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BIKE PRIORITY SLIPS?

Edinburgh's proud record of cycle infrastructure development is under threat. From the major 1980/90s investment in creating off-road railway paths [Spokes 16,17, 20,39,48] the council has been at the forefront of cycle provision. The late 90s and early 00s saw a clear welcome for cyclists on the roads, with many highly-visible cycle lanes, excellent integrated bus/cycle projects, a program of advanced stop lines at all light-controlled junctions, plus new offroad paths such as beside Fastlink guided-bus [p3].

These measures have succeeded, significantly increasing bike use [Spokes 80,85], even when cycling declined else-where. Edinburgh's **Local Transport Strategy** sets bold targets to raise bike use further by 2010 - to 10% of work journeys and 6% of all journeys [www.edinburgh.gov.uk].

Existing funding [Spokes 84] means we will again see major new routes - to West Edinburgh and to the Infirmary - this financial year. And Edinburgh recently attained second highest rating in a Cycling Scotland council assessment [p8].

Unfortunately, there the good news ends, as there are many indications of future reduced priority for cycling, though we are unclear if this reflects the views of officials, councillors, or both. The odd setback is always expected, but a combination of factors is set to halt the current momentum - rendering the 2010 targets unachievable.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Below we list 6 of the major setbacks now concerning us. If you are worried by any of them - **and by the overall picture** - please contact your councillor [p8], copying to transport supremo Cllr Andrew Burns and to Spokes. We also suggest other letters in some paragraphs below.

WHAT'S GOING WRONG??

1. After 2005 **no new major cycle infrastructure projects are planned** - and such a scheme often needs a 2-3 year lead-in. In recent years all big schemes were funded by successful applications to the government Public Transport Fund, now abolished. Minister **Nicol Stephen** has confirmed [p7] that councils can now apply for major cycle projects to the new Integrated Transport Fund, but for over a year Spokes has failed to persuade Edinburgh to do so - *see p3 for details and how to help.*

WHAT WE'RE MISSING

London's congestion charge continues to bring massive benefits of less traffic and more investment for cyclists.

Bike use rose 23% last year and 62% since 2001, with lower casualties, whilst the cycle budget jumps from £12m in 2004 to £19m in 2005 [www.tfl.gov.uk/cycling].

"Only London is planning a genuinely 21st century transport strategy, based on management of demand as well as infrastructure provision." [LTT - professionals' mag, 17.2.05]

Meanwhile Edinburgh Council is reviewing new means to control congestion, and will consult on this.



This muddy spot near Balgreen Av. will soon be part of Roseburn to Edinburgh Park - one of the routes funded by the last Edinburgh PTF money [p1,7].

2. Omitting outside funds **the proportion of Edinburgh's own transport budget used for bike projects has fallen** - to well under the Scottish norm [Spokes 86,89].
3. The **negative referendum result** means a new source of bike project funding is lost - and traffic will increase.
4. All cycle facilities will be removed from **Princes Street** - Scotland's premier thoroughfare - under current tram plans - hugely troubling local cyclists, and disastrously reversing how the council is seen to regard cycle use. An exemplary Danish-style facility should be provided!
5. **Black cycle lanes** are to be universal in the World Heritage Area, Meadows to Botanics - for aesthetic reasons [though bus lanes remain green!] This decision is still to be ratified by councillors but is already being implemented. *And under guidelines being drawn up for the Council by Cycling Scotland, they will also be black outside this area except at advance stop lines and side-road exits. Even lanes such as Marchmont Road outside the parked cars would be black! [existing red surfaces would be allowed to wear out].*
continued p8

Inside Spokes 91 ...

Public Meeting: What now for Cycling in Edinburgh??
Bike Station: Centre-page special feature
Bike Breakfast: Big prize from Edinburgh Bicycle

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

1. "Your Council finance survey is excellent [Spokes 89] - you put government monitoring to shame!" [Transport academic]
2. "Congratulations on a great newsletter, informative and thought-provoking. Keep up the great work - thanks to you Edinburgh is a better place to live" [Spokes member]

Help SPOKES, other cyclists, and yourself by writing to your MSP, MP, councillor and the press every so often. See back page for contacts. Ask your MSP / MP to raise your questions with the relevant minister. Send us the results!!

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BULLETIN

H The Herald	LTT Local Transport Today
G The Guardian	SE Scottish Executive
SH Sunday Herald	DTLR Dept of Transport UK
TS TRANSform Scotland	STR Scottish Transport Review

FOR YOUR DIARY

Spokes Sunday Rides www.snowcycle.co.uk Normally 1st Sun each month. Meet 10am, Usher Hall, Lothian Rd. Fairly gentle rides, 30-40 miles. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. Showers won't stop us, but real bad weather may cause cancellation. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy, and aim for a fantastic time! **You must** ensure your bike is in good order, and ride considerately and carefully. **You are entirely responsible for your own safety.** If under 14 or unused to roads you must come with an adult.

More info: stuart@snowcycle.co.uk 445.7073.

Dates: Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4 [picnic at Dave du Feu, Linlithgow. Free tea/coffee - bring own food], Oct 2.

Weekends away Occasional weekends may be organised by individuals. Paul.McGuire@ed.ac.uk, Stuart@snowcycle.co.uk.

Easy Rides Usually 15-20 miles on paths & quiet roads, some Saturdays 10-3. Chris.Pearson@bcs.org.uk

Go-Bike! Strathclyde Cycle Campaign rides. 1st Sunday + some others. www.gobike.org 07932.460093 info@gobike.org.

Events **general** *edinburgh-bicycle.co.uk/resource/whats_on.html*

Ed University staff/student easy lunchtime rides 1pm, 4-8 miles. mark.james@ed.ac.uk www.transport.ed.ac.uk.

Jun 4-5 Meadows Festival - Bike Station / Spokes stall. To help, contact imaxwell@gn.apc.org.

Jun 6 Climate Change Scotland conference, Crieff, £69. By Perth & Kinross council/ Scottish Exec in advance of G8. 01786.826550

www.blueprintconference.com/climatechange.

Jun 7 School Travel Plans Sustrans training day for school travel coordinators 539.8122 nicolab@sustrans.org.uk.

June 8 SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING: What Now for Cycle Policy in Edinburgh. In view of our concerns [p1], and the referendum 'no,' we asked Cllr **Andrew Burns**, Executive Member for Transport, to speak. *Venue:* City Chambers *Time:* 7.30 [open 6.45 for coffee, stall, chat].

June 11-19 National Bike Week www.bikeweek.org.uk Please contact the organisers with ideas, help, stalls, etc...

G Weds15 SPOKES BIKE BREAKFAST City Chambers Stalls, chat, speeches. jackieh@waitrose.com 664.0526. All MSPs invited, also featuring MSP's bike-to-work. **Competition - top prize Edinburgh Bicycle deluxe service including up to £100 new parts/accessories.**

G Thur 16 Edinburgh Park Bike Breakfast Deborah McLaren 317.1100 Edinburgh-Park@btconnect.com

Jun 12 RideWild for FOE/SWT [Glasgow] neilposol@aol.com

Jun 25 St Andrews Ride www.lepra.org.uk 01968.682369.

Jun 27 Sustainability and Public Health PH Association, Edinburgh workshop. *Info:* jo@ukpha.org.uk 0141.587704.

Early July G8 Summit Many events are planned, including long-distance rides, highlighting climate change and other international and environmental issues. July 2 is a major Edinburgh demonstration - www.jubileescotland.org.uk.

www.g8alternatives.org.uk - local organising body, includes FOE, Centre for Human Ecology, etc. 0131.220.6259.

g8cyclect caravan.org.uk - London-Edinburgh colourful ride.

Jubilee Scotland - Birmingham-Edinburgh 0131.225.4321

www.g8bikeride.org.uk - Brighton-Glasgow

Jul 1 - possible Critical Mass rides in Edinburgh combining the arrivals from all the above long-distance rides.

Jul 18-21 Towards CarFree Cities - 5th annual conference,

Budapest. www.worldcarfree.net/conference

July Ecotopia European bike tour ending Moldova in early August for Ecotopia festival. www.thebiketour.net

Aug 28 Pedal for Scotland Glasgow-Edinburgh annual healthy, fun, charitable challenge www.pedalforScotland.org

Sep 16-22 European Mobility Week - 2005 theme reducing car-commuting. www.22september.org. Includes...

Sep 22 CarFree Day [in town without my car] we don't yet know Edinburgh's plans, but in a recent report council leader Donald Anderson said, "We will consider how to participate in European Car Free Day in future. Whatever we do we will be attacked by the Conservatives. However ... I believe what has been achieved already can be built on."

Nov 3 World Remembrance Day for Road Crash Victims Help now to plan events. www.roadpeace.org. 020.88385102.

2006 Educational Train A major rail tour of east European countries to highlight sustainable transport and climate change issues. www.worldcarfree.net/onthetrain.

PUBLICATIONS & WEBSITES

We're very short of space, but here's a few websites to try!

www.bikeforall.net	National Cycling Strategy
www.cyclingscotland.org	Cycling Scotland
www.transportenergy.org	Travel Plan News
www.biketree.com	Innovative public bike parking
www.highlandcyclecampaign.org.uk	
www.activetravel.org.uk	Sustrans healthy workplaces

OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

The legal right to responsible countryside access on foot or bicycle, under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 came into force on 25.2.05. The **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** describes the public's rights and responsibilities under the Act. We hope to send members a Scottish Natural Heritage summary leaflet with this mailing. Get the full code from 01738 458545 pubs@snh.gov.uk or www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

"Human activity is putting such a strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted" [H 30.3.5]. "The warning signs are there for all of us to see - the future now lies in our hands." These stark conclusions are from the fullest ever study of earth's life support systems, by 1300 experts from 95 countries, sponsored by the UN, World Bank, and others. The results may not be gradual but, for example, sudden major disease outbreak or fisheries collapse [www.millenniumassessment.org].

On **climate change** [Spokes 89] **Robin Cook MP** reminds us that a sudden Gulf Stream change triggered by gradual climate change could leave Britain with a climate like Hudson Bay - which is on our latitude [G 10.12.4]. He points out, "No family can opt out of climate change or buy their own little patch of retro weather. It is also a spectacular case of market failure, as the seismic changes in weather patterns will only shift the price signal when it is too late to reverse them." He argues that even more than doing our own bit (e.g. walking /cycling) we should pressurise government for collective action such as stronger environmental taxes. "Climate change is a classic example of a common problem that individuals cannot solve by acting independently."

SPOKES LEAFLET INFORMATION

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Copyright details: SPOKES may be quoted freely, if we are acknowledged and our address given. **Next Bulletin:** Due to our usual long summer gap Spokes 92 will be in October.

EDINBURGH COUNCIL

If any of the points in this section concern you please contact your local councillor and/or transport boss Councillor Andrew Burns - see page 8 for contacts.

LINKS TO SURROUNDING AREAS

Spokes is urging Edinburgh Council (or regional transport body SESTRAN) to apply to the government Integrated Transport Fund for a big project [£2-5m?] of **high-quality cycle links between Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife**. Transport Minister Nicol Stephen has confirmed that the ITF can be used for such large-scale cyclistroute projects [p7].

Since launching our campaign, members have written telling of the dreadful conditions at present...

Edinburgh to Midlothian: *"I take death into my hands reaching the quiet roads of Midlothian and the Borders"*

A8 to W Lothian & airport: *"appalling indictment of the consideration given to anyone but car-drivers by planners"*

A90 to QF/Fife [cycling banned]: *"completely inadequate cyclistroute"* *"A new and direct commuter path is essential"*

A71 [no path]: *"horribly busy narrow main road"*

Whether you live in Edinburgh or the area around, if our idea would help you, contact your councillor. Ask them to speak to their council transport department and to SESTRAN. Your letters will help us a lot.

OLD DALKEITH ROAD

Parking in cycle lanes is a continuing bugbear, but we have had more complaints about **lanes to the New Infirmary**, Cameron Toll out to Fernieside, than anywhere else. Many health workers use this fast, uphill road, with sun in their eyes at some times of the year. *We thank the many Spokes members who wrote to councillors about this. Thanks to you, the Council is preparing an Order to restrict parking!* We don't yet have details but have asked for double-yellows on the whole route. A period of statutory consultation will follow and there could be objections, delaying the process.



Old Dalkeith Road: spot the cycle lanes!

HERMITAGE OF BRAID

Thanks to the new Access legislation, the council now officially permits cycling on the main Hermitage route, a longstanding Spokes aspiration. How the act ties in with Edinburgh park bylaws is being considered, so this may yet not be the final word on the matter. We urge all readers to use the route carefully and considerately as always.

HAYMARKET / DALRY ROAD

Many members have complained about the left-turn ban from Dalry Road at Haymarket, especially given Council policy to exempt cyclists at such bans wherever possible. In fact the relevant Order *does* exempt cyclists - but the scheme planners had forgotten to design this in!!! We are promised it will be rectified to comply with the Order.

FASTLINK TO EDINBURGH PARK

One of Edinburgh's past successes was getting funds from the now-abolished Public Transport Fund [p1.7] for this recently completed guided-bus and cycle/pedestrian route.



It's great to have the route - but instead of a state of the art demonstration project the detailed design is far from perfect, with road crossings, lengthy light-timing delays, circuitousness, and even 'cyclist dismount' signs on a brand new £350K facility! TIE, the promoters, promise to look at the problems - and assure us the same won't happen with the on and off-road tram routes paths - which they are also to design*.

Please send good and bad comments on Fastlink bike route (or ideas for future

tram/road/path integration) to: Kevin Murray, TIE, 19 Haymarket Yards EH12 5BH, copied to Cllr Andrew Burns and Spokes.

*We are pleased to hear TIE is in close contact with Nottingham Council and Hugh McClintock, Nottingham University bike/tram expert [Spokes 89], over issues such as on- and off-road bike/tram integration and bike carriage. Also, Nottingham trams manager, Andy Wood now works for Edinburgh tram operators Transdev.

UNINTEGRATED BUS/BIKE

We have often complimented the council on excellent bus/ bike integration in PTF-funded bus quality corridors, such as through the Southside [Spokes 88]. Many members praise the extensive and convenient bike parking, and coloured lanes across side-roads (though all lanes should be coloured in such an urban area). After this excellent example, it is hugely disappointing that recent bus/cycle plans are of lower integrated quality, without bike lanes even at side roads, and little or no bike parking. Examples include Lindsay Rd, Drumbrae and Maybury Rd, where Spokes has had to point out the deficiencies. **Surely the Council, who have their own 'Cycle Friendly Design Guide' and supposedly assess for cycle-friendliness all traffic proposals, can get its act together so all schemes live up to the best!!**

EDINBURGH CHILDREN STAY ALIVE

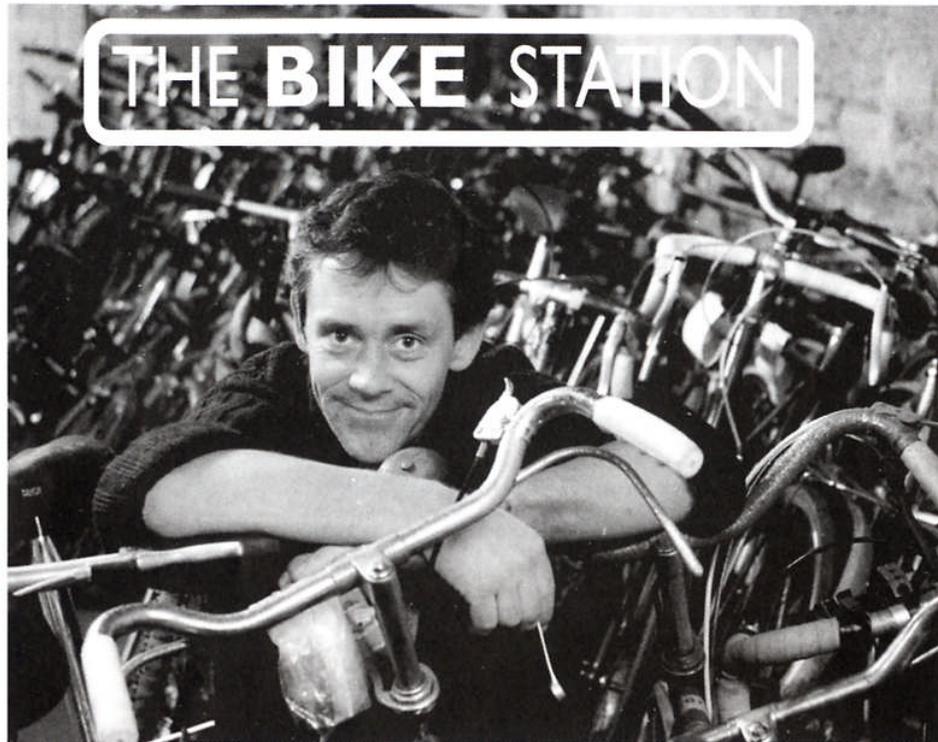
For the second year running, not a single child was killed on Edinburgh's roads in 2004: a statistic never before achieved, and a credit to the Council. Residential area 20mph zones have been very successful and many more are planned.

BRAIDBURN TERRACE

We thank all members who wrote objecting to the plan for one-way without cycle exemption, contrary to the council's own policies! The Council is now reconsidering the Order, but it should never have been proposed in that form.

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please return your 2005 renewal form if not yet done. If you can't remember if you've renewed, please don't ask - you'll get an autumn reminder if not, and you won't miss anything.



THE BIKE STATION

The Bike Station is a community project that repairs and refurbishes donated and discarded bikes from Edinburgh and the Lothians. In 2004, over 900 bikes were brought to us for refurbishing or recycling - that's over 14 tonnes of waste saved from landfill.

These donated bikes

are used to provide training to volunteers in bike maintenance as well as people on work placements or training courses. Many of the bikes, once refurbished, are sold at affordable prices to encourage people to come back to cycling. A key aim of the Bike Station is also to provide suitable bikes to people who need low-cost transport by working with social

support agencies and health workers.

To donate a bike or bike parts, come along during the opening times or call to arrange another time. The station's short stay car park offers 20 minutes' free parking.

To volunteer, contact Gareth for an application pack, or visit the website.

Opening Times

Bike & Parts Sales
Sat, 10.30am-4pm

Hire a workstand and fix your own bike
Wed, 6pm-9pm
Sun, 12pm-4pm

Bike Workshop

As well as training and bicycle re-use and repair, anybody can come and use our workshop on Wednesdays and Sundays to work on their own bikes. For a nominal fee, cyclists get to use a fully-equipped workstand, including oil and grease, tea and coffee, and can buy new and refurbished bike parts.



Doctor Bike and On Location Work

As well as events and training in the workshop, the Bike Station regularly goes out and about with its Doctor Bike, providing basic maintenance on location. If you would like Doctor Bike to come to your workplace or event, please contact us.

The Bike Station is currently working with West Lothian on the Move to run a series of events promoting cycling and health in West Lothian. For more information on events near you, please contact Grace on 0131 558 8580.

How to Find Us

The Bike Station is based at Waverley Station, Edinburgh. The entrance is at the bottom of the North Ramp and the steps from Princes Street.

The Bike Station, Waverley Station,
Edinburgh EH1 1BB

t. (0131) 558 2647

e. <info@thebikestation.org.uk>

w. <http://www.thebikestation.org.uk>

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EDINBURGH BICYCLE COOPERATIVE

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Or email: enquiries@edinburghbicycle.com Or online: edinburghbicycle.com



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"I resigned from the AA in protest at their roads policy. I did so with trepidation, wondering how good other bodies would be ... My worries were groundless!"

Environmental Transport Association

Membership includes: magazine; legal expenses for injuries when walking, cycling, bussing, etc; lobbying for sustainable transport; supporting Green Transport Week.

Extras: Bicycle insurance; RoadRescue - car or bike - average rescue time 35minutes; travel insurance.

To join, phone 0800.212.810 - quote Spokes 1452

Membership discount for Spokes members

www.eta.co.uk

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

WALK/CYCLE SPENDING TO FALL

Parliamentary Questions by Green Party Transport Speaker **Chris Ballance MSP** [S2W-13930,13933] confirm what Spokes has urged for two years [Spokes 86,89] - government funding for cycle infrastructure is to fall drastically soon, due to abolition of the Public Transport Fund.

The PTF had guidelines [thanks to former Minister **Sarah Boyack** - Spokes 77-79] to encourage councils to apply for large cycle and integrated cycle/ public transport projects - and the Fund was hugely successful in this regard. The Executive has admitted that "*ending the Public Transport Fund has in effect cut the major potential source of funds for large scale cycle projects*" [letter to Spokes 7.10.4].

Due to Spokes tenacity - a series of letters, then PQs by MSPs **Mark Ruskell** and **Stewart Maxwell**, Transport Minister **Nicol Stephen** has publicly confirmed that the **Integrated Transport Fund** can now be used for major walk/cycle projects [Spokes 89 and homepages.ed.ac.uk/ddf/spk/PQ040809.htm] - but he has made no effort through official guidance or speeches to persuade councils to use this route. **So, for the first time since PTF-funded bike schemes began, no major cycle infrastructure council project is due to start anywhere in Scotland in the next year.**

The new figures obtained by Chris Ballance MSP cover walking and cycling [ours in Spokes 86,89 cover cycling only], and suggest a fall from £15.6m in 03/04 to £12.4* in 06/07. The figures comprise the totals of PTF, CWSS and Sustrans funding from the Executive.

*Assumes funding to Sustrans continues in 2006/7, at 04/05 levels.

CAR SPECIAL

Many Spokes members are car owners or users, so here's a special feature with some ideas for you...

- ☞ All new cars will be labelled A-F for **fuel efficiency** as from September, with many 4x4's expected to be F's.
- ☞ Despite complaints from Jeremy Clarkson et al there is growing pressure for cars to give **pedestrians and cyclists** slightly more hope of life in a low speed crash [over 40mph, hope is low]. In recent tests [*Which* 3.05, from www.euroncap.com] many cars scored 0-1 out of 4 for
- ☞ A Scottish Executive survey found car commuters leave home **happier** than rail commuters, but by the time they reach work the position is reversed! - due to congestion, 'dangerous behaviour' by other road users, crash delays, etc. And 94% of rail commuters reached work within 10 minutes of their expected time - compared to just 80% of car users [Rail Passengers' Cttee report 03/04].
- ☞ We have already reported **4x4's** killing twice as many of their crash victims as do cars [Spokes 87] - and often children. Now insurance companies reveal 4x4's also have **25% more crashes** and are twice as likely to be in a fatal rollover [LTT 22.10.4, 2.12.04]. The RAC even accepted risk-compensation as a possible reason "*If you feel secure in a big 4x4 you might drive with less care.*"
- ☞ **Pressure against such vehicles can work!** In 2004 the Canadian Cancer Foundation announced "*We are NOT offering a Hummer in our Lifestyles Lottery this year*" [www.onelesshummer.org]. And in Italy SUV sales have fallen after a report '*Anatomy of a Collective Delirium*' and environmental campaign, leading to discussion in Parliament of an SUV supertax [www.worldcarfree.net].
- ☞ **Be planet-friendly!!** If you just need a car occasionally, use the **City Car Club**. If you need your own car, join the **Environmental Transport Association** for road rescue - and bike rescue! [advert for both on p6], and read '*Cutting your car use - save money, be healthy, be green*' £4.95 inc p&p from GreenBooks 01803.863260.

SUSTRANS PROJECT FUNDING

The 04/05 Sustrans 'end of year' grant was finally ok'd by the Executive in January - to be spent by May! If you support Sustrans, see Spokes 90 to help ensure next year's award is more timely. A full list of included projects is in Spokesworker 01.02.05 [www.spokes.org.uk - downloads].

ROAD SPENDING

Whilst Scottish councils in total receive just £15m a year specifically for walk/cycle, public transport projects in the £100m's are planned and the Executive has a £1000m road building programme. The **£500m M74 North Extension** was recently approved by the government, against the advice of a public inquiry which concluded it "*would be very likely to have very serious undesirable results and ... the economic and traffic benefits would be much more limited, more uncertain ...*" [LTT 31.3.5, H25.3.5]. For more info on this and the also controversial **Aberdeen Western bypass** see www.jam74.org and www.stopthebypass.com.

To stick to the pledge of 70% of transport expenditure for sustainable transport by 05/06, big road schemes may be funded by PFI - under this, the M74 extension could cost £30m pa for 30 years. [For more on this see TransForm article in Spokesworker 22.2.05 at www.spokes.org.uk - downloads].

pedestrian safety, and none scored 4 - even though big improvements can be made for just £50 per car.

The most culpable manufacturers are: Audi, Skoda, Suzuki, Fiat, Mitsubishi, Vauxhall, BMW, Jaguar, Renault, Vauxhall, Peugeot, Kia and Jeep.

Only 3 cars scored both 3 for pedestrians and 5 (the max) for occupants: VW Golf, VW Touran, SeatAltea.

Use this information if buying a new car or talking with friends. Raise it with manufacturers / dealers.

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

Spokes compliments Roads Manager **Ricky Moffat** who wrote asking us for ideas for the 2005/6 works programme. We passed the request to local members - *thanks if you wrote* - several comments are being acted on, including some pinch point removals and path resurfacing. The council also plans advanced stop lines and bike lanes in Dalkeith, and awaits a report on cycle networks in all Midlothian towns.

More negatively, 4 years after being awarded £800k from the government Public Transport Fund, the council has dropped **Sherrifhall** roundabout cycle bridge, due to rising costs. We are amazed to hear the money may go to general council funds: it should be used for bike projects such as other Sherrifhall provision and quality facilities at Eskbank when Borders Railway occupies the Sustrans path. **Please write to Midlothian Cllr Russell Imrie and your MSP** [p8].

Members have written about new **A701 central island pinch points**. The earlier A701 Milton Bridge islands, with bike lanes and warning signs to motorists, had won the council praise for positive innovation - why the change?

Spokes members also report several **A68** problems - these are a government responsibility as it deals with trunk roads.

New Spokes representative on **Midlothian Access Forum** is Mike Harrison. Send him any ideas: 0131.554.7773.

ctd from p1 **The Council will not (can not?) answer our evidence** [Spokes 89 and letters] **that widespread coloured lanes increase cycle use, and that coloured lanes reduce encroachment.** Nor does the experience of real cyclists appear to count - our survey found 140 members backing colour and only 4 against [Spokes 90].

6. Under PR it seems likely that **Liberal Democrats** may share power in the next council. But local LibDems seem unlikely to follow their national pro-bike policies. Following their strong campaign against the Transport Edinburgh project

COUNCILS ASSESSED

Cycling Scotland, set up by the Scottish Executive to promote "the transport, environment, health and sporting benefits" of cycle use [Spokes 88], has reported on Scottish Councils [LTT 14.4.5]. Full reports can be downloaded from www.cyclingscotland.org. Compared to our annual Spokes survey [Spokes 89, 86, etc] analysis of cycle infrastructure spending is sketchy, but the total assessment is much wider. Despite this the results are quite similar in terms of which councils do - and don't - take bike use seriously. Indeed, the CS data suggests most councils have an overall attitude: either fair/good on most aspects or bad/appalling on most!

It's good to see **Edinburgh** in second place [after Fife] - the main weakness being promotion/training. But the report omits to say Edinburgh's fine record of constantly improving cycle infrastructure will suffer a big setback next year [p1].

Table of selected local results... [0=lowest possible, 5=highest]

	Edin	ELMidL	WL	Fife	
Strategy	4	1	1	3	4
Stakeholder	4	1	1	3	3
Commitment	3	1	1	2	4
Infrastruc	4	2	3	3	4
Training	2	2	2	3	3
Promotion	2	2	1	3	5
Average*	3.1	1.4	1.6	2.6	3.8

*averages look wrong because not all factors are reprinted here.

Spokes also sees a message for the Scottish Executive: just a mere 2 Councils even achieved 3 out of 5. Far more must be done for cycle use to achieve its full transport, health and environment potential. The Executive's appalling 2-year hiatus and confusion over funding for council large-scale cycle projects [p7] is a particularly scandalous example.

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Cycle training: 0141.229.5359 training@scottishcycling.co.uk.

Traveline Scotland: rail, bus, ferry info [to include cycle aspects and cyclemap leaflets?] 0870.608.2608 www.traveline.org.uk.

Potholes, glass on cycleroutes, broken lights, etc anywhere in Lothian [including Edinburgh], or Falkirk District: [Use number on nearest lamp-post to report exact location]. Phone 0800.232323; Or see www.edinburgh.gov.uk - transport - Clarence.

Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]: Rapid Response 0808.100.3366

Smoky vehicles hotline: 0870.606.0440.

Taxis: The Inspector, 33 Murrayburn Rd EH14 2TF. 529.5800.

Drink-driving, speeding, driving whilst disqualified, and other road crime: Freephone Crimestoppers 0800.555.111.

Emotional/practical victim support: RoadPeace 020.8964.1021

[Spokes 90] LibDem councillors put forward a 12-section transport policy motion [24.2.05]. **Cycling is mentioned at just one point - and only in the context of cutting the car-based school run.** No new funds would be allocated to or sought for cycle projects.

If you're a LibDem supporter - please educate them!

In particular, are they committed to the council's 2010 cycle targets, and how do they propose to achieve them?

RAIL NEWS

It is great to see **First ScotRail's** public newsletter [Feb 05] proudly publicising their commitment to growing bike/rail: continued **free bike carriage**, more **ontrain bike space**, better **station parking**, and a new **rescue service** [operated by the Environmental Transport Assn - p6,7]. If you get stuck on a bike/rail journey due to accident, vandalism or irreparable breakdown call 0800.717212 [you *must* have the rail ticket]. The ScotRail website also links to **Sustrans maps** for all stations in Scotland. A new **Cycles/Trains leaflet**, with more information and contacts, will be sent to all members with this Bulletin [or see www.firstscotrail.com, 0845.6015929]. *Send comments/ideas to* scotrailcustomer.relations@firstgroup.com.

Network Rail, who manage **Waverley Bike Parking**, are to be more rigorous in removing apparently abandoned bikes from the 3 sets of short-term racks. A copy of their letter will appear in the Spokesworker accompanying this Bulletin [or send us an SAE or see www.spokes.org.uk].

LOTHIAN POLITICIANS

Write to your area MSP or Lothians List (2nd vote) MSPs at: Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. 0131.348.5000.

or email: firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

For example, Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk

LABOUR

Sarah Boyack, Ed Central

Susan Deacon, Ed East

Malcolm Chisholm, Ed North

Mary Mulligan, Linlithgow

Bristow Muldoon, Livingston

Rhona Brankin, Midlothian

John Home Robertson, E Lothian

LIBDEM

Mike Pringle, Ed South

Margaret Smith, Ed West

GREEN

Robin Harper, List

Mark Ballard, List

SNP Fiona Hyslop, List

Kenny MacAskill, List

CONSERVATIVE

David McLetchie, Pentlands

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, List

SSP Colin Fox, List

To find name/address/email of your Westminster MP...

www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm

020.7219.3000.

To find name/address/email of your local councillor...

www.edinburgh.gov.uk 0131.529.3186

Write to councillors at: City Chambers, High St, EH1 1YJ.

Email councillors as: firstname.surname@edinburgh.gov.uk

e.g. Andrew.Burns@edinburgh.gov.uk

www.eastlothian.gov.uk 01620.827827

www.midlothian.gov.uk 0131.270.7500

www.westlothian.gov.uk 01506.775000

Europe: www.europe.org.uk/info or politics.guardian.co.uk/eu

Sestran: Cllr Russell Imrie, c/o Midlothian Council [above]

"I'm interested in joining SPOKES. Please send an application form, and recent issues of SPOKES"

Post this to: SPOKES, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope [9"x4" if possible].

Please enter your name, address, postcode...