New cycle route Quality Criteria

Accompanying technical note to the Quality Criteria spreadsheet tool v1

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New Cycle Route Quality Criteria

Accompanying technical note v1

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1. Introduction

This technical note sets out the New Cycle Route Quality Criteria, describing expected levels of provision on all proposed cycle routes in London. The Quality Criteria are based on London Cycling Design Standards best practice guidance, focusing on whether conditions are appropriate for routes to be designed to mix people cycling with motor traffic, as well as recommending an appropriate level of provision for routes with designated space for cycling.

The Quality Criteria will be reviewed by TfL Sponsors for all cycle routes that are expected to be part of the signed cycle network. All proposals will continue to go through due TfL approval processes, including the application of the Healthy Streets Check for Designers tool.

By filling out the accompanying **New Cycle Route Quality Criteria tool** spreadsheet, users will be informed whether existing conditions and/or proposals are expected to be appropriate for routes to be designed to mix people cycling with motor traffic. Where the conditions warrant a fully separated track or cycle lane, Sponsors can also use the tool to highlight whether the proposed design treatment for the link is expected to be appropriate for the context. This technical note provides details on the Quality Criteria and describes the thresholds that feed in to the automation process embedded within the spreadsheet tool. The full list of Quality Criteria thresholds is set out in section 4.

2. Using the Quality Criteria tool

The Quality Criteria tool can be used throughout the lifecycle of a cycle route project before each Stage Gate:

- To assist in the selection of a preferred route alignment and exploration of potential design forms in Outcome Definition alongside other factors including existing conditions, modal and network requirements and stakeholder input
- At Feasibility Design / Option Selection to help identify the range of route design forms and the selection of a single preferred option
- At the Concept Design stage to ensure the design is fit for purpose

Within TfL the assessment will be undertaken by the Project Sponsor, with support from relevant colleagues where necessary. Data is to be input within the accompanying **New Cycle Route Quality Criteria tool** which is an Excel spreadsheet that automatically generates a corresponding design recommendation.



The tool features two tabs: one for an assessment of existing conditions; the other for proposed design approaches. Users should apply data inputs that correspond to the respective design stage and the purpose of the assessment.

A proposed cycle route should be divided into links which comprise a consistent street character. Where there are significant changes in the quality of provision for cycling being offered, such as if there is a long stretch of on-street parking that adversely impacts on cycling, this should be considered as a separate link location. Discretion should be used when dividing up a route in this manner so that a balance is achieved in terms of understanding the nature of the route as a whole, as well as particular pinch-point issues. Some pinch-points, such as at bus stop bypasses where a cycle track is temporarily narrowed, may be considered appropriate for the context and should be noted as not being included as a separate link. Links should then be assessed using the tool to give an indication of the level of provision for cycling across the full length of the link (see sections 3 and 4).

Main junctions should be reviewed as part of the link, with criteria 4 designed to cover the levels of provision expected for junctions. This tool does not provide a detailed assessment of junctions but flags up when a design proposal may not be delivering to a high standard as part of the 'Additional design considerations' and should be further evaluated as appropriate.

Data collection

In order to complete the assessment, the following data is required. Spot checks or site observations may be used as required in the absence of formally recorded data.

- Existing motor vehicle flows should be used for the existing assessment, with the peak identified using a 7am to 7pm count on a weekday, to highlight the busiest hour across four consecutive 15min periods (for example the peak hour might be from 8.15-9.15am). Where the peak hour flow is known to fall outside these hours, it is recommended to use the peak hour flow across 24 hours and note the time period used. For the proposed scheme, modelled flows should be used where available. The user comments tab should identify whether existing or predicted flows have been used.
- HGV peak hour flow (defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes), calculating the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm. It may not always be possible to conduct manual classified counts, therefore it is considered acceptable to use radar surveys that classify HGVs as any vehicle over 5.6m in length. Where there are temporary construction sites that may skew the data, a proportion of the HGV traffic attributable to a particular site should be understood, so that the long term flow trend is used as the basis for identifying the HGV proportion of traffic.
- Classified turning counts at major junctions on the route.



- 85th percentile speed data for a typical weekday (where multiple locations are collected within a section of road, the highest speed value should be used).
- Carriageway dimensions between the nearside running lane markings and the kerb edge for the majority of the route, as well as at the most significant pinch-points where appropriate. Where there is no centreline marking shown, take the centre point of the carriageway (except for one-way streets where the full width of the street should be taken).
- Where kerbside parking or loading activity is permitted, the kerbside bay width should be measured. Where only one side of the carriageway has kerbside activity, use this side of the road to highlight the worst case situation. Where parking is not restricted and there are no designated bays but there is frequent kerbside activity, assume a minimum 2.0m reduced width in carriageway to represent a parked vehicle.

3. Criteria Review Process Overview

The Criteria Review Process is automated within the spreadsheet tool and explained in detail within this technical note, so that users of the tool can understand more about the thresholds that have been set. The process identifies whether conditions are expected to be appropriate for a design to mix people cycling with motor traffic. This process is structured such that schemes should be aspiring for a high target level of provision across a range of criteria, and are not just meeting a minimum required quality level.

Two levels of provision have been defined with target 'green' levels set as the recommended high level of provision to aim for, while a required 'grey' level sets the minimum benchmark. Where a section of the route is identified as not meeting the target 'green' level of provision, a cross comparison of other criteria is made by the tool to ascertain whether a lower level of provision for one criteria can be considered appropriate in that instance.

Not all target levels need to be met for a scheme to be expected to be appropriate for people cycling to mix with general traffic; however the framework requires particular target level combinations to be reached for a layout to be considered appropriate. This draws on London Cycling Design Standards advice to make these associations.

Three scenarios are used by the tool in situations where not all of the criteria achieve the target green level of provision, to determine if conditions will likely still be appropriate for cycling to be mixed with general traffic – as shown in the table below. Where the majority of a route is failing to achieve the target level of provision and several links have criteria that do not meet a target level of provision, the design issues should be raised with the Lead Sponsor for further discussion with the project



team. A scheme should only progress to Detailed Design following conversations with the Lead Sponsor and careful consideration of the safety implications for cycling.

The tool applies the Criteria Review Process on a link by link basis once all data inputs have been completed. Outputs of the first assessment tab of the tool cover whether existing conditions are expected to be suitable for people cycling, and the second tab should be used where a scheme design is proposing changes to the existing conditions.

Scenarios considered	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria 4	Criteria 5	Criteria 6			
acceptable for people cycling to mix with general traffic	Flows	Speed	Width	Turning risk	Kerbside activity	HGVs			
Scenario 1	All target green levels met								
Scenario 2	Falls below the target green level	Target green level met	At least 2 of the target of provision, mitigation of required w safety issu	Proportion of HGVs* is less than 5%**(except where width requirements are met)					
Scenario 3	Target green level met	Falls below the target green level	At least 3 out of 4 criteria achieve the target green level of provision, with turning risk mitigation measures at junctions required where there is a known safety issue						
Scenario 4	Target green level met	Target green level met	At least 2 out of 4 criteria achieve the target green level of provision, with turning risk mitigation measures at junctions required where there is a known safety issue						

* Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) – defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes

** Based on the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm



4. Full List of Quality Criteria

All six Quality Criteria are interrelated and are considered in the round when assessing the existing conditions or a scheme proposal. Design considerations for each criterion provide details on how the tool cross-references different criteria and identifies how it responds to conditions that are not directly covered by the target ('green') and required ('grey') thresholds.

All design teams should aspire to deliver a high level of provision for cycling by aligning proposals with the target 'green' level of provision where possible.

target level of provision for new cycle routes

= required level of provision for new cycle routes

- Criteria 1: The degree of separation for people cycling is appropriate for the total volume of two-way motorised traffic
- Criteria 2: The speed of motorised traffic is appropriate for people cycling
- Criteria 3: An appropriate width for cycling is provided to suit the local context
- Criteria 4: Collision risk between people cycling and turning motor vehicles is minimised
- Criteria 5: Kerbside activity has a minimal impact on people cycling
- Criteria 6: Interaction between HGVs and people cycling in mixed traffic is minimised along a link





Criteria 1: The degree of separation for people cycling is appropriate for the total volume of two-way motorised traffic

The design of new cycle routes should only mix people cycling with motorised traffic where there are fewer than 500 motor vehicles per hour (vph – two-way) at peak times, and preferably fewer than 200vph.

The design of new routes will provide as an absolute minimum, a light segregated cycle lane where there are more than 1000 motor vehicles per hour at peak (vph – two-way).

Design considerations for Criteria 1

Where the design intent is for people cycling to be mixed with motorised traffic, designers are encouraged to look at ways of incorporating measures that reduce traffic flows as appropriate. The 500vph level should be considered a preferred upper limit for people cycling to be mixed with motorised traffic and would generally not be desirable where the majority of the route has flows in excess of this level.

Designers should consider exploring opportunities to reduce vehicle flows as part of the scheme design using physical measures such as banning turns on side roads, filtered permeability or signed restrictions for general motor traffic, while ensuring due consideration is given to the wider network impact of any proposed changes.

Where a cycle lane is proposed, designers are expected to incorporate light segregation features as a minimum. An advisory cycle lane would only be potentially appropriate where the tool suggests that conditions are expected to be suitable for people cycling to mix with motor traffic.

The proportion of HGVs* should generally be below 5%** for motor vehicle flows between 500-1000vph, for no dedicated cycle lanes to be considered as a potential option. Note that this arrangement would not meet the target high level of provision



and the Criteria Review Process uses other criteria to ascertain whether this arrangement would be acceptable. Where HGV flows are 5% or higher and motor vehicle flows between 500-1000vph there should be lane widths of at least 4.5m and no kerbside activity that would require cyclists to pull out into the primary position in these situations.

Where a proposed cycle route crosses a busy road with motor vehicle flows of more than 1000vph, people cycling should be separated in time via signals. Where the intersecting side road has flows of 1000vph or below, designers should refer to LCDS Figure 5.4 Cycle crossing options, to determine an appropriate type of crossing provision.

* Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) – defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes

** Based on the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm

Increasing degree of separation \rightarrow	A. Full separation (from motorised vehicles on links)	Dedicated cycle track Stepped track Separated path Shared use area with 'suggested route' for cyclists Shared use footpath Shared use footway	Cycling off-carriageway
		Fully segregated lane	
	B. Dedicated cycle	Light segregated lane	ay
	lanes		gew
	C. Shared lanes	Shared bus/cycle lane	I-carria
		Advisory cycle lane	lo b
		Cycle street	yclin
	D. Integration of users	Mixed traffic	
		Shared space	

Reference table: Degrees of separation (from LCDS)





Criteria 2: The speed of motorised traffic is appropriate for people cycling

The design of new routes should only mix people cycling with motorised traffic where the existing 85th percentile speed is less than 25mph *or* measures should be put in place to reduce speeds where the existing 85th percentile speed is more than or equal to 25mph.

✓ The design of new routes will <u>not</u> mix people cycling with motorised traffic where the existing 85th percentile speed is more than 30mph, unless speed reduction measures are proposed.

Design considerations for Criteria 2

Where the existing 85th percentile speed is 25mph or more and the proposal is to mix people cycling with motorised traffic, designers should justify what measures will be put in place to provide sufficient speed reduction measures.

Speed reduction measures may include: reducing the speed limit to 20mph; installing new infrastructure such as raised tables, raised side road entry treatments, cycle-friendly speed humps, cycle lanes that narrow general traffic lanes; and/or by removing the centreline.

Where a scheme is proposing a reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph, it can be assumed for the purposes of this assessment, that the future 85th percentile speed will be less than 25mph.





Criteria 3: An appropriate width for cycling is provided to suit the local context



Where new routes are designed for people cycling to mix with motorised traffic, nearside lane widths should be 3.2m or less where two-way motor vehicle flows are lower than 500vph, 85th percentile speeds less than 25mph and the proportion of HGVs* is lower than 5%** *or* the width of the nearside general traffic lane (and cycle lane where present), should be 4.5m or more where vehicle flows are higher.

Where new routes are designed for people cycling to be separated from other traffic, the width of the lane or track should be provided to a preferred minimum of 2.2m for one-way cycle lanes or tracks, and 3.0m for two-way cycle lanes or tracks.

\checkmark

Where new routes are designed for people cycling to mix with motorised traffic, the width of the nearside general traffic lane will <u>not</u> be between 3.2m and 4.0m, where two-way motor vehicle flows are 500vph or more and the proportion of HGVs* is $5\%^{**}$ or higher.

An absolute minimum of 1.5m for one-way cycle lanes or tracks, and 2.0m for twoway cycle lanes or tracks applies.

* Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) – defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes

** Based on the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm



Design considerations for Criteria 3

The width of the carriageway should be measured across a link of relatively consistent character and width. The nearside general traffic lane should be measured from the centreline, or road centre point where a centreline is not marked, to the kerb edge and include parking or loading bays where present. Where there is a particular pinch-point that is of concern, then it is at the assessors' discretion whether to include this as a separate location for analysis.

Recommended widths for segregated one-way lanes/tracks based on the peak hour cycle flow are as follows: 1.5m for up to 200 cyclists per hour; 2.2m for 200-800 cyclists per hour; and 2.5m for more than 800 cyclists per hour. Recommended widths for segregated two-way lanes/tracks based on the peak hour cycle flow are as follows: 2.0m for up to 300 cyclists per hour; 3.0m for 300-1000 cyclists per hour; and 4.0m for more than 1000 cyclists per hour.

For a cycle lane or track that is proposed to be narrower than the target level, the designer needs to fully justify the design approach based on predicted cycle flows.

Where people cycling are encouraged to adopt the primary position within a general traffic lane with widths of 3.2m or less, vehicle flows should be lower than 500vph, 85th percentile speeds less than 25mph and the proportion of HGVs* lower than 5%**.



^{*} Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) – defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes

^{**} Based on the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm



Criteria 4: Collision risk between people cycling and turning motor vehicles is minimised

At all priority junctions where motor vehicle flows are greater than 200vph on the side road itself, infrastructure measures should be provided to reduce the volume and/or speed of turning movements by motor vehicles where it is appropriate to do so.

At signal-controlled junctions where there is full separation on the cycle route approach arms, conflicting movements between cycle traffic and motor traffic should be separated with dedicated signals for cycles.

At signal-controlled junctions, a cycle early release signal will be implemented where it is appropriate to do so.

Design considerations for Criteria 4

This criteria refers to the main arms of a junction which form a part of the cycle route.

Collision data should be cross-checked to understand the location and severity of collisions to assist in informing a design response. Designers should outline the mitigation measures that will be put in place to minimise interaction with motor vehicles that are turning.

Where appropriate, measures for priority junctions should look to include:

- Approaches that reduce the speed of turning vehicles, such as raised junctions, side road entry treatments and tight corner radii
- Ways to minimise motor vehicle turning movements through road closures, banned turns, or modal filters on the side road.



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Where a cycle route crosses the carriageway, appropriate crossing provision should be provided based on traffic flows on the intersecting road, to comply with Figure 5.4 Cycle crossing options in the London Cycling Design Standards. The target level is attained where the existing layout or proposed design treatment is aligned with the thresholds below, based on an assumption that the peak hour flow translates to 10% of the 24 hour flow (i.e. a controlled crossing would be expected for streets with two-way flows of >800vph).

Type of crossing	Flows (24hr)					
	All vehicles (carriageway)	Cycles (crossing)	Pedestrians (crossing)			
I. Parallel signal-controlled pedestrian/cycle	> 8,000	Medium-High	Medium-High			
2. Signal-controlled cycle-only	> 8,000	Medium-High	None			
3. Shared pedestrian/cycle or toucan	> 8,000	Low-Medium	Low-Medium			
4. Priority pedestrian/cycle (parallel)	3,000-8,000	Medium	Low-Medium			
5. Mid-link cycle priority	3,000-8,000	Low to Medium	n/a			
6. Uncontrolled (central refuge)	3,000-8,000	Low	Low			

Figure 5.4 Cycle crossing options

The target level of intervention for signal-controlled junctions is to separate cycles in time with interventions such as hold-the-left signals or cycle gates included as appropriate on the cycle route, to separate cyclists where there is a known conflict issue. The expected level of intervention for signal-controlled junctions is for a cycle early release signal to be provided, but only where it is considered appropriate to do so, based on factors such as volume of turning movements and collision data.



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Where there is kerbside parking or loading and people cycling are mixed with motor traffic, 85th percentile speeds should be less than 25mph *and* the remaining lane width should be at least 2.0m to the nearside lane marking / carriageway centre point *or* where the lane width is less than 2.0m wide, two-way vehicle flows should be lower than 200vph, 85th percentile speeds less than 25mph and the proportion of HGVs* lower than 5%**.

* Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) – defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes

** Based on the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm

Where people cycling are in separate cycle lanes, they should be physically separated from kerbside activities with the lane width (including the buffer width where required) allowing for at least 1.0m clearance from stationary parked motor vehicles***.

***Taken from the central point of the cycle lane

Design considerations for Criteria 5

As part of the assessment, designers should assume the worst case arrangement; i.e. when parking or loading bays are fully occupied. It is recommended to conduct an assessment of the cycling conditions at a pinch-point, so that the impact of reduced lane width adjacent to parking can be identified separate to other sections of the route where there may be no designated kerbside activity. Where only one side of the road has kerbside activity, this side should be measured as part of the assessment. Where parking is not restricted and there are no designated bays but there is frequent kerbside activity, assume a 2.0m reduced width in carriageway to represent a parked vehicle, up to a 3.0m width for where frequent HGV loading is expected based on the adjacent land use.

The criteria for kerbside activity are designed to consider the speed of motorised



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traffic to ensure that where there is kerbside activity and people cycling are mixed with motor traffic with less than 2.0m width to the carriageway centre point, 85th percentile speeds are less than 25mph and two-way motor vehicle flows are lower than 200vph. This is to ensure that people cycling can comfortably ride in the primary position as part of the flow of general traffic.

Where there is a remaining carriageway width of 2.0m or more from the kerbside bay to the centreline / nearside lane marking, people cycling would have approximately 1.0m clearance between a stationary parked vehicle and an oncoming moving vehicle. Where vehicles are frequently crossing the centreline, an additional note should be entered as part of the data capture process to highlight this issue and an appraisal of the location of passing places included as part of the baseline / design audit.

Parking occupancy data should be used to inform the rationalisation of kerbside designations and justify any locations where parking or loading cannot be reduced. Designers should look at how timed restrictions can be incorporated to minimise the impact of parking and loading during peak cycling hours. Where night-time loading is permitted, this may be omitted from the spreadsheet input if the hours of operation do not coincide with peak cycling hours. This should be noted to highlight where this has been incorporated and reference made to the hours of operation.

Bus stops are not included within the kerbside activity metric but due consideration is needed in relation to bus service frequency, the design of the bus stop area and the arrangement of cycling facilities to ensure that the layout is fit for purpose and complies with London Cycling Design Standards.



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Criteria 6: Interaction between HGVs and people cycling in mixed traffic is minimised along a link

 \checkmark Where people cycling are to be mixed with two-way motorised traffic flows of 200-500vph, the proportion of HGVs* should be less than 5%**.

Where people cycling are to be mixed with two-way motorised traffic flows of less than 200vph, the proportion of HGVs* should be less than 10%**.

Where the proportion of HGVs* is 5%** or more for any level of two-way flow above 500vph, measures will be put in place to reduce HGV flows *and/or* people cycling on new routes will be provided with at least a 4.5m nearside general traffic lane, bus lane, or cycle lane combined with the adjacent general traffic lane with no kerbside activity *or* provision must be made for people cycling to be fully separated from general traffic.

Where the peak hour HGV flow is 50 vehicles or more, provision is required for people cycling to be fully separated from general traffic.

* Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) – defined as lorries and trucks over 3.5 tonnes

** Based on the peak hour HGV % as a proportion of the corresponding motor vehicle traffic flow, 7am to 7pm



Design considerations for Criteria 6

Where the proportion of HGVs* is more than 5%** for flows greater than 200vph, designers should identify why the number of HGVs cannot be reduced further and/or demonstrate why fully separated space for cycling cannot be provided.

Where motor vehicle flows are between 500vph and 1000vph and the proportion of HGVs* is less than 5%**, it may in exceptional circumstances be acceptable to allow for people cycling to be mixed with general traffic, which is calculated by the Criteria Review Process.

Where there are temporary construction sites that may skew the data, a proportion of the HGV traffic attributable to a particular site should be understood, so that the long term flow trend is used as the basis for identifying the HGV proportion of traffic.

5. Examples of how the automated spreadsheet tool conducts the Criteria Review Process

	Criteria 1 Flows	Criteria 2 Speed	Criteria 3 Width	Criteria 4 Turning risk	Criteria 5 Kerbside activity	Criteria 6 HGVs	Acceptable to be mixed with motor traffic?	Summary
Scenario 2 example pass	600vph Does not meet target	20mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds below 25mph	4.5m √ √	SRETs on side roads and early release at signals	No kerbside activity	Less than 5%	Yes – passes 4 out of 4 criteria across criteria 3- 6	Expected to be acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic – although traffic reduction should be prioritised
Scenario 2 example fail	600vph Does not meet target	20mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds above 25mph but includes traffic calming	4.0m Does not meet target (flows too high)	SRETs on side roads and early release at signals	No kerbside activity	More than 5% Does not meet target	No – fails required HGV ratio and width	Not acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic - traffic reduction, route realignment or separation required



Scenario 3 example pass	250vph	30mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds less than 30mph and no measures proposed Does not meet target	4.5m √√	SRETs on side roads and early release at signals	No kerbside activity but speeds are above 25mph Does not meet target	Less than 5%	Yes – passes 3 out of 4 criteria across criteria 3- 6	Acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic – although traffic calming would be preferable
Scenario 3 example fail	250vph	20mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds more than 25mph and no measures proposed Does not meet target	3.0m Does not meet target (speeds too high)	SRETs on side roads and early release at signals	No kerbside activity but speeds are above 25mph Does not meet target	Less than 5%	No – fails 2 out of 4 criteria across criteria 3- 6	Not acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic – traffic calming or more space for cycling required
Scenario 4 example pass	150vph ✔ ✔	20mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds below 25mph	3.0m ✔ ✔	SRETs on side roads and early release at signals	Less than 2.0m of remaining space but fewer than 200vph	More than 10% Does not meet target	Yes – passes 3 out of 4 criteria across criteria 3- 6	Acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic – HGV reduction would be required where HGV numbers exceed 50 vehicles per hour
Scenario 4 example fail	300vph	20mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds above 25mph but includes traffic calming	3.6m Does not meet target	SRETs on side roads and early release at signals	Less than 2.0m of remaining space and more than 200vph Does not meet target	More than 5% Does not meet target	No – fails 3 out of 4 criteria across criteria 3- 6	Not acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic – traffic reduction or kerbside parking / loading removal is needed
Required level fail based on a lack of proposed changes at junctions with known safety	400vph	20mph speed limit with 85 th percentile speeds below 25mph	3.6m Does not meet target	No changes proposed at junctions with known safety issues Does not meet required	No kerbside activity	Less than 5%	No – fails turning risk criteria	Not acceptable for people cycling to be mixed with traffic – junction design changes needed

