

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

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Craig, a chara,

BELFAST CYCLE NETWORK – RAVENHILL ROAD SCHEME

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 February 2026 seeking further details on the Ravenhill Road / Ormeau Embankment Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements scheme. I welcome Council's support of this scheme, and for the work we undertake to make our transport network more inclusive and sustainable.

In response to each of the Committee's requests:

Should any trees be felled as part of the scheme, all trees removed are replaced with semi-mature trees at a ratio of three new trees for every one tree felled;

On this scheme, my department is content to replace any mature tree felled with two new semi-mature trees. It is proposed that any trees that cannot be accommodated along the Ravenhill Road are planted within nearby local parks, subject to agreement with Council officials. The exact numbers involved will be finalised on completion of the statutory processes, as matters raised during this process may have some bearing on the final scheme.

Seek assurance that a pedestrian crossing at the Ardenlee Avenue junction on the Ravenhill Road would be delivered as part of the scheme;

A pedestrian and cycle toucan crossing near the Ardenlee Avenue junction is included within the scheme design.

Request that double yellow lines be installed on the corners of the streets off the Ravenhill Road, as part of the scheme, to help prevent obstructive parking;

My department will undertake a review of parking at these locations and, where there is evidence of illegal parking on corners, double yellow lines will be provided as part of the works.

Request that the Department proactively engage and consult with local schools, as part of the scheme's consultation process, to ascertain how best the scheme could promote safe and active travel for children to school;

Officials are currently finalising a draft Traffic Regulations Order for public consultation. Elected representatives and key stakeholders will be advised of the upcoming consultation once the orders are prepared. My department intends to explore options for engaging directly with local schools as a part of the upcoming public consultation process.

Road safety and promoting active travel are important priorities for my department and there are a number of programmes that we deliver directly, and in partnership with others, to provide our young people with the necessary skills and confidence to walk, wheel or cycle. On completion of the scheme my officials will also consider how best to use these programmes to promote active travel to the pupils of those schools affected.

Request an update on the Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge;

The Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge is currently at procurement stage, however, no further details on the delivery timelines are available because this project, along with other major infrastructure projects, is being considered in light of the pending outcome and implications of the Court of Appeal's ruling on the A5.

Request that the Department engages with the Council in respect of the potential for the Department to support the installation of lighting infrastructure across all Council Parks within the city.

Officials engage regularly with all Councils on their greenway and active travel priorities. Lighting of paths within parks in Belfast is a regular topic of discussion, particularly where those paths are identified routes within the Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan. It would be a matter for Council to consider lighting in any parks they wish but my department may provide capital funding support towards installation of appropriate lighting deemed to be beneficial to enhancing the Belfast Cycling Network, subject to approval of a suitable grant funding business case.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Kimmins', written in a cursive style.

LIZ KIMMINS MLA
Minister for Infrastructure