



Road Haulage Association Policy Paper

Ill-considered cycling proposal could end up costing lives

8 December 2016

British Cycling has proposed that the highway code should be changed to give cyclists priority when passing along the inside of left turning vehicles.

The RHA believes this proposal is misguided and dangerous. It encourages cyclists to put themselves in dangerous positions on the road. It makes all motorbike, car, van, bus and truck drivers responsible for the potentially dangerous overtaking on the inside by cyclists.

The inside left position at a road junction is a very dangerous one for cyclists. The RHA, the Met police, TFL and others have been working at highlighting to lorry drivers and cyclists as to the risk posed by this positioning.

The RHA considers that there is little wrong with the Highway Code as it currently stands in respect of cyclists at junctions. Rule 72 for cyclists is clear "Do not ride up the inside of vehicles signalling or slowing down to turn left". The proposal will conflict with this.

While fully appreciating the concerns of the cycling lobby, the RHA is of the firm opinion that establishing a plan to improve safety for all road users can only be achieved by adopting a holistic approach that includes motorists, HGV operators, cyclists and pedestrians.

Other parts of the proposal, and the supporting report, dealing with pedestrian road layouts and traffic light control have merit and should be explored further. We agree with British Cycling that changes to the arrangements of some traffic light controlled junctions will require an extensive public information campaign if changes are made.

Road safety is crucial to all road users and it requires all road users to take responsibility for their own safety as well as others. The best way to do this is when everyone is driving, riding or walking with care, consideration and respect for other road users.

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Notes

British Cycling has asked for the Highway Code to be changed to require that “Drivers turning at a junction giving way to people cycling and walking who may be on your nearside or crossing the road you wish to turn into”.

This proposal is further clarified by British Cycling in the supporting report. On page 2 of the report (paragraph 1.1.2) it illustrates how it wants the issue to be dealt with – with cyclists overtaking cars on the nearside having priority over the turning cars in front.

Paragraph 1.1.5 asks for failure to give way to be made an offence. This proposal is intended to apply to all car, van, bus, truck and motorcycle users.

The following is a link to the British Cycling web site. The article contains a short video of what British Cycling is wanting to see.

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/campaigning/article/20161206-campaigning-news-Chris-Boardman-leads-cycling--motoring-and-pedestrian-groups-in-call-for-junction-rule-change-0>

The full supporting report can be found at:

[https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/zuvvi/media/bc_files/campaigning/Turning the Corner - Priority changes at junctions 2016.pdf](https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/zuvvi/media/bc_files/campaigning/Turning_the_Corner_-_Priority_changes_at_junctions_2016.pdf)