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Advance green signals for road users on bicycles

Cambridge Cycling Campaign is a registered charity with over 1,000 members and has a long track record of working constructively with Local Authorities and other stakeholders. We are the largest cycling campaign in England outside London.

We are writing to support the proposal, submitted as part of the "Tackling Dangerous Junctions for Cyclists" funding for the Catholic Church Junction, to implement an "Advanced Green Phase" for those road users on bicycles.

In a 12-hour period, some 5,000 cycles and 18,000 cars cross this junction. Given the large number of bikes, the extra time afforded by advanced signals should not only make the junction safer, but also encourage the less confident to cycle. We believe that this is an important innovation which will have a beneficial effect for cyclists using this busy central junction. It will allow cyclists to clear the intersection before motor vehicles enter it. Such lights will offer a cycle safety improvement.

Although legislation is proposed to allow more general use of such advance lights, at present we understand that special DfT authorisation is required. We are aware that the County Council leader supports their use at this junction, and we wish to join with him in requesting the special authorisation required. At the recent launch of the NICE 'Cycling and Walking Guidance', one of our volunteer campaigners spoke to Pauline Reeves and was encouraged to write to the DfT on this issue.

We believe that Cambridge is an excellent place to implement this innovative feature, as local drivers are well acquainted with the high number of cyclists on our roads, and do understand the safety concerns of vulnerable road users in such a busy junction.

As with the "No Entry Except Cycles" signage, we believe that Cambridge is an excellent place to effectively trial such lights, as the huge volumes of cycles at junctions allows a rapid evaluation of the effects.

Martin Lucas-Smith, Chair
On behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign