

SPOKES

Bulletin 97 Summer 2007

SPOKES, The Lothian Cycle Campaign, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG © 0131.313.2114
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BIKES NOW 1 IN 5!!

Edinburgh cycle use is now so high as to greatly assist inner-city congestion-relief. Our May 15 count found 19.1% of northbound Lothian Road 8-9am vehicles to be bicycles - almost one in every five vehicles on this major traffic artery.* Even on a dark, damp Nov 28th our winter survey had found bikes at a stunning 13.9% [Spokes 96].

Our count also found the 173 buses and commercial vehicles clogged by 509 private cars, most with only one occupant. If half the 161 cyclists drove instead, cars would rise 16%, increasing congestion by 30%+. But if half the motorists cycled, Lothian Road could be transformed.

Across 4 locations surveyed, cyclists averaged over 10% of traffic. Interestingly bikes peaked at 8.45, later than cars, hinting at a more reliable journey and less parking problems.



photo: Dave du Feu

Rush-hour traffic leaves a Tollcross advance stop line

Bike use in most of Britain has been static in recent years - except that in London it has nearly doubled since 2000 [Bike Biz 1.5.07]. Like Edinburgh, London has extensive onroad facilities, with spending up from £6m in 2000 to a huge £36m in 07/8, double the £18m for all Scotland [Spokes 96]!

Unfortunately, Edinburgh Council has not researched why it has been so successful. This lack of knowledge is serious, since we believe that recent developments pose significant risks to the council's continuing success.

First, we are concerned that onroad cycling conditions may not get enough consideration in the tram plans - see p3.

Second, the widespread coloured onroad facilities which distinguish Edinburgh from most cities are still at risk [p3]. The Council sees colour only as a safety issue; yet their own 2005 consultation shows it is also a major promotional tool encouraging people to get around by bike. Comments like "we discussed this at our company Bike User Group, and it is clear many staff are encouraged to cycle by the coloured surfaces" were common [Spokes 93]. Onroad facilities are seen every day by everybody so cycling gets regarded as a legitimate and desirable way to get round. Cycling Scotland found the Council did badly on conventional promotion - yet this excellent but unrecognised approach is now imperiled.

Please contact councillors if these issues concern you!

*Full Spokes count data on our website, in downloads - technical.

ELECTION AFTERMATH

Holyrood now has minority SNP government, with loose Green support; and councils are drastically changed [p8] - Edinburgh has a Lib/SNP zero-majority coalition. So there is great uncertainty about transport/cycling policy, and need and opportunity for lobbying at all levels!!

Here are some priorities to write about now [contacts p8]...

To your MSPs - The SNP promises to promote cycling [p5], and the Greens to quadruple cycle funding. There will soon be a Spending Review [Spokes 96 p4] - ask that this includes

- Increased total cycle funding [see also p5 re. NTS para 164].
- Four-year budgets for Sustrans projects, council CWSS funds, and Cycling Scotland training and promotion.
- New matched-funding for major council and Regional projects, including sustainable towns [NTS para 161].

Also contact MSPs on the threat to Edinburgh tram [p8].

To Edinburgh councillors - Fulfill LibDem promises [p5], plus tackle existing problems [p3] - coloured cycle facilities, no cycle officer, tram/bike onroad issues, and Sestran cuts.

To East/Midlothian cllrs - Continue recent initiatives [p3].

To West Lothian cllrs - Look at the other local councils!!

Stop press: New Transport Minister is Stewart Stevenson MSP - under John Swinney, Finance and Sustainable Growth Secretary.

Inside: Bike Breakfast / Summer Events p2 & p4

EDINBURGH: TOP CITY?

The European Institute for Urban Affairs has selected nine world cities as most successful at integrated social, economic and environmental policies [Reconquering World Cities, Urban Land Inst. 7/06]. Of the northern hemisphere winners, all but one have strong cycling and tram policies - Copenhagen, Freiburg, Strasbourg and Portland (USA). No UK city was chosen: but could Edinburgh join them? - if the tram continues, cycle policy is strengthened and the two properly and professionally integrated? The report says: "What it takes is visionary people - be it the mayor or city engineer." Edinburgh's Director of City Development retires this year - will councillors seek and find a visionary leader?

WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT SPOKES

✪ "I really appreciated your excellent, dedicated work when living in Edinburgh - keep it up!" - Visitor from France.

✪ "Your cycling policy information is invaluable - keep sending it!" - Aberdeenshire lobbyist.

✪ "Thanks so much for the fantastic mailing. I truly value the difference Spokes makes over the years. And I loved the cycling recipes leaflet - please send 10 more!" - Member letter.

✪ "Your Election Special article, How to Use your Vote, was excellent: impartial and really useful" - Member comment.

And thanks from Spokes to you if you write to MSPs, councillors, etc. We'd achieve a lot less without you!!

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

G The Guardian SH Sunday Herald
SE Scottish Executive LTT Local Transport Today

FOR YOUR DIARY

ON ALL RIDES: Please ride considerately and carefully.
You are entirely responsible for your own safety.

Spokes Sunday Rides - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!'
Usually 1st Sun of month, 30-40 miles. Meet 10am, Usher Hall. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy. Your bike *must* be in good order. If under 14 you *must* come with an adult. www.snowcycle.co.uk stuart@snowcycle.co.uk 445.7073.

Dates: June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sep 2 [*Picnic* at Dave du Feu, Linlithgow - free tea/coffee, bring own food. In honour of Stuart's 10th ride-leading anniversary this will be a *treasure-hunt ride*].

Longer rides: Stuart is also leading experimental 60-70mile rides - July 15, Aug 19, Sep 23. Details/contact as above.

Easy Rides Usually 15-20 miles on paths & quiet roads, some Saturdays 10-3. Mike Lewis 343.2520.

V. Easy Rides Usually 5-15 miles, paths, quiet roads. 10am last Sun of month www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk 558.2647

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

Edinburgh cycling events www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk

June 16-24 National Bike Week - www.bikeweek.org.uk. Local info at bikeweekinedinburgh.info. **Includes...**

June 16 Edinburgh - St.Andrews annual ride for Leptra. Registration needed. www.lepra.org.uk 01968.682369 Ros Kery

June 20 Spokes Bike Breakfast 8-10am, City Chambers High Street. Competitions, stalls, free breakfast for you, oil for your bike. **New: TIE tram promoters; Clarence Lion!**

Speakers: we will ask the **new Council transport convener** and newly elected MSPs. jackieh@waitrose.com 664.0526.

June 16-24 www.bicyclefilmfestival.info

June 24 E.Loathian bike gathering Rides to Haddington from all over the county, for bike event. To confirm and for details contact Christine, email.gardencottage@ntlworld.com and see E Lothian Cycle Forum yahoo group [details - p3].

June 22 Climate Change, Scotland conf www.holyrood.com

June 23 Rail Reopenings Conference RailFuture, Glasgow, starts 11am. www.railfuturescotland.org.uk 554.7773.

July 7 Live Earth After inspiring huge numbers through his climate change film and book, Al Gore is promoting concerts across the world, including Shanghai, US, Johannesburg, London; and 2bn people via live broadcast. liveearth.msn.com

Aug 14-21 Camp for Climate Action education, workshops, actions. Over 600 people in 2006. www.climatecamp.org.uk.

Aug 27-31 Towards Carfree Cities - 2007 conference Istanbul. www.worldcarfree.net/conference

Sep 16-22 European Mobility Week - www.itwmc.gov.uk - Theme: Streets for People. Edinburgh info at streetsforpeople.info.

Sep 16 Pedal for Scotland ride - www.cyclingscotland.org.uk

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please return your 2007 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.

SPOKES BULLETIN 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 98 should be in October.

SPOKES NEWS

☼ The long-awaited *My Favourite Bike Ride* booklet of our 2005 competition winners is out! It's just as exciting as we'd hoped, but far more professional, thanks to Tim Smith, a Spokes maps expert, putting it together. It's a truly unique guide - you discover not only the rides, but also about the person who chose them, and why they are favourites.



Friends and colleagues enjoy a prize-winning route

The booklet goes free to all Spokes members, and will be in bike shops at £1. For a **special offer**, see advert on page 6. **Note:** the booklet is to be used with Spokes maps, not by itself.

☼ For ride sustenance, get a free copy of our *My Favourite Cycling Recipe* competition winners leaflet! Send a stamped addressed envelope [C5 size, ordinary stamp] to Spokes.

☼ **For National Bike Week, Spokes is proud to sponsor the RoadPeace helpline.** RoadPeace campaigns to reduce road danger and to support its victims. www.roadpeace.org.

☼ We are working on the first ever **Spokes Glasgow map** - jointly with Go-Bike [www.gobike.org] and Glasgow City - and on new Edinburgh and East Lothian map editions. See www.edinburghcyclemap.co.uk, glasgowcyclemap, eastlothiancyclemap.

☼ If you work in health, look at www.networks.nhs.uk/spokes. There are many Spokes's but, at 30, we are likely the oldest!

CONTACTS..IDEAS..INFO

Sustainable travel prize! The NTS proposes sustainable travel projects in villages/towns/ parts of cities [p5] - cutting car use and promoting walking/cycling, via infrastructure, publicity, travel planning etc. The Scottish Exec seeks a more inspirational name than 'sustainable travel town.' Send ideas to Karen.Furey@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, copied to Spokes. **We'll give a set of Spokes maps for the best suggestion.**

... **But**, with the change of government it is not certain this scheme will even go ahead; see 'Election Aftermath' [p1] and ask your MSP(s) to lobby Ministers in the Spending Review.

World Carfree Network - Many international projects need help, incl. a 1-year European Voluntary Service opportunity for 18-25's in Prague. www.worldcarfree.net/projects.

Beware car-speak! We are often told by motor lobbyists and some politicians that UK car ownership is low compared to Europe, implying that we should grow the car population. *They are misleading you* - we are in the middle of the league. Britain has 0.46 cars per person compared to Italy .58, Germany .55, France .50, Belgium .47. However, countries that we often look to as models include Netherlands .43, Norway .43, Ireland .39 and Denmark .35 [LTT 12.4.07].

Walk/cycle distance calculator - www.gmap-odometer.com. Also satellite views and altitude profiles of your trip!

TRANSform Scotland has a first-class and rapidly growing set of briefing papers at www.transformscotland.org.uk, including - *Less Traffic* [road traffic reduction], *Socially-just Transport*, *Case against a Second Forth Road Bridge*, *Smarter Choices* [changing travel behaviour].

LOCAL NEWS

Following the elections, most councils are now coalitions, so policies may fluctuate. Continuing pressure will be vital - and with multi-party wards you now have 3-4 councillors! Do contact them about matters that concern you. Please copy us your letter and any reply. See p8 for contacts.

Stop press: Cllr Phil Wheeler is Edinburgh transport convener

EDINBURGH

NO CYCLE OFFICER .. Matthew Simpson moved on over 6 months ago [Spokes 95], but a new officer is still not in post. Apparently this is due to the public sector 'job profiles' fiasco: the council is not allowed to offer a suitable salary for the job description, so some good candidates have said no. **This must be solved - please contact councillors.** Otherwise, projects will fall behind, money will be unspent, and cycling won't be integrated in other transport schemes.

TRAM WORRIES .. Spokes strongly supports the tram - bike and tram are integral in many of the world's best cities [p1&8]. There are problems - but the benefit of a less motorised city is huge. **However while we were very pleased with Roseburn path tram decisions, we are increasingly concerned elsewhere** - and time keeps passing without substantive news. **Bike carriage** is unsure, though common on new trams in the US/Europe. The government, who fund the tram, promise in the National Transport Strategy to prioritise "carriage of bicycles on public transport."

Onroad, Edinburgh's Local Transport Strategy says, "Safe provision for cyclists will be made on streets used by the tram" and "conditions for pedestrians and cyclists will be improved" when the tram comes. But will this happen? **Spokes has spoken forcefully to tram promoters TIE on this - but we need your support by writing to councillors.**

SESTRAN MONEY .. The canal towpath and A8 route have had major upgrades - using 06/07's £300K slice of the £4.6m scheme for high quality routes between Edinburgh and surrounding areas, a project developed after extensive Spokes lobbying over several years [Spokes 93.96].



photo: Chris Hill

However, Sustran cuts led to 07/08's £610k being slashed to just £100k, postponing work on seriously substandard routes like A8 crossings and the A90 [Spokes 96]. We thank you if you wrote to councillors about this: **Cllr Ricky Henderson** raised it with Sustran, who confirm that any underspending in other areas will be considered to reinstate the cut. **But this will be a decision for the Sustran Board - so keep writing to councillors if the A90, A8, A71 etc concern you.**

SAY NO TO GREYWAYS!! ... Uncertainty continues unabated over coloured surfacing for onroad cycle facilities. Very positively, the new **Local Transport Strategy** [see p5] refers to the Napier University research which found that "colour increased motorist compliance with bus and cycle lanes by 5 times" [www.spokes.org.uk - downloads - research].

The latest version of the **Streetscape manual** also confirms that colour will be allowed within the World Heritage Area. **However a part-ban on colour could now apply across the whole city, not just the WHA!!** Colour will 'generally only be used' on streets on a map still to be drawn up. This will also apply to **bus lanes** - to the anger of bus companies.

Spokes suggests that such a map is too rigid, complex, and a recipe for problems. Instead, we suggest these principles...

- Colour will not be used in the High Street.
- Generally, no cycle facilities (coloured or not) are needed on minor roads in 20mph residential or shopping zones.
- Generally, cycle lanes, bus/cycle lanes, or segregated routes will be provided on all main roads, even if 20mph.
- Cycle lanes will be considered on their merits on other roads.
- Cycle (and bus) facilities will normally be coloured.
- They will *always* be coloured where there is a special danger - including any cycle facility not adjacent to a left-hand kerb.

Finally, the council sees colour only as a safety measure - its value in promoting bike use is not recognised [p1]. Please contact your new councillors if colour concerns you.

MIDLOTHIAN



In our annual survey Midlothian was **top Scottish council for cycle project investment per head of population, at over £11** [Spokes 96]. Virtually all came from successful bids to outside sources, notably Sustran and Sustrans - though spending from council own resources was below average.

Recent projects include Sustrans route NCR1 in Dalkeith, the A772 commuter route [Midlothian section], Loanhead to Roslin, and a Peebles to Penicuik feasibility study. There are now also cycle links to Dalkeith schools campus from Easthouses, Woodburn, Eskbank and central Dalkeith.

Also in Midlothian a study into the notorious (for cyclists) Sheriffhall roundabout is underway by Transport Scotland.

If you use the new and improved routes, please send compliments and ideas for further action to councillors.

EAST LoTHIAN



Following our article on new Musselburgh A199 and B6454 central-island pinch points, **Cllr Norman Hampshire** set up **E.Loathian Cycle Forum**, promised to seek more funds for cycle projects, and to consider a **cycle officer** [Spokes 95,96]. A draft cycle policy is also out [see *elcf yahoo group* below].

However, the council has now changed from Labour to a SNP/Lib coalition. **Cllr Paul McLennan** [SNP, Dunbar ward] is environment convener, including transport. **Please ask councillors for the above excellent initiatives to continue.**

The **A199 islands** now have advisory cycle lanes like Midlothian's A701 Glencorse island [Spokes 95p3] - although unfortunately most of the lanes are too narrow to deter some motorists overtaking. Also, at both sets of islands motorists - even buses - occasionally pass cyclists by going outside the islands!! The council is looking again at the design and the official guidance. However, while the lanes are welcome, islands should always be a last resort if the carriageway ends up under 4m - as in government guidance. Alternatives like zebras, raised tables, or cycle lanes to narrow the road and reduce traffic speeds, should always be considered first.

Also new is an **online yahoo group** on local cycle issues. To join, get an account at www.yahoo.co.uk, go to *groups*, then join *elcf*. The above draft policy is a file there.

Christine Dora/Donald Mackenzie are acting as East Lothian Spokes contact: see p2 Diary for June 24 event.

EL Core Paths consultation ends 15 June. Christine has a copy, or see online at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/corepathsplan.

Try Cycling in Edinburgh

TryCycling in Edinburgh, the cycle promotion project that started two years ago this summer with seed funding from Spokes, has established a firmer structure for the campaign. Following a TryCycling review meeting in the Spring, it was agreed to hand over the running of the campaign to a new organisation called ChangingPace.

This limited company is run by Maggie Wynn, who has co-ordinated TryCycling in Edinburgh from the start, and Chris Hill of the *cyclinginedinburgh.info* web site. The aims and activities of TryCycling will remain unchanged and it is hoped funding from the Council will continue, as well as support from the various cycling organisations and the valuable volunteers. ChangingPace will also initiate new projects to raise the profile of cycling.

Recent work includes supporting large organisations like Price Waterhouse Coopers, the Royal Bank and Queen Margaret University to promote cycling to work. This was done in conjunction with some of Edinburgh's bicycle shops.

TryCycling in Edinburgh rides continue to go from strength to strength. Offers of help to assist on an occasional basis with these rides are always appreciated. They are *extremely* popular and many participants comment how much a supported social ride like this builds their confidence enabling them to cycle more frequently, and with confidence in traffic.

The TryCycling in Edinburgh stalls at outdoor festivals are doing well. Enthusiastic volunteer helpers are very welcome, especially at the stall at Fringe Sunday on 15th August and the Edinburgh Festivals' Cavalcade on 5th August. See web site for details.

www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk



Getting Into Cycling Day

BIKE WEEK PROGRAMME

The theme for Bike Week (16-24 June) is "Cycling the Every Day Sport". TryCycling in Edinburgh has been liaising with various cycling clubs to organise come and try sessions for the week. Why not pop along to the Edinburgh Falcons Cycle Speedway Club on Thursday 21 June?

Details at www.bikeweekedinburgh.info/.

BICYCLE FILM FESTIVAL

This hugely successful event returns to the Filmhouse, Lothian Road from June 15th to 24th sponsored by Cycling Scotland and organised by Maggie Wynn. This year's programme includes a pre-general release screening of the Graeme Obree biopic, *The Flying Scotsman*, sponsored by Edinburgh Bicycle Co-op to mark their 30th birthday.

Opening film is *Robert Millar - The High Life* a fascinating TV documentary about one of the country's most enigmatic and mysterious sportsmen. Tickets from Filmhouse box office. Details at www.bicyclefilmfestival.info/.

EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK

This year's theme is Streets for People and the week runs from 16 to 22 September. It's a chance to promote sustainable travel modes for a whole week and highlight the need to cut private car use. *In Town, Without My Car!* (also known as Car Free Day) on 22nd September marks the end of the week. ChangingPace is working on a number of ideas/projects- see www.streetsforpeople.info/.

QUOTABLES

Below are extracts from some important recent documents. **Keep this, and use when contacting councillors /MSPs** - remind them of their promises and the policies now in place. **Some quotes are abbreviated:** '...' denotes a significant omission. **Bold** emphasis is ours. **References** are to document section nos.

HOLYROOD MANIFESTOS

The SNP is in minority government at Holyrood and has a loose agreement with the Green MSPs [see www.spokes.org.uk - downloads - Spokesworker 29.5.07 for the agreement].

The SNP manifesto promised, "It is our aim that year on year the journeys Scots make are greener, safer and easier" and "We will promote simple everyday activities like walking and cycling. This will help reduce carbon emissions as well as improving physical fitness."

The Greens said, "We want cycle funding to quadruple by 2014 to at least 4%" [from 1% of transport budget - spokes 96].

Moves toward the Green funding promise are fully compatible with the SNP promises: please argue for this!

EDINBURGH COUNCIL MANIFESTOS

LibDems are the largest party in Edinburgh, and in coalition with the SNP - with a combined majority of zero!

The LibDem manifesto mentioned cycling widely - here is a precis [see www.edinburghlibdems.org.uk for exact words].

- Make Edinburgh a model cycle-friendly walk-friendly city.
- Well-lit high-quality cycleways; ASLs at all traffic lights.
- "Segregated routes, as opposed to discretionary cycle lanes on main roads where parking is allowed in the lane."
- Coloured surfaces for junctions and "selected routes."
- Work with other councils on long routes and to share skills.
- Work closely with Spokes.
- More onstreet bike parking.
- All children to be offered onroad cycle training.

- Pilot a Cycle Resource Centre [as in LD national manifesto].
- Work with police to "try to ensure cyclists use cycling helmets" and don't behave illegally or inconsiderately.
- Employers - more cycling to work and green travel plans.

Spokes comment: We are glad they intend to 'work closely with Spokes' as a few proposals are contentious - e.g. 'try to ensure helmet use, with police involvement [see www.cyclehelmets.org]. Also the main-road statement - we say cycle lanes (ideally with double yellows) are the only realistic option on many main roads.

The SNP manifesto only mentions cycling once, seeking a full review of all Edinburgh transport "including cycling."

EDIN LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Edinburgh's vision and plan for transport 2007-2102. [Published March 2007; downloadable at www.edinburgh.gov.uk, available in libraries and at Council HQ, 0131.469.3718].

There isn't room to report the extensive, integrated LTS coverage of cycling. Do check out the main cycling section, 4.3. We commented at length on the draft [www.spokes.org.uk - downloads] and are delighted many points were incorporated, including such varied aspects as developing an indicator for climate change transport impacts, the role of guardrail in cycle parking, and the dangers of Sheriffhall roundabout. However, we lost on superstore parking charges and on monitoring onstreet bike parking trends and cycle lane km.

The LTS also sets these year 2010 cycle targets ...

Journeys to work:	6% of all traffic	[4% in 2004]
Journeys to school:	4%	[1% in 2004]
All journeys:	4%	[2% in 2004]
Shopping journeys:	5%	[no previous data]
Accidents per cycle-km: reduce by 50% from 1994/8 average.		

A HISTORIC DOCUMENT

In Spokes's 30th year it is instructive to compare the quotes here with this, from the first ever Spokes Bulletin [April 1978] "The Council TPP transport policy document didn't have one word about cycling. A letter to Spokes from the Highways Dept [sic] said, 'Pressure of work formulating major transport policy has precluded any action so far.' At that time Edinburgh had not a single onroad cycle facility and cycling was banned entirely in the Meadows!"



Cartoons by Jerry Neville from Spokes no. 1

NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The NTS is the vision and plan for transport up to 2025. [Pub Dec 06. Download at www.scotland.gov.uk or tel 622.8283]

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT VISION AND POLICY

5 "Our vision is an accessible Scotland with safe, integrated and reliable transport that supports economic growth... that meets everyone's needs, respects our environment and contributes to health... A culture where fewer short journeys are made by car, where we favour public transport, walking and cycling because they are safe and sustainable..."

124 "Delivering carbon savings is ... the most important ... environmental and health issue for the NTS ... to get right."

55 "We recognise that present trends in transport are not sustainable in the long term... Raising public acceptability of the instruments we know to be most effective in reducing emissions is a challenge... we do not underestimate this."

164 "Within the government we have created a Sustainable Transport Team, bringing together ... cycling and walking policy with our wider sustainable transport agenda"

p35 "Where urban areas are congested the only way to provide more space for sustainable transport modes is to take space away from private cars... Evidence... shows that this reallocation does not result in further traffic chaos."

POLICIES AND STATEMENTS ON CYCLING

164 "We aim to further increase funding for cycling and walking overall and will place more emphasis on them as sustainable forms of transport especially for short journeys."

134 "To measure progress ... we will report on ... average distance walked and cycled per person per year."

164 We will focus on "safety, quality and location of routes; secure practical facilities at departure & destination points incl. tenements, transport hubs, public buildings, shopping centres; and carriage of bicycles on public transport."

152 "New housing, supermarkets and businesses should be designed to encourage walking / cycling over local networks to local facilities rather than making car the mode of choice" [reference is made here to Scottish Planning Policy SPP17].

112 We will "encourage regional transport partnerships and local authorities to provide safe cycle facilities as part of the urban realm, at transport interchanges, as part of new developments, and at key public buildings."

161 We will investigate "... funding, with LAs, RTPs and other stakeholders, sustainable transport demonstration towns and villages to reduce car use and promote cycling, walking, home zones, tele-working and pedestrianisation, to test different approaches and share best practice."

213 "Transport interchanges must be of the highest quality ... catering for all modes including walking and cycling."

Ever thought, 'I wish I could do that'?



Then you're a candidate for one of our day classes. A one-day course in bike maintenance will help with those minor repairs you wish you could do yourself. Or our Trail Skills course is guaranteed to improve your skills and hence your on-bike confidence off road. *Our aim is to help you get the most from your bike.*



Classes throughout the year. To book and for more information,

0845 257 0808
WWW.EDINBURGHBIKE.CO.UK

EDINBURGH BICYCLE COOPERATIVE

8 Alvanley Terrace, Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 1DU
Open 7 days a week

Join the Cuban Cycling Revolution! **Cuba Cycle Challenge**



29th Feb – 9th March 2008

Support Momentum's work with disabled and excluded people in Scotland. Cycle 450km in five days and experience amazing Cuba at the same time.

Find out more on the Fundraising Events pages at www.momentumsotland.org Scottish Charity No. SC004328

For a day away, or a longer break, take your cycle on First ScotRail. We provide cycle facilities at most stations, and free reservations with guaranteed space on all of our services when pre-booked. Contact us in advance on **08457 55 00 33.**



The Bike Station
250 Causewayside
EH9 1UU
0131.668.1996

The Bike Station is a community project which receives 1000's of bikes for recycling from members of the public. We work with individuals, community groups, schools and employers to provide recycled bikes, maintenance training, check-ups, onroad training, workshop space... We welcome volunteers, redundant bikes, new contacts... www.thebikestation.org.uk

The preposterously wondrous **SPOKES Cycle Maps of Edinburgh, Midlothian East and West Lothian**

£5 each post-free, £9 for any 2, £12 for 3, or £15 for 4. Also £4.95 in bike/book shops. Special offer: ask for a free My Favourite Ride booklet with any order by post. Coming soon: Glasgow - see www.glasgowcyclemap.co.uk
Spokes maps may not be copied without permission. If you see this done please email tim@vizualz.co.uk

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The Environmental Transport Association

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Our competitive services include Road Rescue (car and bike), Cycle Insurance and Carbon Offset packages. For a quote call free on 0800.212.810 quoting Spokes 1452-1001.

www.eta.co.uk

COMPANY NEWS

The first commercial body to win Cycling Scotland's *Cycle-Friendly Employer Award* is the Edinburgh office of **PriceWaterhouseCoopers** worldwide financial services company. Spokes member **David Wardrop-White**, a PWC director, said the award provided concrete evidence to clients of their commitment to the environment and to the health of their staff. Measures adopted include a mileage allowance, parking, storage, a workbench, discounts at a local shop, and training and promotion activity with *TryCyclinginEdinburgh*, The Bike Station and Sustrans. *More info:* David.Wardrop-White@uk.pwc.com.

Supermarket **LIDL** adopted a Spokes suggestion for their Dalry Road store, and now has perhaps the best shopper parking in Scotland - Sheffield racks, beautifully signed, near the store entrance and under cover. Lidl Scottish property manager **John Davidson** asked to meet us onsite, where we proposed combining the official cycle symbol with the Lidl logo. We are delighted with the result (though a slightly wider gap for locks would be preferable). Lidl will now consider similar for all new stores in Scotland, but would not go as far as adopting a wider national policy on cycle access/parking for all stores, which we also suggested. We are happy to suggest the draft policy to other chains! *More info:* livingston.property@lidl.co.uk [John Davidson].



The **National Consumer Council** received considerable press coverage for its report/survey on supermarket greening, "food-miles," etc [www.ncc.org.uk]. Unfortunately the NCC and all reviewers - even FOE! - failed to notice that one of the most polluting aspects was wholly forgotten - transport from supermarket to home. Spokes member Dave du Feu wrote to NCC asking this be included in the next survey - green

points to include store location, quality cycle/walk access, well designed and located bike parking, car-park charges, home-delivery, and not selling petrol at a discount.

The massive **Royal Bank** world HQ at Gogarburn [which even includes its own shopping street!] provides excellent employee bike support [Spokes 93], and recently arranged a *TryCyclinginEdinburgh* stall to publicise cycling further. Unfortunately our original complaint remains - that this huge out-of-town development did nothing to ensure proper bike access to the site - despite the dreadful A8 path and its risky crossings at Gogar roundabout. Nor did the Council impose such conditions - despite government rules that planning applications should "*prioritise access on foot, by bicycle..*" and "*New businesses should be designed to encourage walking or cycling over local networks*" [p5 - NTS]. Some A8 path upgrading is at last being done - but with Sestran money [p3] and no RBS contribution. However, much more is needed for truly safe and convenient routes to the site.

The **Insurance** world, where facts and trends are critical to business, is seeing fascinating news on transport issues. **Direct Line**, one of the biggest car insurers, has called for rural speed limits to be reduced from 60 to 40mph, due to the high number of fatalities [CCN News, Nov 06]. **Norwich Union** now offers 'pay as you drive' insurance: drivers who avoid dangerous times, such as rush-hour and night, can save large sums. The scheme also benefits drivers who use alternatives to the car, and shows intelligent congestion-charging to be feasible [G 14.10.06]. Meanwhile a report '*Climate Change: Adapt or Bust*' from insurance industry backbone **Lloyd's** urges reduced CO2 emissions and tells firms to expect rising 'catastrophe trends' [www.lloyds.com].

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Companies are intricately involved in our lives - what we buy, our employers, deliveries, insurances, etc. Press them for greener policies and practices, particularly on transport and cycling. The **Lidl** and **PWC** examples show what can be done even at a very local level, and sometimes with a wider spin-off. Also, look critically at 'green' reports such as the NCC one above - do they consider transport issues properly? And if you get fobbed off by local managers, go to the top! - find the name/address of company bosses via Google etc. One Spokes member, for example, successfully contacted Tesco Chairman Sir Terry Leahy when Scottish managers refused to install Sheffield racks at a local store.

SWESTRANS

"From the horse & cart to the space rocket, human ingenuity has created transport modes that enable us to travel ever further and faster. But now these very inventions, on which our civilisation depends, threaten as much harm as good.

Congestion - *there is now so much transport that it impedes the social and economic progress it was to serve. Traffic has grown 25% in the last 10 years, and is predicted to grow the same amount in the next 10 unless we do something.*

Climate Change - *this has potentially catastrophic consequences for life on our planet. Transport generates about a third of greenhouse gas emissions.*

Public Health - *Greater dependence on the car has led to a widespread lowering of fitness levels, and increased illness such as heart and circulation problems, diabetes, obesity."*

These [abbreviated] words are not from a pressure group - but from S.W. Regional Transport Authority **SWestrans** in their new **Dumfries & Galloway Green Travel Map**. This

excellent map [free from **SWestrans**, 01387.260383, great for holiday planning] has cycle, bus and rail routes, detail for Dumfries and extensive green advice/contacts. **SWestrans** is the only RTP to produce such a map. Alongside **Sestran** and **Nestrans** it also starred in our 06/07 survey [Spokes 96] - all allocated 15%+ of their capital budget to cycle projects, compared to under 5% in SPT, Hitrans and Tactran.

TOP COST-BENEFIT

Measures to improve cycle/walk conditions have cost/benefit ratios way in excess of most transport measures, according to new Dept for Transport manual, *Guidance on the Appraisal of Walking & Cycling Schemes*. The document gives monetary values to transport scheme impacts such as reduced CO2, deaths saved by better health, reduced absenteeism, and improved journey ambience. **Essential reading for Council and Regional transport planners!!**

[News: LTT 29.3.07; Full document: 3.14.1 at www.webtag.org.uk]

"The bicycle is the most civilised conveyance known to man - other forms of transport grow daily more nightmarish. Only the bicycle remains pure in heart."

Novelist **Iris Murdoch** [The Guardian, Cycling Guide, Mar 07]

CLIMATE CRISIS NEWS

- ✧ See the **2007 Reith Lectures** by **Prof Jeffrey Sachs** for a constructive, inspiring view of the problems of climate change, war and extreme poverty [www.bbc.co.uk - Radio 4].
- ✧ The Channel 4 **Global Warming Swindle** programme prompted a letter from one of the featured scientists, Prof Carl Wunsch, "*I am the one who was swindled... it is an out-and-out propaganda piece, in which there is not even a gesture toward balance.*" See the full letter and related links at www.spokes.org.uk - downloads - Spokesworker 21.03.07.
- ✧ The 3 latest summary reports of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** - the science, the impacts, and what needs done - are now all at www.ipcc.ch.
- ✧ Top world Medical Journal **The Lancet** has launched a major long-running campaign for reduced CO2 emissions because of the drastic worldwide public health implications.
- ✧ **Train as a speaker** on the basics of climate change - ruth@stopclimatechaosscotland.org 0131.311.6512.
- ✧ **Volunteer to help** the FOE Climate-Friendly Living Roadshow. gwilson@foe-scotland.org.uk 0131.554.9977.

LOTHIAN POLITICIANS

Write to your local MSP or Lothians Regional List 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
Malcolm Chisholm, Ed North
Mary Mulligan, Linlithgow
Rhona Brankin, Midlothian
George Foulkes, List
Iain Gray, East Lothian

LIBDEM

Mike Pringle, Ed South
Margaret Smith, Ed West

INDEPENDENT

Margo MacDonald, 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

www.midlothian.gov.uk 0131.270.7500

www.westlothian.gov.uk 01506.775000

www.eastlothian.gov.uk 01620.827827

Email councillors as: firstname.surname@councilname.gov.uk
e.g. Ricky.Henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk. Except that East Lothian email is initialsurname.e.g.jross@eastlothian.gov.uk.

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

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

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

WHO'S IN CHARGE? [not all below is confirmed - check!]

Council	Power	Transport Convener
Edinburgh	Lib/SNP*	Cllr Phil Wheeler, LibDem
E. Lothian	SNP/Lib	Cllr Paul McLennan, SNP
W. Lothian	SNP/Ind^	^ = transport convener not known
Midlothian	Labour*^	* = majority in council is zero

SNP TRAM THREAT

Spokes strongly supports the tram - **our members' survey found 95% support** if onroad bike conditions didn't suffer and if offroad paths were good [Spokes 90]. Roseburn path plans do now look good, though onroad isn't yet clear [p3].

But now the SNP, at Holyrood and in Edinburgh, wants to scrap the project. Their manifesto pledged Edinburgh buses would get £4m of the savings [*under half the cost of just one of the previous council's bus projects, Leith-Straiton corridor*] - but it looks like £100m's would go to Highlands road-widening.

The tram would reduce motorisation, enabling a more people-friendly and efficient city, as top cities show [p1]. Buses alone can't cope in the busiest corridors, with massive growth at the Waterfront and West Edinburgh. Support for the tram ranges from FOE to the Chamber of Commerce [who called cancellation "madness" - EN 10.5.07], from universities to hospitals, and all other political parties.

The fine Holyrood balance puts the decision on a knife-edge, and it may not be settled at once. **Green MSPs** are in a particularly influential but tricky position, having a loose agreement to support the SNP in government. If the tram is cancelled, they risk disillusioning supporters, with an iconic public transport project turned into road-building; but if it is saved they could be heroes! Edinburgh SNP councillors are also important - the government will listen to their views.

The very day after the election Spokes wrote exhorting Alex Salmond to keep the tram [www.spokes.org.uk - News]. **We urge all members to write to MSPs and councillors - of all parties, but especially SNP and Green - on this issue.**

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Adult cycle training: 668.1996 ruairidh@thebikestation.org.uk.

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

Potholes, glass on cycleroads, broken lights, etc anywhere in Lothian [including Edinburgh], or Falkirk District: [Use nearest lamp-post number to report exact location]. www.edinburgh.gov.uk - transport - Clarence or 0800.232323. Or use www.fillthathole.org.uk and www.clearthatrail.org.uk.

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.

Dangerous drivers, mobiles, drink-driving, speeding, and other road crime: Freephone Crimestoppers 0800.555.111.

Emotional/practical victim support: RoadPeace 020.8964.1021

RAIL NEWS

✧ **First ScotRail** has continued its innovative bike-friendly policies [Spokes 92,93,95,96] by providing 'Adopt a Station' premises at **Pollockshaws West** for a bike hire, repair, sales and training centre run by charity **S.W. Community Cycles**. Bike hires to nearby Pollock Park and Burrell Art Collection will be a particular market. ScotRail is happy to consider similar projects at other unstaffed stations.

More info: Lally.Cowell@firstgroup.com 0141.335.4788

SW Community Cycles: donnafoote21@yahoo.co.uk 07944373719.

✧ The **Edinburgh South Suburban Railway** reopening campaign is making a major effort, after recent positive reports. News and briefing at: www.transformscotland.org.uk. See also www.reopenhthesouthsub.org.uk. Sign the **Scottish Parliament e-petition**, by 8 September [links at these sites].

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

[or download at www.spokes.org.uk]

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

Please enter your name, address, postcode...

