

ROADS UP £134m

With total cycle investment static at £20m (falling in real terms) the draft 2009/10 Scottish budget *raises* trunk road spending by £134m! And 2010/11 sees a further £117m trunk roads hike, to £1181m, while cycling remains frozen - unlike the Arctic ice!



Spokes demonstrates at the Scottish Parliament Chris Hill

Do we laugh or cry that, months ago, **Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson** said *"With a cycling modal share of just 1% we clearly have to do much more if we are to emulate our European neighbours who enjoy 10%-30% share"* [H 14.5.08]. Yet more incredible: **Communities Minister Stewart Maxwell**, *"Copenhagen already enjoys a modal share of 35% and has set itself a target of 50% .. To reach our emissions target we must consider if such a target is attainable here"* [CAPS conference 7.10.08].

Yet these same Ministers freeze cycle funds at £20m, 1% of total transport, and increase roads by £134m! European evidence shows convincingly that good cycle infrastructure, seen on the roads and in local communities by every road user every day, is critical to European bike usage levels [evidence: Pucher & Buehler, 2008 – ref p2]. Even Edinburgh's fragmented but widespread red onroad bike facilities are raising bike use [evidence: Spokes 93 p3].

You can train any number of children or adults to cycle (an excellent idea); you can show them endless Chris Hoy films (great fun). **But, until the roads feel welcoming and safe, most will shun the bike for everyday journeys.**

Cycle investment also ticks every government box on health, inequalities, energy security and climate change encouraging local and active travel, local purchasing, local communities. In contrast, trunk road growth brings longer journeys, more traffic and dispersed communities.

Spokes has proposed a £20m budget shift from the roads increase into a new Cycle Project Fund. [ctd p8]

STOP PRESS As we go to print there are hints of possible budget change!! [SH 2.11.08] **The budget process continues in Nov/Dec so pressure on all MSPs remains vital.** Support has already come from Lab transport speaker **Des McNulty**, LibDem **Alison McInnes** and Green **Patrick Harvie**. All 3 had big manifesto promises on cycle use so have plenty to live up to! [Spokesworker 22.4.07 at www.spokes.org.uk - downloads]

MY FAVOURITE BIKE FACILITY

Our summer competition has unearthed a huge range of delights, showing just how great cycling is, whether you're getting to work speedily and healthily, or pootling along enjoying everything around you. **Edinburgh Council** and **First ScotRail** are making many lives better – even if they also cause plenty frustration at times! But your entries show how much they improve lives when they get things right. It's great to be able to praise the good – and we hope to inspire councils, employers and others to do more!

Our 1st prizewinner is **Martin Bell**, International Affairs Manager of the **Scotch Whisky Assn**, who told how the SWA transformed attitudes to commuting amongst its 40 or so staff, through simple and inexpensive steps, as part of routine building upgrades. *"Cycling has gone from being a couple of eccentrics to a mainstream commuting mode - more employees now cycle than drive. Naturally, both the business and the staff are reaping the benefits."*



Martin Bell (jacketed) with fellow bike commuters SWA

Our competition shows clearly what you like: pothole-free roads with coloured bike lanes on main roads and at traffic lights; bike-friendly employers; a peaceful, surfaced offroad network; space on trains; good and widespread public bike parking. **Compared to road building, it's cheap and easy to create cycle paradise!**

Spokes will be criticised for giving praise when there are big negatives; but we believe in carrots too. **We will continue to highlight Edinburgh's reduced priority to cycling, due to one-track concentration on Streetscape and tram** [Spokes 100,101]. But that doesn't mean there aren't still some great council facilities - and the everyday cyclists in our competition told just how great they are! *See more competition delights on pages 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.*

Transport & Cycle Policy in Edinburgh
Spokes Public Meeting with new Transport Director
Marshall Poulton. December 3. Details - p2.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

- ✓ *"I want to say how much I value Spokes campaigning at National level. Keep it up!"* Cycle policy officer in a large Scottish council (not Ed), frustrated at minimal funding.
- ✓ *"Parliament congratulates the Lothian Cycle Campaign on reaching the 100th edition of its Spokes Bulletin .. and wishes it every success in efforts promoting the benefits of cycling."* Motion S3M-02069 by Mary Mulligan MSP.

Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by writing to your MSPs, MP, councillors and the press every so often. See back page for contacts. Ask them to raise your question with the relevant Minister / Convener. Send us the results!

p1 ctd **FAVOURITE FACILITY**

The winners were judged not on their chosen facility itself but on their description of why it is a favourite.

1 st	Martin Bell	SWA employer bike facilities [p1]
2 nd	Margaret Hanson	1 st ScotRail bike spaces [p7]
	Oliver Brookes	The Mound going downhill
	Elaine Appleby	Westfield Nursery lockup
5 th	Anon - no prize :(Resurfaced road, red bike lanes [p4]
	Yvonne McWhirr	Offroad paths e.g. Water of Leith [p5]
	Christine Dora	1 st ScotRail N Berwick bike spaces
8 th	Alistair Armitage	Torphichen Place red bike lane
	Tim Smith	1 st ScotRail N Berwick bike spaces
10 th	William Ivory	Red-surfaced ASLs / cycle lanes
	Jenny Swan	Water of Leith path, Colinton-Bal'o

[All entries are at www.spokes.org.uk – downloads - oneoff]

Facility providers praised by our entrants...

Edinburgh Council – for smooth roads (some!), red bike lanes (some!) and peaceful tarmacked offroad paths.

First ScotRail – for bike spaces and free bike carriage.

Bike-friendly employers – Scotch Whisky Assn, Scottish

Government, Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh University, Westfield Court Nursery School.

Public bike park – Ocean terminal, Ingliston park&ride.

British Waterways/ Sustrans – the Canal towpath.

East & Midlothian Councils – Haddington railway path, A772 bike facilities, attractive wooden bike-path bridges.

Great customer service – Edinburgh Bike Co-op.

We thank the following prize sponsors...

www.kalpnarestaurant.com Indian vegetarian 667.9890

www.engineshed.org.uk/cafe.htm vegetarian café 662.0040

www.edinburghbicycle.com Alvanley Terrace 0845 257 0808

www.thebicycleworks.co.uk Argyle Place 228 8820

Sandy Gilchrist Cycles Cadzow Place 652 1780

Spokes – we donated maps and Bike Station vouchers

How you summed up the competition...

“I love the idea of a positive competition, so I'm entering!”

“As a recent convert to the joy of using a bike to commute I am full of praise for many bike facilities the city offers: the fantastic facilities at my workplace Waverley Court, the red safety zones at traffic lights; the bike-shaped racks at the Parliament; and of course the Spokes map – plotting out quiet routes, discovering the peace and quiet - it was the final shove to get me into bike commuting.”

Feb 3 **Business and Transport** Graham Bell of Ed Chamber of Commerce (also cyclist). CRAG mtg [details as Dec 2].

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!’ First Sunday each 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.

Easy Rides - ‘Twenty Milers’ Mainly paths and quiet roads, some Sats, 10-3. Mike Lewis 343.2520 ml@ml-consult.co.uk.

Very Easy - ‘TryCycling’ 5-15miles, paths, quiet roads. 10am last Sun of month. www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk 558.2647

Weekends - ‘Mellow Velo’ - Hostel/ B&B w’ends - evolved from Spokes weekends group - www.mellowvelo.org.uk.

More Edinburgh rides/events www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk.

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

Nov 16–30 **Spokes Bulletin 100-issue Exhibition** moves to Penicuik Library. Contact us with more location ideas.

Nov 27 **First ScotRail customer forum** – see p7.

Nov 27 **Transport & Climate Change** – FOE, Quaker Mtg House, 7 Victoria Terrace. 7.30. www.foe-edinburgh.org.uk.

Dec 2 **Edinburgh Public Transport** Dave Anderson, City Development Director. Capital Rail Action Group, Quaker Mtg House, 7 Victoria Ter. 7.30pm (7 for coffee). 558 8042. [Note – Dave Anderson is Marshall Poulton's boss – see Dec 3].

Dec 3 **Spokes Public Meeting – Cycling and Transport in Edinburgh** - Marshall Poulton, new Council Head of Transport. Augustine United Church, Geo. IV Br. 7.30, open 6.45 for coffee, stall, chat. Info: jackieh@waitrose.com 664 0526.

Dec 6 **Climate March** Glasgow then Caledonian Uni events. Email - contact.sccc@gmail.com. Part of international events day for UN Poznan Climate talks globalclimatecampaign.org.

Jan 13 **Role of Parliamentary Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change Cttee** Patrick Harvie, chair & Green MSP. 5.30 for 6.00, CILT mtg, Royal Scots Club 29 Abercromby Pl – advance booking essential - 01536 740104, quoting SR065.

Mar 1–Mar 21 **Dreams on Wheels** Botanicals free exhibition - the Danish Cultural Institute presents innovative ideas and products to inspire urban cycling in Scotland. www.rbge.org.uk.

ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE

Making Cycling Irresistible: Lessons from Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, Pucher & Buehler, 2008. Shows the critical importance of safe & welcoming road conditions for raising bike use substantially and in the long term. “The key to high levels of cycling appears to be separate cycling facilities along heavily trafficked roads and at intersections, along with traffic calming in residential neighbourhoods.” www.policy.rutgers.edu/faculty/pucher/irresistible.pdf.

www.vtpi.org/tdm highly comprehensive sustainable transport resource/encyclopedia; lots of material relevant to cycling.

www.ecoplan.org/wtpp towards a sustainable transport future.

knoogle.newmobility.org sustainable transport search engine.

www.velo.info/library/cycling_safety.pdf demolishing myths about cycling danger. European Centre for Cycling Expertise - www.velo.info - plus lots more useful material.

Three Lessons for a Better Cycling Future More smashing of myths - by our member Malcolm Wardlaw in the British Medical Journal. www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7276/1582.

NEW GREEN TRAVEL INFO

www.infoscotland.com/gogreener – new government site.

chooseanotherway.com – updated government green-travel advice, including setting up workplace/school travel plans.

www.travelinescotland.com - bus/rail/ferries taking bikes [p7]

www.stopclimatechaos.org – relaunched site.

www.cyclenation.org.uk – new UK Campaign Network site.

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please return your 2008 renewal form if not already done. Renewals for 2009 will be sent in February/March.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BULLETIN

G The Guardian (S)H (Sunday) Herald
SG Scottish Government LTT Local Transport Today

SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

Editor Dave du Feu Printer Barr Printers Print run 11,000
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The Bike Station

www.thebikestation.org.uk



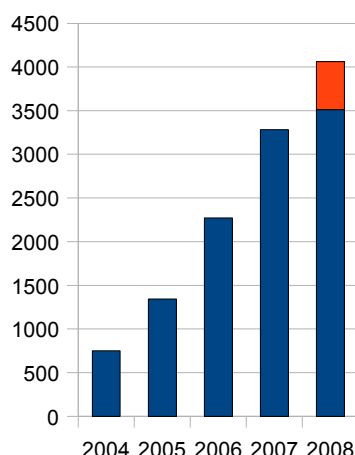
Changes ahead at the Bike Station. Thanks to a grant from the INCREASE Fund, a Scottish Government fund to increase waste recycling and re-use in Scotland, this January will see major changes at the Bike Station. The graphs below show how much waste the Bike Station is already diverting from the waste stream, in the form of old bikes, and how many bikes (and therefore cyclists) we are putting on the streets, but our capacity to deal with these increases means we need to expand once again. The INCREASE grant is contributing towards the rent of a new storage unit, meaning we can receive and store more bikes and, with extra workshop space, repair and recondition more.

More storage capacity. With dedicated storage capacity, our aim is to receive 100t of bicycle in 2012, up from 50t in 2007.

More workshop space. With bikes stored elsewhere, we will have double the workshop space, meaning that we can repair and recondition more bicycles.

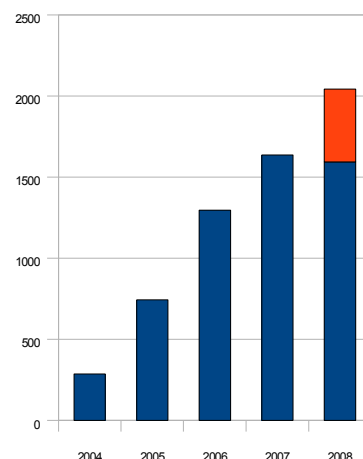
More Fix Your Own Bike and other activities. We will be able to expand our FYOB sessions, which have seen a 30% increase in demand as more and more cyclists come to use our facilities.

Bike donations 2004 - 2008



The Bike Station is on course to have over 4,000 bikes donated during 2008, with over 2,000 to have been reconditioned and back on the road during the year. We like graphs at the Bike Station, and these show our progress over the past 5 years. Despite a recent drop in donations (which we have put down to fewer people moving house and so clearing out their garages and sheds) we are still on course to have a record year. Your continued support, and people's willingness to give us their old bikes, is gladly appreciated, making sure that nothing goes to waste.

Bikes back on the road 2004 - 2008



How the Bike Station helps cycling in Edinburgh. 85% of people who buy a bike from the Bike Station would probably not otherwise have bought a bike, meaning that this year we will have helped **1,700 people get cycling in Edinburgh** who otherwise wouldn't be. **1,500 people** will have used our **Fix Your Own Bike** workshop sessions by the end of year, keeping their bikes roadworthy and on the road. The many people who use us for old parts and accessories, as well as attending maintenance classes, means more people are able to keep their bikes going. We work with many other organisations, helping them run cycling initiatives creating a **culture of cycling**, and **introducing cycling** to those who may never have the opportunity to and this together with our cycle training (to groups and individuals) encourages people to start and keep cycling.

Other initiatives

Christmas kids' bike sales: it's nearly here and all through December we will be open for kids' bike sales every Friday from 10.30 – 4.30, with plenty of choice for good Christmas presents. **East Lothian:** starting in November, we are starting collections of bikes taken to the Wallyford recycling centre. **Perthshire:** collections from recycling sites in Perth and Kinross are scheduled to start in January. **Build Your Own Bike courses:** we are soon booking in for next year's BYOB courses. If you belong to an organisation that works with young people, and would like to know more, please get in touch. **Facebook:** we now have a Facebook group! Feel free to join..... **Scottish Transport Awards:** we have been nominated in the Sustainability category, results to be announced in mid November.

250 Causewayside, Edinburgh, EH9 1UU. 0131 668 1996. info@thebikestation.org.uk

LOCAL NEWS

STEPS FORWARD!!

These recent advances owe much to concerned cyclists who write to councillors. Spokes relies on you to help!!

Our proposal for a Bruntsfield/Meadows - West End European-style demonstration project [Spokes 101] has moved a step forward. Most parties expressed sympathy – but we would have received a polite 'not at the moment' unless some party took an initiative. As with the Mound car-park ban [Spokes 100] Green councillor **Steve Burgess** did just that, proposing a successful motion for a report on the idea. Bigger battles lie ahead once the report appears!!

Our 4+ year campaign for a quality A90 path to the Forth Bridge has had a major success, with government agreeing to share the costs. The Council is now to prepare detailed proposals. We argue strongly that this 'trunk' cycle route needs rapid solutions, not phased, and that government must pay most of the cost – especially given Minister **John Swinney's** still unfulfilled promise, when abolishing bridge tolls, to invest in cycle links [Spokes 100 & earlier].

In 2006 the Council installed double-yellows in most of the **Old Dalkeith Road** cycle lanes to the new Infirmary – but some very intimidating stretches remain, especially near pinch points [Spokes 96,94]. In July this year NRIE staff backed by Spokes made a deputation to the Transport Committee. Labour councillor **Ewan Aitken** proposed more double-yellows and upgrading the poor offroad path from Craigmillar. The Council has now agreed an Order for more double-yellows (this could take up to 18 months if there are objections). We haven't yet seen the details.

SMALL IMPROVEMENTS

Edinburgh Council Cycle Officer Chris Brace has a list of **small improvements** to be programmed in as resources and time allow. *Examples include: kerbs needing flush; missing **Advance Stop Lines** at traffic lights; locations for onstreet **bike parking**. Send your needs to him at City Chambers, High St, or accessible.transport@edinburgh.gov.uk.*

COUNCIL SETS EXAMPLE

We have great concerns over some aspects of Planning in the council (especially Streetscape; and poor treatment of cycling in a few masterplans) – but we are delighted to praise officials for recent perspicacity and determination in protecting threatened pedestrian/cycle links. **We hope Edinburgh Council's actions will inspire users to report and fight other threats to paths, and will encourage other councils faced with similar threats.**

Most significant was a council objection to flats which would have narrowed to 2.1m the **pedestrian/cycle link from Telford railway path/ tram route to Telford Road/ Western General Hospital**. The council maintained its stance when the developer appealed, resulting in a Scottish Government hearing, a time consuming and costly process for the council. **The government Reporter backed the council** – even adding that, “on a common sense basis” the council's policy to safeguard the path network “*must apply to informal branches of the network as well as to signposted, surfaced paths*” [Appeal ref P/PPA/230/987].

Planners also refused an application to close a path to the back of **Liberton High School** from nearby housing –

MY FAVOURITE: on road

Four prizewinners chose a Council road or onroad facility: a smooth surface, pothole-free, red surfaced lanes on main roads, sailing past traffic jams – and ideally downhill!! – these bring a fantastic journey which would get anyone on their bike – let's have more roads like that!!

“As I whizzed down Causewayside

I took such pleasure in the ride;

The Council'd decided to improve

the road and now it is so smooth!

No more does my wheel rim thump

and bump on pothole or on concrete lump;

Oh with such ease past cars I sail.

Such investment cannot fail

to get more people on their bike –

and live sustainably as the Government'd like.

So come on Council, where you've led,

follow with more – and keep it red!” [Anon prizewinner]



Teviot Place – A great example of how the council can get it right (though hard luck if you're eastbound!) *Dave du Feu*

LEITH: one down, one to go?

Edinburgh Council's Leith project bid to the government Smarter Choices scheme [p7] has failed. Spokes wrote a strong supporting letter, but also pointed out to the council several flaws in the bid – so we weren't surprised!

- The bid wished to promote bike use **but the council is worsening cycling conditions by removing** Leith Walk bike lanes – surely not what the fund's criteria meant by 'roadspace reallocation'! Elsewhere, little was planned to improve onroad conditions, only offroad. Yet safe and welcoming roads are vital to high bike use [evidence – p2].
- The Council's record of the last few years hasn't shown the **high-level support** (political and official) which was another consideration for successful bids.

- The Council offered as '**match funding**' £2m to improve Leith Walk pavements – while removing cycle facilities!!

So once again **one-track preoccupation with streetscape and tram** may have contributed to this lost opportunity.

We have more hope for Greener Leith's bid to the Climate Change Fund, in which boosting everyday bike use will again be a significant element. Spokes has offered moral and practical support, including our membership base, and possibly our local mapping knowledge and skills. The Council is also backing Greener Leith's bid. *For more info, or to help locally: greenerleith@hotmail.com.*

residents had complained about bad behaviour, a common reason for path closure requests. The council decided that loss of the path would reduce public safety and would contradict policy on maintaining the path network.

BUSES & BIKES

There will always be complaints about buses, with some cyclists intimidated by their very size, even if the driver is excellent. However, following a recent incident, Spokes had a really positive meeting with Lothian Buses. As well as resolving the complaint, the company agreed to work with us to build more bike awareness into driver training.

Managing Director **Ian Craig** said *"Limited road space and congestion, especially in the city centre, inevitably means that buses and cyclists are in close proximity. Awareness and respect for each other's needs is therefore crucial to safety. Lothian Buses welcomes the opportunity to work with Spokes to promote understanding of the issues faced by both bus drivers and cyclists."*

Lothian Buses will investigate all complaints and will take firm action if the driver was at fault. Video pictures and sound from most buses can be checked if time, date, location and bus number are reported promptly. **To report an incident** - see *Essential Contacts* [p8].

Oxford Cycle Campaign have produced a short film about bus drivers and cyclists changing places: we hope to show this locally, to cyclists and bus drivers.

Spokes also works with Lothian Buses to preserve coloured surfaces. Bus lanes face the same threat as bike lanes from the Council's all-black streetscape fashionistas despite clear evidence that coloured lanes reduce motorist intrusion [www.spokes.org.uk - downloads - technical].

TRAMS & BIKES

Tram news is a mixture of excellent and disturbing...

BIKE CARRIAGE BREAKTHROUGH!!

Edinburgh trams will have space to carry bikes, and trials will be held once trams are running. This fantastic news came from TIE Chief Executive **Willie Gallagher**, answering BBC transport correspondent Louise Batchelor at a recent national transport conference [Sept 16].

It follows years-long lobbying by Spokes and many individuals [thank you if you emailed councillors!] pointing to bike carriage on many modern European and US trams, and to research by Hugh McClintock of Nottingham on all aspects of cycles on public transport.

Alastair Richards of tram and bus operators TEL later said *"We are committed to off-peak trials as soon as usage reaches a steady-state with sufficient experience built up; and a quick system for safe retention of bicycles has been devised and approved for trials in public operation ... TEL are keen to explore all means to improve public transport integration with sustainable transport modes."*

Spokes will press for the trials to be carried out as early as possible; but Edinburgh can be proud to lead the way for other UK tram developers. We don't expect huge numbers for bike carriage, but it will be excellent for situations like air visitors arriving with bikes, commuters or shoppers caught by downpour or puncture, even for the less-fit climbing from Leith up to Princes Street or those scared following removal of the Leith Walk cycle lanes **Spokes note to budding engineers** - TEL and Spokes will be trying bikes on tram mockups soon. Make your name in the tram-engineering world by devising a 'quick and safe' fixing system. Contact Spokes if you wish to be involved.

ONROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

We remain very disturbed that onroad bike facilities/conditions will suffer badly in parts, notably Princes Street

and Leith Walk *despite council promises that walking/cycling conditions would not be worsened* [Spokes 98,99].

Developers TIE seem happy to cater for cyclists, but at lower priority than streetscape and car parking. In the end the council is answerable for these priorities. Edinburgh, for example, has a between-tracks island using a critical 1m+ of width. Of the reasons given, appearance seems the main one, as most tram systems have adjacent tracks. Sacrificing cyclist safety like this shows how **streetscape fashion** now dominates much traffic policy.

There is also talk of a **bike ban in Constitution Street** (there are no safe and convenient alternatives) and in parts of **St Andrews Square** - if so, there will be plenty formal objections when the Orders are published in early 2009!!

We hope for better provision from **London Rd to York Place** as space is less tight. Dutch tram/bike expert Hans van der Stok, who visited last year, is still providing ideas.

RAILS IN THE ROAD

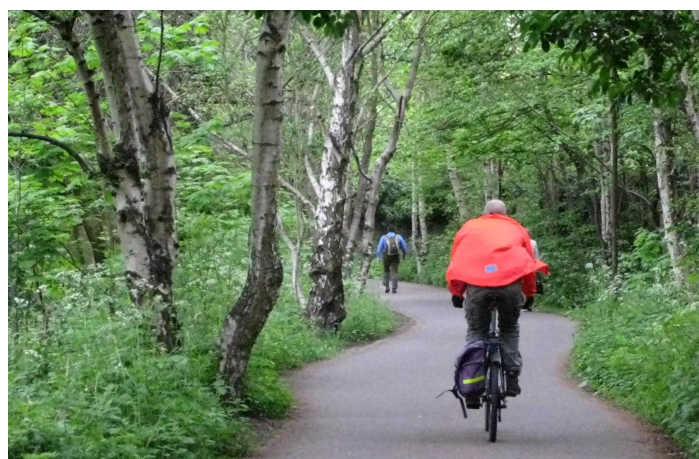
The first rails will be laid soon, and we'll be looking at how to cross as safely as possible. The Bike Station will film a **YouTube** demonstration, and there will be a **leaflet**. We are grateful for TIE support for these efforts.

MY FAVOURITE: paths

Several entrants chose Council offroad paths, with the Water of Leith path greatly valued by 2 prizewinners [p2]. What makes these paths so special to many is the pleasure of countryside in the city - often even more important than being out of the traffic! ... *"wonderful scenery with all sorts of bird, animal and wildflower life"* ... *"travelling as a joy rather than as a burden"* ... *"There must have been a few inches of snow - I put on waterproofs, gloves and hat - the cycle that day was beautiful. I really had to laugh at the poor drivers gridlocked on the road system!"*



Water of Leith path by Mike Lewis [above] Claire Ross [below]
Source - search for 'Water of Leith cycle' at www.flickr.com.



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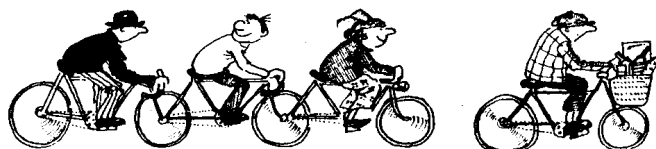
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THIS SPACE AVAILABLE NEXT ISSUE!!



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* a reservation is required on some longer distance routes and on the Caledonian Sleeper

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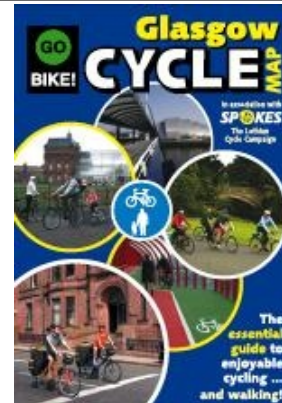
The Bike Station is a community project recycling 3000+ bikes a year from and for the public. We work with schools, employers, individuals and community groups – and also provide maintenance training, check-ups, onroad training, workshop space... We welcome volunteers, redundant bikes, new contacts... www.thebikestation.org.uk

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NATIONAL NEWS

CAPS: ACTION PLAN?

The **Cycling Action Plan for Scotland**, due May 2009, is the Scottish government's big idea for boosting bike use [www.cyclingactionplanforscotland.org]. A December draft is due, for 3 months consultation: this misses our mailing but we'll notify emailable members. [Our initial comments are at www.spokes.org.uk – downloads – submissions – Scottish].

Our **hope** is recognition that safe and welcoming road conditions and infrastructure, as in Europe, are the key to substantial and ongoing growth in bike use for everyday journeys - **and that it needs European scale funding**.

Our **fear** is a hotch-potch of cheap measures (valuable in themselves) which will train more people to cycle, provide more bikes, etc - **but** won't provide conditions in which ordinary people are happy to use bikes, and allow kids to use bikes, for everyday journeys to work, shops, school, etc. [For what's needed, see p2, Pucher & Buehler].

Our **second fear** is that it will end up a government excuse to delay investment. CAPS was planned back in 2007. It will be published in summer 2009. By then the Scottish government's 3-year 2007 Spending Review, the basis of budgets, has only 1 year left, so big changes are unlikely till the 2010 Spending Review - postponing hope of significant funding to 2011 at soonest.

This is why our proposed £20m Cycle Project fund in the 2009/10 budget is critical. If Ministers use CAPS to put off funding for 2-3 years, it is hard not to be cynical about their motives, and their recent statements [p1]. **But if they now start to fund cycle infrastructure seriously, that could provide the greatest possible lead into a truly meaningful Cycle Action Plan for Scotland. Help us make this happen – see 'Please help' on p8.**

SPOKES SUBMISSIONS

Our responses to government consultations form useful reference material - see www.spokes.org.uk – downloads - submissions. Recent Spokes submissions include...

- **Scottish Government Budget 2009/10** [see article p1&8]
- **Adapting our Ways: Managing Climate Change Risk**
- **Measures to Implement Zero Waste**
- **CAPS - Cycling Action Plan for Scotland** [see article].

We'd like more members to respond individually too. We tell you of relevant consultations in SpokesWorker - and/or get on the list at www.scottish.government.uk/consultations.

SMARTER CHOICES

The Scottish Government has allotted £15m over 3 years from its Sustainable Transport Fund to **experimental sustainable travel towns*** to “reduce car dependence, increase physical activity, reduce emissions/congestion” through measures such as “travel planning, demand management, re-allocation of road space.” Edinburgh's bid failed [p4], with winners Glasgow, Dumfries, Dundee, Falkirk, Orkney, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire.

*www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/transport/sustainable-transport

Meanwhile the English Transport Dept has allocated £11.4m over 3 years to Bristol (who will double this) to become the first UK **Cycling City**, with commuter-standard routes from suburbs to city centre, plus a host of parallel soft measures such as training and bike hire [G 20.6.08].

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- **Bikes on buses/coaches...** Increasing numbers of long-distance and tourist/leisure buses carry bikes. Click *cycling* at www.travelinescotland.com. **Important:** notify them of other services you know – the list is incomplete.
- **Climate Challenge Fund...** A Scottish government fund [set up thanks to the 2 Green MSPs] open to applications by local organisations for large or small projects reducing CO₂ emissions – some bike projects already accepted! Details: www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment.
- **Community Cycling Innovation Fund...** For small projects to raise bike use. Apply by 28 Nov. 0141 229 5350.

MY FAVOURITE: rail

Three prizewinners chose First ScotRail bike spaces.



“The bike spaces are a brilliant example of integrated transport, providing flexibility and greener transport. Thank you, ScotRail!”

We couldn't put it better ourselves!

*“I can take my bike on the train
So from driving
I will now abstain.
ScotRail made it free -
That's wise, as you see!”*

Picture & poem by Margaret Hanson

The 8-bike-space **North Berwick train** is a favourite; great for commuters, families, and leisure rides from the city – check the wind direction and use rail the other way!

Each space means several cyclists a day; a bargain compared to 5 planned multi-storey station car parks [Transport Scot 13.6.08] – each space costs £10,000, plus £1000 p.a. running costs, mostly serving one commuter.

First ScotRail Customer Forum – your chance to discuss any aspect of ScotRail services. Nov 27, 1800 for 1830, Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen St, EH2. **Space limited - book in advance:** 0141 335 4391 customerforums@firstgroup.com.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The latest, and deeply serious, warning is from the usually cautious **UK Met Office Hadley Centre** who see little hope of averting a 2degree temperature rise, and drastic worldwide consequences, without annual worldwide 3% emission reductions, starting imminently. [G 1.10.08, www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre/index.html].

The **Scottish Climate Change Bill**, a year behind its UK equivalent, is expected in November and *will include the 3% annual targets promised in the SNP manifesto*. Congratulations to all who lobbied MSPs about this! However, transport sees trunk road spending rise and cycle investment frozen [p1]. Yet the Scottish Government's own 2007/8 **Climate Change report** says it is “imperative that transport emissions are driven down.”

Keep track of the Bill and what you can do at www.foe-scotland.org.uk and www.stopclimatechaos.org. See also the **Dec 6th Climate March** – p2, diary.

[ctd from p1] The 2009/10 Government Budget

Spokes proposes that £20m of the £134m roads increase goes instead into a new Cycle Projects Fund, open to bids over £1m. Even this very modest restriction in trunk road growth would double the total cycling investment! [The Spokes Budget submission is at www.spokes.org.uk].

If this sounds abstract, imagine the projects we could see! Below are just a few examples, mainly from our local area, but there is similar potential all round Scotland.

- **British Waterways** could bid to surface and light every urban towpath: Falkirk, Linlithgow, WesterHailes to Riccarton, etc. The inner-Edinburgh surfacing [below] shows just how that boosts bike use and cycling pleasure.
- **First ScotRail** could bid for match-funds to improve cycle space between Edinburgh/Glasgow and Inverness – the cause of continual complaint by tourists and others.
- **Edinburgh** could go for a European-style project, such as Meadows/Bruntsfield to West End [Spokes 101]; or a city-wide upgrade/completion of the main road bike network.
- **Edinburgh** could bid for the A90 route, ending its current tortuous 'special deal' government negotiation, and ending our 4+ years voluntary-effort campaign! [e.g. Spokes 91]
- **Sustrans** could bid for a Safe Routes to Stations package across Scotland, also forming many town spine routes.
- **Sustrans** could bid to create one cycle-friendly small town in every Council area in South East Scotland.

PLEASE HELP!! - HERE'S HOW...

Contact your MSPs - ask them to support our campaign to transfer £20m from the £134m trunk roads increase into a new Cycle Project Fund. **You don't need to write a long submission; just explain why this matters to you.** Perhaps use Ministerial quotes / party manifesto promises [p1].

MY FAVOURITE: the canal

More entrants chose the canal than any other facility...



Picture: by Chris Hill at www.cyclingedinburgh.info

The 2006/7 towpath surfacing has been a great hit, gaining many new users: "Beautifully tarmacked" ... "I just moved to Heriot Watt Uni in Edinburgh, and find the towpath a brilliant place to cycle; the surface is ideal and litter-free; British Waterways have done an excellent job." ... "a very pleasant route to my Wester Hailes Education Centre adult day-classes, enhancing my life in retirement enormously."

BUT - QUESTION?? - WHY WAS IT SURFACED?

Answer: Spokes lobbied government hard and successfully in 2004-6 for higher cycle funds [e.g. Spokes 93]. The canal was just one of many results across Scotland. **By helping our 2009/10 budget campaign you can do the same!**

CONTACT YOUR 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 N
Mary Mulligan, Linlithgow
Rhona Brankin, Midlothian
George Foulkes, List
Iain Gray, East Lothian

LIBDEM

Mike Pringle, Ed South
Margaret Smith, Ed W

INDEPENDENT

Margo MacDonald, List

SNP

Fiona Hyslop, List
Kenny MacAskill, Ed East
Angela Constance, Livingston
Ian McKee, List
Shirley-Anne Somerville, List

CONSERVATIVE

David McLetchie, Pentlands
Gavin Brown, List

GREEN

Robin Harper, List

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. Phil.Wheeler@edinburgh.gov.uk. Except that E.Loathian email is initialsurname e.g. jross@eastlothian.gov.uk.

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

Who runs your council? [* = majority in council is zero]

Council	Power	Transport Convener
Edinburgh	Lib/SNP*	Cllr Phil Wheeler, LibDem
E. Lothian	SNP/Lib	Cllr Paul McLennan, SNP
W. Lothian	SNP/Ind	Cllr Martyn Day, SNP
Midlothian	Labour*	Cllr Russell Imrie, Lab

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

Westminster MPs, European MEPs, and more useful info:

www.writetothem.com, www.theyworkforyou.com
www.mysociety.org, politics.guardian.co.uk/askaristotle

SNIPPETS

- ♦ **130m bikes were built worldwide in 2007**, twice the number of cars. A few years ago numbers were equal - and the differential keeps rising. Earth Policy Institute.
- ♦ **"Our car may be our best friend, but it's also our worst enemy ... it's contributing to our sedentary lifestyle and all the health problems that come with it"** Which Jan 07.
- ♦ **Sign the UK bikes on trains petition** - following the reduction in spaces by CrossCountry Trains. Go to the 10 Downing St website petitions.pm.gov.uk/bikes-on-trains.

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Adult cycle training 668.1996 ruairidh@thebikestation.org.uk

Www.travelinescotland.com - bikes on rail, bus and ferry.

Potholes, glass on bikeroutes, broken lights, in Ed/Lothian

[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.clearthattrail.org.uk.

Bad glass/dumping [Ed only] Rapid Response 0808 100 3366

Taxi issues Inspector, 33 Murrayburn Rd EH14 2TF. 529.5800

Lothian Buses mail@lothianbuses.com 554 4494.

Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime: Freephone Crimestoppers 0800.555.111.

Emotional/practical victim support RoadPeace 020 89641021

Help Spokes, other cyclists and yourself, by joining us! Keep in touch with cycle route news in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scotland. Find out which politicians to write to, and when. Discover the latest bike maps.

Download a membership form at www.spokes.org.uk or send a stamped addressed envelope to...

Spokes, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG.