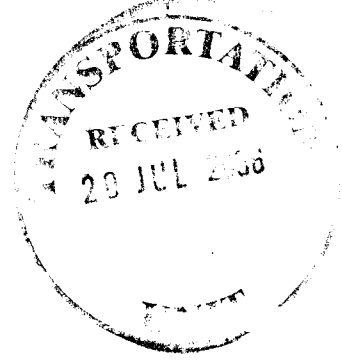




OMAGH CYCLING INITIATIVE

Chairman
Noel Mitchell
8 Knockgreenan Avenue
Omagh
BT790DD

Phone:02882243692



Geraldine O'Neill,
Sub-Regional Transport Plan team,
Transportation Unit,
Roads Service, D.R.D.,
Room 3-29, Clarence Court,
10-18, Adelaide Street,
Belfast. BT2 8GB.

10th July, 2006.

Dear Madam,

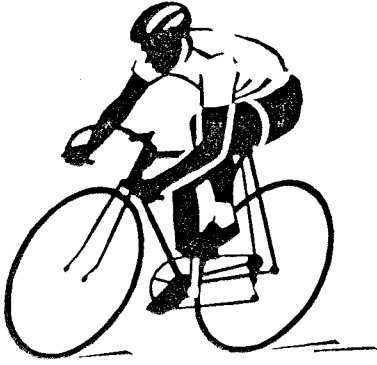
Draft Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 – Omagh.

Having received a copy of the above plan some time ago, we had some difficulty in finding an address to send our reply. We eventually found it on the internet and would be glad if you would accept the enclosed as the reply of the Omagh Cycling Initiative which represents all cyclists in the Omagh Town area. It is actually the same letter and ideas which we have sent to all Councillors in this area.

We trust our proposals will be included in the final draft of the plan.

Yours sincerely,

Noel H. Mitchell.
Chairman Omagh Cycling Initiative.



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Chairman
Noel Mitchell
8 Knockgreenan Avenue
Omagh
BT790DD

Phone:02882243692

TO: All Councillors, Omagh District Council

12 June 2006

Dear Councillor,

Draft Sub-regional Transport Plan 2015 - Omagh Comments by Omagh Cycling Initiative

Omagh Cycling Initiative (OCI) welcomes the Draft Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 which includes proposals for better and safer provision for cyclists including continuous cycle networks. OCI represents all cyclists including leisure cyclists and children in the Omagh area and is aware that many more people would use bicycles to get into and through our town centre if safe facilities were to be provided. OCI believes that any review of transport planning must include careful consideration of cyclists needs.

Good facilities are already in place in Omagh. Examples are the Gortin and Cookstown Roads, the river paths and some shared cycle/pedestrian footpaths. However these are not linked and no existing cycle route leads in to the town centre. We would urge Omagh District Council to do all that it can to ensure that the proposed Transport Plan 2015 will replace the present piecemeal cycling provision with good linked up routes into and out of the town centre. These would benefit shoppers, workers, schoolchildren, tourists and leisure cyclists as well as giving improved benefit to prams and wheelchairs.

Omagh town needs a more strategic approach to cycling provision, particularly to enable cyclists to safely access the town centre. OCI believes that the present provision of designated shared paths needs to be extended alongside, or complementary to, all routes feeding into Omagh town centre. Such provision would greatly reduce the risks to cyclists and also benefit walkers, parents with prams and wheelchair users. It is also in line with the Cycle-to-school programmes.

OCI hopes that you can personally support our views and help to have these incorporated into the Omagh District section of the final Sub Regional Transport Plan 2015.

To assist you we have listed on the back of this letter some present issues in Omagh that can be affected by this Plan. If you would like to speak to us at greater length about these matters please contact me at the above address or telephone number.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noel Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Noel Mitchell
Chairman
Please see APPENDIX over!

APPENDIX

Omagh Cycling Initiative

Suggestions for cycling improvements in Omagh town.

Omagh Cycling Initiative believes that there should be a strategically co-ordinated and well-maintained network of shared paths to accommodate cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users. Many existing footpaths can be upgraded or simply marked at little cost. The suggestions below have been chosen to highlight the problems and possible solutions and should be seen in that context. In particular, OCI believes that an increase in cycling activity in Omagh will enhance its environment and make a significant contribution to "safe routes to school" for most of our local schoolchildren.

- 1 Provide safe, marked cycle routes on the roads or joint cycle/pedestrian pavements on the Dublin, Derry, Tamlaght Roads all of which are main arteries into and out of Omagh.
- 2 Convert the present footpaths along Drumragh Avenue to designated shared paths from the County Hall to Slevin's Corner with a Toucan crossing to continue the route to the town centre.
- 3 A shared path already exists on the Dromore Road alongside ASDA but this ends abruptly at Kentucky Fried Chicken. We suggest that this be continued into town and to the schools in that area.
- 4 There should be a shared path or marked safe route from Cranny Bridge along the Hospital Road to the Swinging Bars roundabout, with suitable cycle crossings. This cycle provision should also be continued along Campsie into the town centre. These would join up with present (currently isolated) new stretches of shared pathway at Crevenagh Road and King James Bridge.
- 5 The Cookstown Road cycle path should be continued from the Arleston Road roundabout to the Swing Bars roundabout, thus closing another un-jointed link.
- 6 There should be a shared path or cycle lane provided at the entrance to the Grange to continue the present Gortin Road pathway alongside Mountjoy Road to the Bus Station and the town centre.
- 7 Following from (6) above, there should be a shared path link from the County Hall to the Showgrounds Retail Park.
- 8 A shared path should be provided to link Strathroy housing Estates with the Gortin Road cycle path.
- 9 A shared path to be provided from Lisnamallard to Killyclogher village.
- 10 Winters lane to be upgraded to provide a cycle and pedestrian link with the Crevenagh Road cycle path. OCI is strongly opposed to any suggestion that Winter's Lane should be upgraded to take vehicle traffic. This would be unsafe, unnecessary, detrimental to the area and is opposed by most local residents.