From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA

Ms Carolyn Donnelly
Belfast City Council

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Dear Ms Donnelly

SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Thank you for Elish McGoldrick's letter of 9th September 2021 in respect of active and sustainable travel matters raised by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Minister published '*Making Belfast an Active City – Belfast Cycling Network 2021*' on 4th June.   This document provides a blueprint for developing safe cycling infrastructure across Belfast over the next 10 years. The Minister plans to publish a delivery plan later this year to lay the groundwork for the implementation of a coherent and connected cycling network for everyday cycling in the city over the next ten years. Officials are also currently working on plans to implement a number of schemes during the remainder of her tenure and those schemes will be funded from her Blue / Green Infrastructure Fund.

The Minister introduced a number of pop-up cycle lanes in 2020, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.   The initial purpose was to support cycling by key workers travelling to the main hospitals in the city. Further development of schemes will be carried out as experimental schemes and officials have already begun to consult with local communities in advance of any construction. A review of the existing pop-up cycle lanes will be published next month and this will include lessons learnt for the future.

In carrying out the All Island Rail Review, ARUP will be undertaking stakeholder engagement and we anticipate that they will seek Belfast City Council's input, along with all the local councils, during the important engagement phase of the study.

KATHRYN McFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure