KING STREET Design Competition

King St Design Competition (2018)

3 Adults

King St. Cycletracks & North Street Bus Gate



YZenjxNb

Describe your vision

Aberdeen's King Street is a north-south thoroughfare which is a heavily trafficked route for city buses, commuters, and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). In order to improve conditions for both cyclists and pedestrians along this critical link, it is essential to reduce the volume of motor vehicle traffic along the street, while still maintaining access for busses, deliveries and emergency vehicles.

My strategy for reducing motor traffic along King St. includes general traffic calming throughout the corridor, including the use of brick pavers, chicanes, and additional crosswalks. In addition, I propose the construction of a bus gate in the median of North Street. This facility is designed to prohibit general traffic from making a right turn onto King St., forcing motorists and truck drivers to seek alternate routes. At the same time, access for busses and emergency vehicles is preserved, through the provision of curved 'breaks' in the median with drivable grass pavers. General traffic will be restricted from using the facility, and the geometry of the roadway has been specifically deigned to reinforce this prohibition.

The St. Andrew's Cathedral Bus Stop (Stop J3) has been relocated from King St. to a new location at North Street; busses here are given a special transit priority signal which allows them to make a right turn through the bus gate onto King Street.

Due to King Street's narrow cross section, I have decided to design parallel, 1-way cycletracks that are level with the pavement, and segregated from pedestrian traffic by means of a 270mm tactile paving strip. It was desired to make these cycletracks as wide as absolutely possible, in order to accommodate the greatest number of cyclists as safely as possible. Although the width of the cycletracks in my plan does vary, the absolute minimum width which I've designed for these is 1.6m, for an effective cycletrack width (including tactile pavement) of 2.1m.

Key Features:

- Conflict-free crossing for cyclists and pedestrians of North Street, by provision of a 40-second scramble phase for vulnerable road users across the entirety of the junction.
- Raised crosswalks at key locations along King Street (indicated with 'Piano' paver markings).
- New 2-way cycletrack linking King St. with Justice Street.
- New bioswales and landscaping throughout the area.
- New (relocated) bus stop at North & King St, to replace the St. Andrew's Cathedral bus stop on King Street.

- Exisiting landscaped area and tree in front of the Aberdeen Arts Center to be retained.
- Improvements to roadway and pavements along n Mealmarket and Princes Streets. Consolidated garbage bin storage has been provided with a specially constructed bioswale on Frederick St.

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