

pothole

newsletter of the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign

Summer 2011

www.gmcc.org.uk

Metrolink: proposed Second City Crossing (2CC)

Transport for Greater Manchester is proposing a second Metrolink line across Manchester City Centre between Deansgate and Victoria via Cross Street



Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is proposing a second Metrolink line across Manchester City Centre between Deansgate (GMEX) and Victoria via Cross Street to help prevent City Centre bottlenecks on the tram network.

The proposed route runs along Lower Mosley Street, through St Peters Square and along Princess Street (by the Town Hall) before turning into Cross Street. The artists impression (shown) is from the Second City Crossing Route proposal presented to the GM Integrated Transport Authority committee meeting on 18th March. It may

only be an artist's impression but shows no provision for cycle routes/paths and GMCC is concerned that the new Metrolink route will close Cross Street/Corporation Street as a cycle route. These streets are currently a well-used low-traffic, two-way route for people cycling across the city centre.

If Manchester wants to increase the number of people cycling then it is vital that there are safe and pleasant cycle routes across the city centre. In transport planning jargon we need to increase the 'permeability' of the city. The good news is that there will be a 12 week statutory consultation (probably starting in June) and GMCC will certainly be reminding

Metrolink that the latest GM Local Transport Plan (LTP3) contains a number of Priority Commitments. One of which boldly states that: **"Our proposals set out ways to... remove barriers to cycling"**. GMCC urge Metrolink to ensure that the new tramlines do not block access to this key cross-city cycling route.

If you would like more details on the Second City Crossing contact the Metrolink 2CC Team on 0161 244 1444 (office hours) or email 2cc.metrolink@tfgm.com.



Cross Street is a popular route for cyclists getting across town



Mosely Street the first cross city route, for trams only



Cross Street is a popular route for cyclists getting across town

Getting more commuters in the saddle

What are companies doing to help employees cycle to work? To find out more, we started with AQA in central Manchester and talked to Joe Boyce from Health and Safety.

How did you start?

Human Resources wanted to offer the Cycle2Work (bike purchase) scheme as an excellent way of encouraging a healthy way of getting to work that would be attractive for some colleagues. A move for a better bike shelter then came from the staff/management forums and Health and Safety facilitated cycle training.

How did you implement the bike purchase scheme?

We introduced it in 2009. We chose Halfords for their experience and concise administration, and to offer identical benefits to our other offices in Guildford and Harrogate. The only obstruction has been late new guidance communication from HMRC (Inland Revenue).

What is the Cycle2Work take up?

Out of just over 500 staff in this office, 58 have signed up.

What is the impact on staff?

Jenny Birchett is a great example of the scheme's benefits: "Cycle2Work has helped me get back into cycling after a long gap! I live in Buxton...most of my journey is by train/bus but I use my folding bike to do the home to station and station to work parts. The cycle training from BikeRight! was great at increasing my confidence on busy city roads."

"I've also taken the folding bike away on caravan holidays..... I'm exploring cycle trails near home so I'm getting plenty of exercise. If I can get back on a bike at age 58, then I reckon that most people could give it a try!" (Jenny Birchett)



Cycle2Work helped Jenny Birchett, 58 take up cycling again



Improved cycle parking in secure grounds with CCTV cameras

Do you provide secure cycle parking?

We built a bigger and better cycle shelter in a secure area with CCTV.

Were you able to help with cycle training?

Navigating roads is THE main obstruction: Without cycle training many staff would not have started cycle commuting. Training was funded by Manchester City Council's Carbon Innovation Fund and delivered by BikeRight! who set up a roadshow on site offering advice and information and a range of commuter bikes for trying out. They followed up with five training sessions. Feedback on training with BikeRight! has been very positive:

"I have been commuting to work on my bicycle for almost 2 years. After attending the cycle training I feel a lot more confident on the road."
(Stephen Cassidy)

"The training sessions were well organised and catered for different ability levels... There was a good mix of practical advice followed by practising what we'd learned. I definitely felt more confident in traffic after the session."
(Emily Worthington)

"I have totally enjoyed the courses and the instructors have been very good and very patient!!" (Sylvia Robinson)

The training has given me confidence as it was the first time I got cycling again since childhood....I now consider cycling as my main form of commuting to workThe training has opened a whole new world to me." (Juliet Hind)

Washing/drying facilities

We have showers and are hoping to provide more along with a drying room. We also provide lockers.

Mileage allowance None yet.

Does the office have a bicycle user group (BUG)?

We have an intranet based workgroup to facilitate this, but this is in the early stages



BikeRight! demo bikes and sign up staff for cycle training

Where next?

The management team support Cycle2Work as it improves staff health and well-being and helps meet AQA's Environmental Policy objectives. As the vast majority of the cycle enthusiasts have already signed up for the scheme, further growth may be limited. However, the Management Team are keen to continue to offer Cycle2Work if there is the demand from colleagues

How do you promote Cycle2Work and cycle commuting?

We advertise regularly on the intranet and via posters around the building. We promote related events like 'Bike Friday'



AQA, (The Assessments and Qualifications Alliance) has an office at Devas street, M15 6EX.

Transport for Greater Manchester bids to become local and sustainable

In December 2010, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced a £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) meant to reflect the importance of helping to build locally a strong economy, address the urgent challenge of climate change and to promote sustainable travel initiatives.

In Greater Manchester it was agreed that TfGM would submit a single £50m bid with a focus on three core themes of active travel (walking & cycling), smarter travel information and promotion, and network efficiency.

The deadline for the major LSTF is 6th June but TfGM also submitted a 'key component' bid for £5 million in April. Grandly titled the 'Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project' the bid is focussed on capital investment in several Cycle Centres as well as supporting cycle training and promotion activities. [Download LSTF Key Component Bid report \(PDF\) from www.tfgm.com](#).

TfGM believe that Greater Manchester's submission to the LSTF is "an opportunity to accelerate the pace of the ambitions outlined in the third Local Transport Plan." GMCC are hoping that any successful bids will also help encourage an increase in the scale of their ambitions for cycling development in Greater Manchester.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Key Component Bid

Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project



Is it a Quantity Surveyor..... no, it's Bicycle Repairman



Revolve MCR mobile repairs

Graham Chapman was the original Bicycle Repairman in Monty Python's Flying Circus. In February 2011 Dave Trainor, another former quantity surveyor, invested his redundancy pay in a set of tools and a 65kg trailer to launch Revolve MCR – mobile cycle repairs.

Dave is a CyTech qualified mechanic, training at ATG in Hyde. During sixth form in Leeds he worked at Stif Mountain Bikes building bikes part time before moving on to UMIST.

From his Longsight home Dave aims to cover the city centre and south Manchester but has jumped on his Surly Karate Monkey to attend customers as far north as Prestwich and south as Sale, aiming to get to you the day you call us....with cycle repairs that revolve around you, at home, at work, on the move."

Dave is a regular presence at the Higher Education Precinct monthly Bike2Work Days and has a pitch at POD (Post Office Deli) on Albert Road, Levenshulme. He gets everywhere - one day I looked out of my window and there he was, rebuilding my neighbour's hydraulic disc brakes.

Dave lists the trombone as another interest. Sadly there was no sign of the instrument in his packed trailer so in the absence of a bike problem I could not persuade him to busk for me. He declined my offer of tea, "Just off to Whalley Range to fit a pannier rack and then will cruise the business parks for new trade."

GMCC members are entitled to 10% discount on Revolve services.
www.revolvemcr.com
dave@revolvemcr.com
07939 062 600

Cycling Embassy for Great Britain

Since the inaugural meeting in London earlier this year, the newly formed Cycling Embassy of Great Britain (CEoGB) has been creating electronic waves in the online cycling community. Modelled on the Cycling Embassy of Denmark the organisation's manifesto states that:

- We, the Cycling Embassy of Great Britain represent everyone, young or old, fit or not, who wishes to use their bike – and by bike we mean any form of cycle including tricycles, handcycles, recumbents, cargo bikes or tandems – as transport. We believe that everyone – be they five or ninety-five – should have the freedom to go about their business by bike without fear or harassment.

and we believe that:

- Britain's planning and transport policies to date have served to confine cycling only to the quick and the brave, leaving the rest of us behind. Promoting cycling without tackling this will not raise cycling levels significantly.
- current rates of cycling in this country are too low, that targets to increase them are miserably un-ambitious and that a decent rate of cycling should be nearer 30 or 40% of all journeys
- this can only be achieved by the provision of dedicated safe cycle infrastructure, in line with the best practice found around the world.

It is the manifesto commitment to demanding European style segregated cycling facilities that is causing the waves. Public comments from some CEoGB founding members about existing cycle campaigns has also added spice to the debate. At the inaugural meeting, Mark Ames noted that "...existing cycle campaigns are diabolical at communicating with the general public. What's more, mass cycling is not going to materialise by tinkering around the edges. A fresh approach is needed."

A fair point, some may argue. But whatever route taken to increasing the number of people who cycle we should all be able to agree with the CEoGB's final manifesto point:

"we believe that this is worth it, because we believe that cycling can contribute to making Britain a less congested, fitter, leaner, greener cleaner, quieter and above all happier place."

Cycling Embassy of Great Britain (CEoGB) held their second meeting in Manchester on 21st May. For more go to www.cycling-embassy.org.uk

Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign

meets on the second Monday of each month, 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester, close to Manchester Town Hall. The meeting is usually followed by a drink in a nearby pub. Come along and see what it's about or join our social rides, details on www.gmcc.org.uk

**Pothole is the newsletter of
the Greater Manchester Cycling
Campaign (GMCC).**

Views expressed in Pothole
are not necessarily those of
the GMCC.

Contacts

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RIDES/EVENTS JUNE-SEPT 2011

Sat/Sun	Jun	11/12	Mountainbike Weekend Eskdale (3)
Sun	Jun	12	Chorlton Wanderers, Swettenham (2)
Thu	Jun	16	GMCC Social Ride, Brinnington Vale (10)
Sat	Jun	18	Bike Week starts
Sun	Jun	19	Bike Events, Manchester/Chester (9)
Mon	Jun	20	LOG/GMCC Social ride to Ringley (10)
Wed	Jun	22	LOG/GMCC Social ride Chill Factor
Sat	Jul	09	MTB ride Watendlath, Lakes (3)
Sun	Jul	10	Bike Events, Manchester/Blackpool (9)
Sun	Jul	17	Chorlton Wanderers, Tour de Macc (2)
Thurs	Jul	21	GMCC Social Ride Heaton Park (10)
Sat	Aug	13	MTB Ride, Pen y Ghent (3)
Sun	Aug	14	Chorlton Wanderers, Anderton Boat Lift
Thurs	Aug	18	GMCC Social Ride, Sale Canalside
Sun	Sep	04	Bike Events, Manchester 100 (9)
Sat/Sun	Sep	10/11	MTB W/E, 7 Stanes (3)

(1) www.smctc.org.uk/

(2) www.sandbenders.demon.co.uk/cycling/chwan.htm

(3) <http://twistedwheels.myfreeforum.org/index.php>

(4) www.manchesterwheelers.co.uk

(5) www.withingtonwheelers.btik.com

(6) www.ibikemcr.org.uk

(7) www.stockport-clarion.org.uk

(8) www.cycling-embassy.org.uk

(9) www.bike-events.com

(10) www.gmcc.org.uk

JOIN BIKE FRIDAY

**Bike Friday starts at locations
across Greater Manchester and
cyclists converge in the city
centre by 8.30am. Whether
you're new to cycling, returning
to your bike after a break, or
cycle every day, join us on our
monthly rides.**

www.bikefriday.org

7.40am starting points:

- Worsley Rd/Chatsworth Rd junction, opposite Greenleach Lane/Monton Green (7.50AM)/Hope Hospital (8AM)

8am starting points:

- Stretford Mall (next to Chester Road bus stop)
- Chorlton Library
- Withington Library
- Levenshulme Station
- Prestwich Pizza (Bury New Road /Scholes Lane junction)

SHOPS OFFERING DISCOUNTS TO GMCC MEMBERS

A1 Cycle Spares 0161 998 2882
414-416 Palatine Road, Northenden, M22 4JT

A6 Cycle Warehouse, 0161 248 5400
752-762 Stockport Road, Longsight

Altrincham Bike Shak 0161 929 9355
10 Oakfield Trading Estate, Oakfield Rd

Bennets, 0161 969 1818
172-4 Nortenden Road, Sale Moor

Bicycle Doctor 0161 224 1303
68-70 Dickenson Road, Rusholme
www.bicycledoctor.co.uk

Biking Factory Shop, 0161 773 2125
424-426, Bury New Rd Prestwich M25 1BD

Cyclelite, 0161 962 3037
67 Cross Street Sale M33 7HF

Devereux Cycles, 0161 973 5234
45 Green Lane M33 5PN

Eddie McGrath Cycles, 0161 748 2733
31 Station Road, Urmston, Trafford, M41 9JG

Evans Cycles Manchester, 0161 834 6732
201 Deansgate M3 3NW

Harry Hall Cycles, 0161 236 5699
67, The Arches, Whitworth St West M1 5WQ

Ken Foster's Cycle Logic, 0161 881 7160
374-6 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, M21 8AZ
www.kenfosterscyclelogic.co.uk

Manchester Cycle Exchange, 0161 748 2532
1 Brook Terrace Barton Road Davyhulme, M417NG

NW Mountain Bike Centre, 0161 428 3311
249 Stockport Road, Cheadle

Skidmores Cycles 0161 624 5912
37 Union Street, Oldham

Withington Cycles 0161 445 3492
26 Burton Road, Withington

Local authority contacts

GMAuthority

BOLTON

BURY

MANCHESTER

OLDHAM

ROCHDALE

SALFORD

STOCKPORT

TAMESIDE

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