TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
TS : Transport Scotland Bus, Accessibility and Active Travel

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Pip Jackson
president@accessassociation.co.uk

Our Reference: 202100236407

5 October 2021

Dear Pip Jackson,

Thank you for your e-mail dated 6 September regarding colourful pedestrian crossings and the concerns that your membership have.

It may be helpful if I set out in the first instance how roads are managed in Scotland. Local roads are the responsibility of the local authority as it is also the local roads authority. Transport Scotland, through our trunk road operating companies is responsible for the strategic trunk road network including motorways. Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 places a statutory duty on local authorities to promote road safety, undertake studies of road accidents and take steps to both reduce and prevent accidents. It is also their responsibility for all traffic management. In this respect it is up to the local Council to consider appropriate measures which will safeguard road users and residents, and to determine the priority that should be given to any road safety measures. Therefore, Local roads authorities are responsible for deciding how best to meet their duties, including safety audits, on local roads in their areas.

However, we recognise this is part of an important agenda that we are taking action on and I very much recognise the points that you have raised. That is why we are developing inclusive design guidance (based on research) in partnership with a stakeholder working group, many of whom were copied into your original email. The Guidance is aimed at designers and street engineers as well as members of the public, and is being produced in response to stakeholders concerns on the difficulties disabled people encounter for both accessing and navigating town centres and busy streets. This will help Transport Scotland address many of the known issues within our Accessible Travel Framework which aims to support disabled people's rights by removing barriers and improving access to travel and ensure disabled people are fully involved in work to improve all aspects of travel
'Busy Streets' are defined as streets which serve a civic or public service function, such as shopping

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streets or areas where one or more public service is accessed, such as shopping, finance and key public services. They will have a proportionately higher level of motor vehicle and cycle traffic than other areas within the neighbourhood or settlement. They are also more likely to be serviced by public transport.

The Guidance will include three main sections. Part One sets out the principles for Inclusive Engagement, Part Two the Inclusive Physical Design Measures in plain English for members of the public who are interested in street design and designers. The third part is the annex, sets out details on technical design elements, and will link to other street design guidance..

Part two relating to the physical design measures will cover the following 5 key principles:

- Segregation;
- Clear unobstructed pathways;
- Consistency in design;
- Materials and;
- Crossings.

All pedestrian crossings are regulated by the 'Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016', as amended (TSRGD). TSRGD prescribes the signs, signals and markings that must be used to create the different types of crossing. The Traffic Signs Manual gives guidance on the use of road markings and on the design of these facilities.

It is our view that the use of surfacing in this way needs careful thought. Striped designs must be avoided and any crossing that is not a zebra must not resemble one. That would extend to using a striped pattern at a signalled crossing. Zebra crossings have a defined priority in law, and anything that looks like one could lead pedestrians to assume priority when it doesn't exist. The artwork must not alter the appearance of the prescribed crossing signals, signs and markings in any way, as this may mean they were no longer compliant with guidance.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Logan
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