In order to assess the proposal more fully we would like more information in the form of a detailed plan and description of the lighting proposed.

Comments

Yes please as someone who lives in Fishponds and uses the path sometimes after dark it would be a good idea. It would make me feel safer and make it easier to see cyclists and pedestrians without lights.

I would like to say that this is an excellent idea. I use the path on my daily commute from St George to Kingswood throughout the year, and increasing the amount of proposed lighting would greatly increase my confidence and enjoyment when doing so. Using the path can be a quite hair-raising experience in the winter time: it can get very dark and unless you have £100+ lights on your bike you cannot see more than a few feet ahead. I think that the lights would make the path safer to use, discourage vandalism and other crime and encourage more people to use the path around the whole year. I understand that there may be disruption and that some of the wildlife could be disturbed. I am prepared to navigate around any short term disruption for the long term gains that it will hopefully bring, and I am sure that the wildlife and flora will recover very quickly if the work is carried out with care for the environment on the cycle path. So I would like to reiterate my support for the proposed extension of lighting on the cycle path to the Staple Hill tunnel.

I think it will be very helpful to extend this beyond the Staple Hill tunnel at least as far as Signal Road. I hope you will be using energy efficient lighting such as LED based lights to minimise CO2 emissions and maintenance costs.

I would like to add my support to this extension of lighting on the cycle path. This will assist in its use in the winter months and assist in reducing anti-social and criminal behaviour also.

As someone who has used the cycle path in the past I would welcome anything that makes the path safer and more user friendly including your proposal for additional lighting but I would like to question your priorities. My main reason for not using the cycle path with my family at the moment are the continuing stories in the press regarding attacks on people using the path by gangs intent on theft and violence. These attacks seem to stop be in broad daylight, so my reaction to you adding additional lighting would be that it will allow these gangs to more easily identify potential victims. You need to stop people being attacked and robbed on the cycle path. Whilst additional lighting seems like a good idea it does nothing to stop the underlying causes of these crimes. If criminals are prepared to commit crimes during daylight hours a few lights will not make the path safer at night. So in order of priority, I would like to see: 1. More Police Patrols. 2. Custodial sentences for criminals operating on the cycle path. 3. The eradication of crime on the cycle path. 4. Only then should you consider additional lighting to accommodate the additional legal useage of the path once it is safe.



Comments

Yes we will support the initiatives. Safety and security along this cycle path is most important and more secure arrangement will encourage more and more people to use the cycle path both for cycling and walking/jogging etc. The future ambition will be to light up all the way to Bath.

I welcome the extension of the lighting, and I am sure this will improve usage of the path. Would it also be possible to check that there are no 'dark spots' on the existing lit sections, if so it would make sense to improve these at the same time.

As a regular user of the cycle path, I support this wholeheartedly. I cannot speak as an expert on the impact on wildlife and I do not live near this area of the cycle path, but I do use this section every day, and in winter it can be completely black early in the morning and in the evening, especially in the autumn before the leaves have dropped in the part from Alcove road to Safeway. I know several women who use this section of the path in summer but never in winter. I am sure if the lighting was better, this would change. I hope very much that this can proceed according to the leaflet you have published.

I am in agreement with better lighting on the Railway Path.

With extended lighting, more people will be able to commute and it will reduce traffic on main roads. Can I propose to install CCTV with the scheme. Only lighting cannot provide safety unless there is CCTV. In my view Bristol Bath Railway Path is one of the best assets/attractions Bristol has got and I'm one of its proud users.

As someone who commutes up and down this stretch of the cycle path approximately four days per week. I would strongly support the proposal to extend the lighting to the Staple Hill Tunnel. Last winter I did not cycle along this stretch of the path due to the danger of collisions with pedestrians and cyclists travelling without lights. Instead I left or joined that path at Alcove road and cycled along Fishponds road. The remainder of the path into Bristol is adequately lit to allow safe cycling even in the "rush hour". I would be interested to know when you carry out the work as it would be excellent if it were completed before the clocks change to the end of October.

I support the proposal to extend lighting along the cycle track. This will encourage more people to use the track making them feel safer. Also this will encourage more people to leave their cars at home. My niece cycles to work from Fishponds to Barton Hill on the track every day, this is fine in the summer but has to use the road on dark winter evenings.



Comments

I just wanted to write and say I would be in full support of better lighting along the cycle path! My husband uses it as a bike-commute to work every day, and I know that several thousands use it every week. Not only is it a safe commutable route, but it's a lovely path to walk along and better lighting in the evenings would definitely encourage more people to use it. From a perspective of security, there have been several muggings along the route at particular locations. Better lighting would act as a deterrent, and also make people feel safer by increasing visibility at these critical points. By investing in this cycle route you would certainly be putting your ' money where your mouth is' as our local government - improved lighting is a sign of commitment to this fantastic amenity and would be greatly appreciated by thousands of people across the region.

I have just seen the poster regarding the proposed lighting for the cycle path from Fishponds to Staple Hill and you have made my day!! I use the path to cycle to work every day from April to November. However, during the winter months, I have to resort to driving to work once the clocks change. The cycle path becomes very dark and creepy along this section as it is not lit and there are not many other users. I presume for the same reason. I whole heartedly agree with the proposals and really hope they go ahead. This would keep me on my bike and much fitter during the dark winter months.

YES PLEASE to further lighting on the path. If it was up to me, I'd say light it the whole way. This would increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians.