

O'REILLY Helen

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 20 September 2016 15:11
To: HAYES Declan
Cc: TIMONEY Oisin; O'REILLY Helen
Subject: FW: Cycle tracks query
Attachments: Cycle lanes reply Nicola Hayes.pdf

For info,

We have received the RSA report on whether or not cycle lanes should be mandatory. in a nutshell RSA view is that they should NOT be mandatory without giving consideration to

- Further research in Ireland to understand cycle lane usage by cyclists, their safety benefits and cyclists / motorists attitudes towards usage
- other cyclist safety measures to improve cyclist safety (e.g. reduction in speed limits in urban areas where there is a high throughput of traffic)
- an engineering assessment being conducted to review current cycle lanes effectiveness, safety and maintenance including intersection with junctions and roundabouts

We might discuss at your convenience

Regards
 Nicola

From: Patricia McAloon [mailto:pmcaloon@rsa.ie]
Sent: 19 September 2016 17:14
To: HAYES Nicola
Subject: Cycle tracks query

Dear Nicola,

Please find attached letter of reply from Michael Rowland on cycle tracks query.

Kind regards
 Patricia

Patricia McAloon | Secretariat | Road Safety Authority | Moy Valley Bus. Pk., Primrose Hill, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Post Code: F26 V6E4 | Dir 096-25011 | Fax 096-25024 | www.rsa.ie

From: Michael Rowland
Sent: 02 September 2016 20:26
To: HAYES Nicola
Cc: O'REILLY Helen; TIMONEY Oisin; Velma Burns; Patricia McAloon
Subject: Re: Cycle tracks query

Nicola,

We have carried out some research on what's happening internationally. We want to supplement that with some further surveys of Irish road users which we will commence very soon. Velma will forward an overview of what we have found so far but we want to supplement that with information from our own survey.

Regards

Michael

Sent from my iPad

On 2 Sep 2016, at 17:19, HAYES Nicola <NicolaHAYES@dttas.ie> wrote:

Michael

Grateful if you could advise the Department as to whether the RSA has given consideration to the mandatory use of cycle tracks by cyclists. The position of the RSA in relation to this matter would be appreciated.

Kind regards

Nicola

From: HAYES Nicola

Sent: 21 July 2016 16:35

To: Michael Rowland

Cc: O'REILLY Helen

Subject: RE: Cycle tracks query

Hi Michael

Just made a small change – reflected in text .

By the way, further to our conversation earlier this week, I found the letter RSA sent in 2010 with its views on the revocation of the mandatory use of cycle lanes (expressing strong reservation on the revocation....). Will send it on. Given the ambiguity that is currently in the SI, we need to be satisfied from a road safety point of view that any amendment to the Regs to reflect Departmental policy at the time they were drafted does not undermine cyclist safety. In this regard Department will formally request views of RSA on any such amendment. We are also engaging with AGS.

Regards

Nicola

From: Michael Rowland [<mailto:MRowland@rsa.ie>]

Sent: 21 July 2016 15:36

To: HAYES Nicola

Subject: Cycle tracks query

Importance: High

Hi Nicola,

Further to our conversation the other day regarding cycling tracks see below query in respect of same and our proposed response in bold. Let me know if you have any comments before I issue.

Regards

Michael

In your last email you said: "The Rules of the road did not at any point say that only those narrow set if cycle tracks Must be used."

A version of the Rules of the Road downloaded in 2016 states:

REMEMBER

Cyclists must use any cycle track provided.

O'REILLY Helen

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 21 September 2016 12:46
To: O'Neill Derek; SMITH Clare; MULLANEY Dominic
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Declan; TIMONEY Oisin; O'REILLY Helen; RYAN Caroline
Subject: Mandatory use of cycle lanes
Attachments: Cycle lanes reply Nicola Hayes.pdf

As you may be aware, the Department is currently reviewing the Traffic and Parking Regulations with regard to the mandatory use of cycle lanes and has sought the input from the RSA and An Garda Síochána for any views they may have. The Department intends to take into account these views in considering any changes to be made to the Regulations.

I attach for your information, the response of the Road Safety Authority with regard to the mandatory use of cycle lanes. While the RSA would have previously been of the view that the use of cycle lanes should be mandatory, they are now of the view that having considered available Irish (limited) and International evidence, it does not believe cycle lanes should be mandatory without giving consideration to the following issues:

1. Further research in Ireland to understand cycle lane usage by cyclists, their safety benefits and cyclists / motorists attitudes towards usage
2. Other cyclist safety measures to improve cyclist safety (e.g. reduction in speed limits in urban areas where there is a high throughput of traffic)
3. an engineering assessment being conducted to review current cycle lanes effectiveness, safety and maintenance including intersection with junctions and roundabouts

The RSA has committed to undertaking the further research required in Ireland under point 1 and will commission an observation study and an attitudinal study in the coming weeks – this might be expected to be concluded by the end of the year.

This Division (Jason Whelan) in consultation with roads division will examine the point raised with regard to the reduction in speed limits in urban areas where there is a high throughput of traffic and the undertaking of the engineering assessment to review current cycle lanes. I understand the RSA (Velma Burns) has informally raised this with TII who have advised that they have guidelines in place for carrying out assessments – which would be done by the local authority involved.

The views of sustainable transport division would also be welcome on the mandatory use of cycle lanes and the proposals put forward by the RSA.

Kind regards
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Kind regards
Nicola

O'REILLY Helen

From: O'Neill Derek
Sent: 23 September 2016 11:03
To: HAYES Nicola; SMITH Clare; MULLANEY Dominic
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Declan; TIMONEY Oisin; O'REILLY Helen; RYAN Caroline; HYLAND Denise
Subject: RE: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

Nicola,

Thanks for that.

I would feel that the NTA must also be involved in the research on use of cycle lanes along with TII and the RSA, as funders of cycling infrastructure in GDA and the Regional Cities and as developers of the Cycle Manual.

I think the RSA proposal is useful but could be seen as kicking the can down the road, I wouldn't want it to extend into 2017.

I don't think sadly that maintenance of cycle lanes has improved since the NCPF was written, whilst new cycle lanes have improved in quality there is still an issue with the maintenance of them. This is one of the reasons why some cyclists don't use them where provided.

The other reasons are:

- Poor quality provision with priority given to motorised vehicles to cross the cycle path and with stop-start sections where cyclists are popped out onto the road at locations that are perceived as making it more dangerous than staying on the main road;
- Total lack of enforcement of the prohibition on parking within cycle lanes, "loading" is permitted for far longer than necessary and there seems to be no willingness from AGS to address this;
- Interactions with pedestrians and bus-stops;
- Staying in a cycle lane at a left turn can lead to cyclists being overtaken and cut-across in front of, it is often safer to move into the traffic lane to ensure this doesn't happen, this is also the case where cycle lanes are very narrow and close passes can occur, if the cyclist moves towards the centre of the road this stops vehicles over-taking.

This Division maintains the view set out in the NCPF that mandatory use is not appropriate.

As previously mentioned, and perhaps as part of the research being carried out it would be timely to ask the RSA to look again at the issue of permitting cyclists to turn left or continue straight (with due care and attention) on red lights and to permit cyclists to cross pedestrian crossings without dismounting (again with due care and attention). There is good evidence from Brussels and Paris that this change has not led to an increase in accidents.

Finally, whilst the full details of the recent fatal cyclist collision in Dublin City Centre are not available it would seem from the available information that the cyclist was using a cycle lane when the HGV turned left across her, the use of pedestrian railings at this junction may also have been a contributory factor as there was no "escape route" for the cyclist. It might also be worth the RSA examining the safety of these pedestrian railings at left-turn junctions, as I understand that these are being removed in London following a number of similar fatal collisions there.

Regards,

Derek

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 21 September 2016 12:46
To: O'Neill Derek; SMITH Clare; MULLANEY Dominic

Cc: BROGAN Ethna; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Declan; TIMONEY Oisin; O'REILLY Helen; RYAN Caroline

Subject: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

As you may be aware, the Department is currently reviewing the Traffic and Parking Regulations with regard to the mandatory use of cycle lanes and has sought the input from the RSA and An Garda Síochána for any views they may have. The Department intends to take into account these views in considering any changes to be made to the Regulations.

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This Division (Jason Whelan) in consultation with roads division will examine the point raised with regard to the reduction in speed limits in urban areas where there is a high throughput of traffic and the undertaking of the engineering assessment to review current cycle lanes. I understand the RSA (Velma Burns) has informally raised this with TII who have advised that they have guidelines in place for carrying out assessments – which would be done by the local authority involved.

The views of sustainable transport division would also be welcome on the mandatory use of cycle lanes and the proposals put forward by the RSA.

Kind regards

Nicola

From: Patricia McAloon [<mailto:pmcaloon@rsa.ie>]

Sent: 19 September 2016 17:14

To: HAYES Nicola

Subject: Cycle tracks query

Dear Nicola,

Please find attached letter of reply from Michael Rowland on cycle tracks query.

Kind regards

Patricia

Patricia McAloon | Secretariat | Road Safety Authority | Moy Valley Bus. Pk., Primrose Hill, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Post Code: F26 V6E4 | Dir 096-25011 | Fax 096-25024 | www.rsa.ie

From: Michael Rowland

Sent: 02 September 2016 20:26

To: HAYES Nicola

Cc: O'REILLY Helen; TIMONEY Oisin; Velma Burns; Patricia McAloon

O'REILLY Helen

From: O'REILLY Helen
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:26
To: MULLANEY Dominic; SMITH Clare; MCCARTHY John; RYAN Caroline
Cc: WHELAN Jason; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

Dear All,

I am following up on Nicola's email below with regard to Roads Division's views on the mandatory use of cycle tracks by cyclists. As we are currently reviewing the relevant Regulations regarding the use of cycle tracks, I would be grateful if you would let me have your observations.

Also, has Roads Division been in touch with the NRA or TII on this matter? If not, if you have contact details for the relevant people/areas, I would be grateful if you would pass them on to me and I will contact them directly.

Regards,
Helen

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 21 September 2016 12:46
To: O'Neill Derek; SMITH Clare; MULLANEY Dominic
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Kind regards
Nicola

O'REILLY Helen

From: O'REILLY Helen
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:00
To: Michael Rowland (MRowland@rsa.ie); 'VBurns@rsa.ie'
Cc: Patricia McAloon (pmcaloon@rsa.ie); HAYES Nicola
Subject: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views
Attachments: Cycle lanes reply Nicola Hayes.pdf

Hi Michael and Velma,

Thank you for the information supplied to date with regard to the RSA's views on the mandatory use of cycle tracks. I'm just following up on the progress of the further research and surveys of Irish road users that the Research Department were considering. I would be grateful if you would let me have an idea of the timeframe involved.

Much appreciated,
Helen

Helen O Reilly | Road Safety Division | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 | D02 TR60 |
✉: helenoreilly@dtas.ie | ☎: (+353) 1 604 1406 | 🌐: www.dttas.ie

From: Patricia McAloon [mailto:pmcaloon@rsa.ie]
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Regards
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Sent: 21 July 2016 16:35
To: Michael Rowland
Cc: O'REILLY Helen
Subject: RE: Cycle tracks query

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By the way, further to our conversation earlier this week, I found the letter RSA sent in 2010 with its views on the revocation of the mandatory use of cycle lanes (expressing strong reservation on the revocation....). Will send it on. Given the ambiguity that is currently in the SI, we need to be satisfied from a road safety point of view that any amendment to the Regs to reflect Departmental policy at the time they were drafted does not undermine cyclist safety. In this regard Department will formally request views of RSA on any such amendment. We are also engaging with AGS.

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Sent: 21 July 2016 15:36
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Subject: Cycle tracks query
Importance: High

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Regards
Michael

In your last email you said: "The Rules of the road did not at any point say that only those narrow set if cycle tracks Must be used."

A version of the Rules of the Road downloaded in 2016 states:

REMEMBER
Cyclists must use any cycle track provided.

A version of the Rules of the Road downloaded in 2015 states:

REMEMBER
Cyclists must use any cycle track provided as part of a pedestrian street

O'REILLY Helen

From: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:39
To: O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Hi Helen,

We plan on commissioning a third party to conduct this research for us.
We will conduct the tender process in November, and estimate having results back by the end of Q1 2017.

Kind regards
Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 |
Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: O'REILLY Helen [mailto:HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie]
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:00
To: Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>; Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>
Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Nicola <NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie>
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O'REILLY Helen

From: MULLANEY Dominic
Sent: 01 November 2016 11:49
To: O'REILLY Helen
Cc: RYAN Caroline; MCCARTHY John; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Nicola; SMITH Clare; MCCULLAGH Mary
Subject: FW: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

Helen,

The first point that I would make is that this matter was in fact already decided upon and resulted in the 2012 amendment. If there is a flaw in how the amendment was drafted then the solution is to re-draft it.

Taken on its merits I think that the use of cycle tracks should not be mandatory for the following reasons:

1. There will always be differences in cyclist skills and while some may wish to use a segregated facility (where available) others will prefer to stay on-road and possibly make more rapid progress.
2. If a cycle facility is well designed then a large proportion of cyclists will use it. Making it mandatory to use a badly designed facility is not a good solution.
3. When it was mandatory to use a cycle track (prior to the 2012 amendment) there were still exceptions (cycle track blocked by parked cars, cyclist changing direction etc) which allowed a cyclist to depart from it. It is not practical or even desirable to enforce the mandatory use of a cycle track.
4. If a cycle track is not maintained and has potholes or debris or broken glass it is not reasonable to expect a cyclist to use it. A cyclist should have the choice to make that decision.
5. In urban areas the most lethal danger for cyclists appears to be collisions with trucks at junctions. Most segregated facilities in urban areas re-join the road at junctions and the reintroduction of the mandatory use of cycle tracks would not appear to do anything to lessen this danger. In any event that type of danger is best addressed through other solutions.

Regards
 Dominic

From: O'REILLY Helen
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:26
To: MULLANEY Dominic; SMITH Clare; MCCARTHY John; RYAN Caroline
Cc: WHELAN Jason; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

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Also, has Roads Division been in touch with the NRA or TII on this matter? If not, if you have contact details for the relevant people/areas, I would be grateful if you would pass them on to me and I will contact them directly.

Regards,
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Sent: 21 September 2016 12:46

To: O'Neill Derek; SMITH Clare; MULLANEY Dominic

Cc: BROGAN Ethna; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Declan; TIMONEY Oisin; O'REILLY Helen; RYAN Caroline

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Nicola

O'REILLY Helen

From: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>
Sent: 09 November 2016 13:37
To: HAYES Nicola; O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Declan
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

No problem Nicola. Will update you on timings once the tender process has been completed.

If feasible, the on-site inspections of cycle lanes we suggested could be progressed by the appropriate authority in the meantime.

Regards

Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: HAYES Nicola [mailto:NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie]
Sent: 09 November 2016 12:31
To: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>; O'REILLY Helen <HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie>; Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>
Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Declan <DeclanHayes@dtas.ie>
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Ok, thanks Velma. You might keep us updated on this. We can't afford any slippage on these timelines.

Regards

Nicola

From: Velma Burns [mailto:vburns@rsa.ie]
Sent: 09 November 2016 09:28
To: HAYES Nicola; O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Declan
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Nicola,

I have reviewed timings again. Given that we have to go through a formal tender process to have this research done, the earliest we would have results back would be end of Q1 2017.

Kind regards

Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: HAYES Nicola [mailto:NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie]
Sent: 03 November 2016 10:54
To: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>; O'REILLY Helen <HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie>; Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>
Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Declan <DeclanHayes@dtas.ie>
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Velma

Is there any way the RSA could have this research published sooner? We have sought legal advice on this issue and while the Regulations as currently drafted mean that cycle tracks are mandatory, we need to move to address our policy on this sooner rather than later. I.e. the Department would like to be able to issue the new Regulations in Q1 next year at the latest, so we need to have the research back earlier than end of Q 1 2017. I had envisaged that it would be possible to have something back on this by the end of the year.

Please advise on whether this process could be expedited and how soon we might expect the research results so we can make an informed policy on this as soon as possible.

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Kind regards
Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: O'REILLY Helen [<mailto:HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie>]
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:00
To: Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>; Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>
Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Nicola <NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie>
Subject: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Hi Michael and Velma,

Thank you for the information supplied to date with regard to the RSA's views on the mandatory use of cycle tracks. I'm just following up on the progress of the further research and surveys of Irish road users that the Research Department were considering. I would be grateful if you would let me have an idea of the timeframe involved.

Much appreciated,
Helen

Helen O Reilly | Road Safety Division | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 | D02 TR60 |
✉: helenoreilly@dtas.ie | ☎: (+353) 1 604 1406 | 🌐: www.dttas.ie

From: Patricia McAloon [<mailto:pmcaloon@rsa.ie>]
Sent: 19 September 2016 17:14
To: HAYES Nicola
Subject: Cycle tracks query

Dear Nicola,

Please find attached letter of reply from Michael Rowland on cycle tracks query.

O'REILLY Helen

From: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>
Sent: 11 January 2017 09:00
To: O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Hi Helen,

We have awarded the tender this week to a company to conduct the observational study of cycle lane usage and we will begin set up and fieldwork in the next two weeks, so we are on track to have results from that study by the end of March.

For the attitudinal study, we have yet to confirm the fieldwork dates, but we have the research company lined up to conduct the research for us. Fieldwork will take place end Jan/early February, and we should also have the results in March.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards
 Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: O'REILLY Helen [mailto:HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie]
Sent: 09 January 2017 17:07
To: Velma Burns ; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon ; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Hi Velma,

Just wondering if you would provide an update on where the cycle track research is at, please.

Regards,
 Helen

Helen O Reilly | Road Safety Division | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 | D02 TR60 |
 ☎: helenoreilly@dtas.ie | ☎: (+353) 1 604 1406 | 🌐: www.dttas.ie

From: Velma Burns [mailto:vburns@rsa.ie]
Sent: 09 November 2016 13:37
To: HAYES Nicola; O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Declan
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

No problem Nicola. Will update you on timings once the tender process has been completed.
 If feasible, the on-site inspections of cycle lanes we suggested could be progressed by the appropriate authority in the meantime.

Regards

Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: HAYES Nicola [<mailto:NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie>]

Sent: 09 November 2016 12:31

To: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>; O'REILLY Helen ; Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>

Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Declan <DeclanHayes@dtas.ie>

Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Ok, thanks Velma. You might keep us updated on this. We can't afford any slippage on these timelines.

Regards
Nicola

From: Velma Burns [<mailto:vburns@rsa.ie>]

Sent: 09 November 2016 09:28

To: HAYES Nicola; O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland

Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Declan

Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Nicola,

I have reviewed timings again. Given that we have to go through a formal tender process to have this research done, the earliest we would have results back would be end of Q1 2017.

Kind regards
Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: HAYES Nicola [<mailto:NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie>]

Sent: 03 November 2016 10:54

To: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>; O'REILLY Helen ; Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>

Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Declan <DeclanHayes@dtas.ie>

Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Velma

Is there any way the RSA could have this research published sooner? We have sought legal advice on this issue and while the Regulations as currently drafted mean that cycle tracks are mandatory, we need to move to address our policy on this sooner rather than later. I.e. the Department would like to be able to issue the new Regulations in Q1 next year at the latest, so we need to have the research back earlier than end of Q 1 2017. I had envisaged that it would be possible to have something back on this by the end of the year.

Please advise on whether this process could be expedited and how soon we might expect the research results so we can make an informed policy on this as soon as possible.

Kind regards
Nicola

From: Velma Burns [<mailto:vburns@rsa.ie>]

Sent: 18 October 2016 11:39

O'REILLY Helen

From: O'REILLY Helen
Sent: 28 February 2017 16:20
To: Roads Division; Sustainable Transport
Cc: HAYES Nicola
Subject: Cycle Tracks

Dear All,

Further to our current review of the Regulations regarding the mandatory use of cycle tracks, I am following up with both your Divisions regarding the third point raised by RSA below i.e. if there has been any review of cycle lanes or if there is any data on current cycle lanes effectiveness, safety and maintenance including intersection with junctions and roundabouts. I would be grateful for any views you may have on this.

Regards,
Helen

Helen O Reilly | Road Safety Division | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 | D02 TR60 |
 ✉: helenoreilly@dtas.ie | ☎: (+353) 1 604 1406 | 🌐: www.dttas.ie

From: MULLANEY Dominic
Sent: 01 November 2016 11:49
To: O'REILLY Helen
Cc: RYAN Caroline; MCCARTHY John; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Nicola; SMITH Clare; MCCULLAGH Mary
Subject: FW: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

Helen,

The first point that I would make is that this matter was in fact already decided upon and resulted in the 2012 amendment. If there is a flaw in how the amendment was drafted then the solution is to re-draft it.

Taken on its merits I think that the use of cycle tracks should not be mandatory for the following reasons:

1. There will always be differences in cyclist skills and while some may wish to use a segregated facility (where available) others will prefer to stay on-road and possibly make more rapid progress.
2. If a cycle facility is well designed then a large proportion of cyclists will use it. Making it mandatory to use a badly designed facility is not a good solution.
3. When it was mandatory to use a cycle track (prior to the 2012 amendment) there were still exceptions (cycle track blocked by parked cars, cyclist changing direction etc) which allowed a cyclist to depart from it. It is not practical or even desirable to enforce the mandatory use of a cycle track.
4. If a cycle track is not maintained and has potholes or debris or broken glass it is not reasonable to expect a cyclist to use it. A cyclist should have the choice to make that decision.
5. In urban areas the most lethal danger for cyclists appears to be collisions with trucks at junctions. Most segregated facilities in urban areas re-join the road at junctions and the reintroduction of the mandatory use of cycle tracks would not appear to do anything to lessen this danger. In any event that type of danger is best addressed through other solutions.

Regards
Dominic

From: O'REILLY Helen
Sent: 18 October 2016 11:26
To: MULLANEY Dominic; SMITH Clare; MCCARTHY John; RYAN Caroline
Cc: WHELAN Jason; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

Dear All,

I am following up on Nicola's email below with regard to Roads Division's views on the mandatory use of cycle tracks by cyclists. As we are currently reviewing the relevant Regulations regarding the use of cycle tracks, I would be grateful if you would let me have your observations.

Also, has Roads Division been in touch with the NRA or TII on this matter? If not, if you have contact details for the relevant people/areas, I would be grateful if you would pass them on to me and I will contact them directly.

Regards,
Helen

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 21 September 2016 12:46
To: O'Neill Derek; SMITH Clare; MULLANEY Dominic
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; WHELAN Jason; HAYES Declan; TIMONEY Oisin; O'REILLY Helen; RYAN Caroline
Subject: Mandatory use of cycle lanes

As you may be aware, the Department is currently reviewing the Traffic and Parking Regulations with regard to the mandatory use of cycle lanes and has sought the input from the RSA and An Garda Síochána for any views they may have. The Department intends to take into account these views in considering any changes to be made to the Regulations.

I attach for your information, the response of the Road Safety Authority with regard to the mandatory use of cycle lanes. While the RSA would have previously been of the view that the use of cycle lanes should be mandatory, they are now of the view that having considered available Irish (limited) and International evidence, it does not believe cycle lanes should be mandatory without giving consideration to the following issues:

1. Further research in Ireland to understand cycle lane usage by cyclists, their safety benefits and cyclists / motorists attitudes towards usage
2. Other cyclist safety measures to improve cyclist safety (e.g. reduction in speed limits in urban areas where there is a high throughput of traffic)
3. an engineering assessment being conducted to review current cycle lanes effectiveness, safety and maintenance including intersection with junctions and roundabouts

The RSA has committed to undertaking the further research required in Ireland under point 1 and will commission an observation study and an attitudinal study in the coming weeks – this might be expected to be concluded by the end of the year.

This Division (Jason Whelan) in consultation with roads division will examine the point raised with regard to the reduction in speed limits in urban areas where there is a high throughput of traffic and the undertaking of the engineering assessment to review current cycle lanes. I understand the RSA (Velma Burns) has informally raised this with TII who have advised that they have guidelines in place for carrying out assessments – which would be done by the local authority involved.

The views of sustainable transport division would also be welcome on the mandatory use of cycle lanes and the proposals put forward by the RSA.

Kind regards

O'REILLY Helen

From: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>
Sent: 10 April 2017 12:56
To: O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Nicola; Sharon Heffernan
Subject: RE: Cycle Tracks Review

Hi Helen,

We were hoping to have the results in by the end of March, but there have been delays across all three studies which we have externally contracted to three separate providers.
I am hoping to have results back from each party within the next two weeks, after which the Research Department will need to review and synthesise the results for you.
Apologies for the delay, but I would say we are now looking at early May before we will have the summary results of all three studies over to you.

Kind regards
Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: O'REILLY Helen [mailto:HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie]
Sent: 10 April 2017 11:53
To: Velma Burns ; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon ; HAYES Nicola
Subject: Cycle Tracks Review

Hi Velma,

Just checking in with you on the cycle track research. You were hoping to have the results by end March.

Regards,
Helen

Helen O Reilly | Road Safety Division | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 | D02 TR60 |
✉: helenoreilly@dtas.ie | ☎: (+353) 1 604 1406 | 🌐: www.dttas.ie

From: Velma Burns [mailto:vburns@rsa.ie]
Sent: 11 January 2017 09:00
To: O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Hi Helen,

We have awarded the tender this week to a company to conduct the observational study of cycle lane usage and we will begin set up and fieldwork in the next two weeks, so we are on track to have results from that study by the end of March.

For the attitudinal study, we have yet to confirm the fieldwork dates, but we have the research company lined up to conduct the research for us. Fieldwork will take place end Jan/early February, and we should also have the results in March.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards
Velma

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From: O'REILLY Helen [mailto:HelenO'REILLY@dtas.ie]
Sent: 09 January 2017 17:07
To: Velma Burns ; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon ; HAYES Nicola
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Hi Velma,

Just wondering if you would provide an update on where the cycle track research is at, please.

Regards,
Helen

Helen O Reilly | Road Safety Division | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 | D02 TR60 |
✉: helenoreilly@dtas.ie | ☎: (+353) 1 604 1406 | 🌐: www.dttas.ie

From: Velma Burns [mailto:vburns@rsa.ie]
Sent: 09 November 2016 13:37
To: HAYES Nicola; O'REILLY Helen; Michael Rowland
Cc: Patricia McAloon; HAYES Declan
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

No problem Nicola. Will update you on timings once the tender process has been completed.
If feasible, the on-site inspections of cycle lanes we suggested could be progressed by the appropriate authority in the meantime.

Regards
Velma

Velma Burns | Research Manager | Road Safety Authority | Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo | Dir 096 25207 | Mobile 086 8523792 | www.rsa.ie

From: HAYES Nicola [mailto:NicolaHAYES@dtas.ie]
Sent: 09 November 2016 12:31
To: Velma Burns <vburns@rsa.ie>; O'REILLY Helen ; Michael Rowland <MRowland@rsa.ie>
Cc: Patricia McAloon <pmcaloon@rsa.ie>; HAYES Declan <DeclanHayes@dtas.ie>
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use of Cycle Tracks - RSA Views

Ok, thanks Velma. You might keep us updated on this. We can't afford any slippage on these timelines.

Regards
Nicola

O'REILLY Helen

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 28 April 2017 15:08
To: O'NEILLDerek; HAYES Declan; O'REILLY Helen
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; HYLAND Denise
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use

Latest on this is that RSA have advised that they are hoping to have results of all 3 studies over to us by early May. Following receipt of the results, we will consult with your division and we can make a decision on any amendments necessary to the Regulations at this point.

Depending on legislative priorities on this side it is possible that whatever changes that are necessary to the SI can be made before bike week. If there is not enough time to amend the regulations, I think we should be able to at least give a commitment as to the Department's intention in relation to amending the Regulations.

(I'm just conscious as well that Helen who is the key person involved in drafting the regulations on this side will be on leave from 5 May until at least 19 June)

Regards
 Nicola

From: O'NEILLDerek
Sent: 28 April 2017 14:49
To: HAYES Nicola; HAYES Declan; O'REILLY Helen
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; HYLAND Denise
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use

June 10 – 18th. Sorry forgot to include that very relevant info!

From: HAYES Nicola
Sent: 28 April 2017 14:48
To: O'NEILLDerek; HAYES Declan; O'REILLY Helen
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; HYLAND Denise
Subject: RE: Mandatory Use

When is bike week?

From: O'NEILLDerek
Sent: 28 April 2017 14:45
To: HAYES Nicola; HAYES Declan; O'REILLY Helen
Cc: BROGAN Ethna; HYLAND Denise
Subject: Mandatory Use

Colleagues,

With Bike Week 2017 fast approaching can we ensure that the RSA have a definitive view submitted to the Department regarding the above

Well before Bike Week starts so that the Department can give a commitment either way prior to Bike Week.

I really don't want to have to be deflected from the promotion of cycling by questions regarding Mandatory Use this year.

Regards,

Derek

Sustainable Transport Division
Department of Transport, Tourism
& Sport
Leeson Lane
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(01)604 1061