

Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign 0131 313 2114 spokes.org.uk spokes@spokes.org.uk [twitter SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian) Facebook St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG - this is a postal address, Spokes is a voluntary body with no staff.

SNIP, SNIP, SNIP

With its 10/11 budget passed, the SNP government could end up the only Scottish administration with total cycle investment lower in every year of office. Yet they target 10% of trips to be by bike in 2020! Even £5m would have restored cycle spending to its still-meagre pre-SNP level [p6], yet a **£233m rise** has been found for trunk roads since the first SNP budget.

"A massive road building programme is underway including major M8 & M80 upgrades, the M74, Aberdeen Peripheral – and all dwarfed by the Forth Crossing, costing up to £2.3bn."
- Herald transport correspondent Damien Henderson, 1.2.10

Despite 3 years of increasingly fierce criticism by the all-party **Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change Committee**, by government advisers the **Sustainable Development Commission** and in many letters from the public, the 2010/11 budget freezes active travel spending. Depending on how this is divided up the SNP's final year could see cycle investment bottom out - or fall yet further.

In 06/07 & 07/08, the final Lab/Lib budgets, Transport Minister **Tavish Scott MSP** gave Sustrans a £4m boost, and total cycle investment from all main sources reached an all-time high, £21.7m. Yet even £21.7m, £4 per head, is far below the £10-£20 per head of European countries.

In 08/09 the SNP slashed Sustrans from £8m to £5m. Former LibDem Transport Minister **Nicol Stephen MSP** had called Sustrans work "high standard, on budget, and in short timescales." Also, the former government's new **Regional Transport Partnerships** (e.g. SEStran in South East Scotland), most of which were investing seriously in cycling, had their capital removed and given to councils – who allocated £2m less of it to cycle projects.

In 09/10 Sustrans was cut again, down another £1m to £4m, whilst Cycling Scotland suffered a £0.6m cut.

Much of the Sustrans money was diverted to **Smarter Choices** experiments, to promote green travel in 7 areas of 10-37,000 population, at a 3-year total of £76 per head. Valuable schemes, but evidence already exists in England and Europe. And, at best 1/3 of Smarter Choices is cycle investment, the rest walk, bus, car-share, eco-drive etc.

Thus SNP Ministers who can find **£233m extra** for trunk roads decide to promote car-share, eco-drive and bus with money taken from the precious and already minuscule allocation for cycling and walking!

[See page 6 for more on government transport funding]

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Way back in time, the Conservatives ruled Scotland! Trunk road spending shot up, but Transport Minister **Lord James Douglas-Hamilton** also set a bold target to raise bike use. He put in no new money [except for paths beside

BIKES EVERYWHERE!!

[photo: Chris Hill]



Tue 23 Mar: Spokes Spring Public Meeting Edinburgh City Cycle Action Plan

Under Transport Convener **Cllr Gordon Mackenzie** and Transport Director **Marshall Poulton** Edinburgh seems to have gained a real new impetus on cycling policy. Last year's budget even had new money [Spokes 104, 105]. What will be in the **Action Plan**, now being drawn up to meet council cycling targets?? What do you think of it??

Cllr Gordon Mackenzie, City Council Transport Convener
Phil Noble Active Travel Action Plan - Project Manager
Venue: St Columba's by the Castle Church, Johnston Terr [blue door, not red door. Beside Castle Rock Hostel].

Time: 7.30; open 6.45 for coffee, stall, chat.

More info: jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com 664 0526



THE BIKE STATION

This issue contains a Bike Station special [pp 8-11 NB: In the online Bulletin this is a separate file]. Little did Spokes imagine such a

remarkable evolution when we gave the Bike Station seedcorn funding long ago!

There's also a **SUSTRANS** special on p4.



WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

"A highly effective campaign group and collator of vital information on cycle spending in Scotland.. I have used their work in my publications." **Transport Professor**

"Your emails to members are really useful: thanks for the fantastic work." **Spokes member** [NB: we send occasional updates to all emailable members and we email urgent items to those in affected areas so you can take action].

trunk roads] but issued a Cycle Action Plan to keep us all happy. **All exactly as 2009!!** [NB - bike use did not rise]. For the full story see Spokes Bulletin 62, Summer 1996!

Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by contacting 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!

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BULLETIN

G The Guardian (S)H (Sunday) Herald

SG Scottish Govt 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!' 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 - 'Twenty Milers' Mainly paths/quiet roads, some Sats, 10am-3pm. Mike Lewis 343.2520 mike@cycling-edinburgh.org.uk.

Very Easy - 'TryCycling' - on hold - trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk

Very Easy - www.greenerleith.org - search for 'bike rides'

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.

Mar 23 Spokes Spring Public Meeting - see page 1

Mar 30 Cycling & Health data.bolton.ac.uk/cyclingconference

Apr 26-30 Bike to School Week www.bikeforall.net

May 2 Sustran Mega Cycle Penicuik-Prestongrange See p5

May 12 Marchmont/Sciennes public meeting on cycling 7.30, St Catherine's Argyle Church Hall, Grange Rd. See p3

Jun 19-27 National Bike Week www.bikeweek.org.uk

Jun 23 Spokes Bike Breakfast jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com

Jun 19 Edinburgh - St Andrews Ride - 30th year of the great ride for LEPR. 1000+ people in 2009. Ros 01968 682369.

A history of the ride will appear soon in *Spokesworker*.

2010 Jun 28-Jul 1 Towards Carfree Cities world conference in York, England. www.worldcarfree.net/conference

Sep 12 Pedal for Scotland huge leisure and sponsored ride, Glasgow->Ed. 7000+ people in 2009. pedalforscotland.org.

Oct or Nov Cyclenation Conference in Edinburgh. See col 2.

TECHNICAL

Several 'orthodoxies' are challenged by recent research...

'Shared spaces' vary hugely and can have many benefits. But there is doubt whether pedestrians and motorists make more eye contact. Rather, motorists give way more if the scheme slows them and if walkers/cyclists are assertive. Shared space may not reduce casualties, and if traffic flow is still high they can even be worse, especially for cyclists.

[Shared Space, www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/sharedspace]

'Smarter Choices' can reduce car trips - **but reductions may not last**, and so must be accompanied by measures to ensure this - roadspace reallocation, parking controls, etc.

[Meeting Carbon Budgets at www.theccc.org.uk/reports]

Car traffic growth may be ending, even before the recession - reducing the case for big new road schemes. [transformscotland.org.uk - search for 'tom hart']

SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

Editor Dave du Feu **Printer** Barr Printers **Print run** 11,500
Bulletin text may be used freely if you credit us and give our website. **Created with** Openoffice.org. **Next Issue** June.

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members whose mailing includes a renewal form must return it to renew for 2010, even if there are no changes. Do it now! Members not getting a renewal form are up to date for 2010.

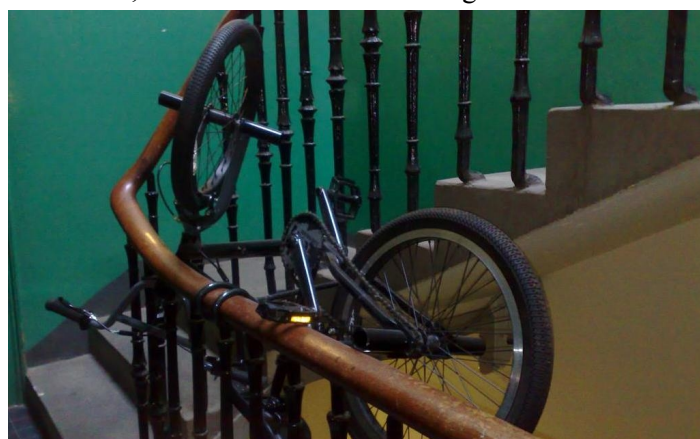
SPOKES & RELATED [more p12]

MEMBERSHIP ONLINE - We're looking into online options, including paypal donations, but the membership system is complex to change. We've 1000+ members, not all online, and with differing wants. Our database has many uses, e.g. emailing members in specific geographical or employment areas. A printed Bulletin remains essential: many members request extras for colleagues at work or for parked bikes, many are picked up in bike shops, libraries, etc, and 1000+ go to decision-makers across Scotland.

FOLLOW SPOKES - on Facebook or SpokesLothian on twitter. We tweet website updates, new Spokesworker etc.

CYCLENATION - For the first time in 10 years, Spokes this autumn hosts the UK gathering of cycle campaign groups, Cyclenation [www.cyclenation.org.uk] with maybe 100 delegates. We'll need loads of help - and beds for visitors from other groups. To offer help, or to join our team planning the event email rosie.telfordATgmail.com.

TENEMENT BIKE PARKING - There is evidence that bike parking problems in tenements and flats are reducing potential bike use. Spokes is seeking Climate Challenge funds for a project to produce and promote information on how individuals and groups can tackle the problem, including in-flat, in-stair, onroad, backgreen, and other options such as folding bikes. Bodies offering support include the Council, Bike Station, Backgreens Association, and some Community Councils. If you are interested or have ideas, email katherineATtusks.org.uk 667 5576.



Pic: [unvieuxvelo at flickr](http://unvieuxvelo.flickr) - and unvieuxvelo.blogspot.com - lovely!

COMPETITION 2010 - Our annual competition will seek ideas for an artwork relevant to any place of your choice on a cyclistroute in Edinburgh or the Lothians. Full details in our Summer Bulletin - but get thinking now!

SPOKES WEBSITE - There are lots of new info pages - find them through the tabs at the very top of the screen, or use the links from recent news stories there. Including..

- Documents on Edinburgh **bike/tram developments**
- Workplace **Bicycle User Groups** - tell us of more BUGs
- Links to relevant **council departments**
- **Spokes public meeting reports** from 2007 till now
- Four years of **Spokes traffic count results**
- **Factsheet** - how to cycle near tramlines [see also p7]
- **Factsheet** - what to do in a crash
- **Discussion paper** - **Strict Liability in road crashes** [p12]

COMMUTING WITH CHILDREN - Many families combine commuting with nursery/school runs. We may look into the problems/opportunities, possibly linking to the Bike Station *Better Way to Work* scheme. Contact us with ideas/experiences: katherineATtusks.org.uk 667 5576.

LOCAL NEWS

If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, let your local councillors know! – see page 12 for contacts.

IMMINENT WORK

Work on these 09/10 budget schemes is due in Feb/March:

- ✓ Canal towpath surfacing and Riccarton connection
- ✓ Meadow Pl closure & lane extension to Brougham St
- ✓ Hotel Missoni, Geo IV Bridge - *thank you* everyone who complained to councillors about the road layout
- ✓ Oxbgangs Road cycle lanes – already complete
- ✓ Queensferry Rd toucan near Clermiston
- ✓ Peffermill Road phase of Innocent to NRIE route

Still at admin/paperwork stages:

- ♦ Old Dalkeith Rd bus/bike improvements – legal orders advertised soon; implementation hoped in late summer.
- ♦ A90 path - design work very late [Spokes 100 & before]

LOCAL AREAS

S'IDE/ MARCHMONT/ SCIENNES/ GRANGE

With the planned cycle corridor [Spokes 105] and great interest in tenement parking [p2], **Marchmont/ Sciennes Community Council** is to hold a cycling public meeting [see p2 & marchmontandsciennes.blogspot.com]. Also **Grange/ P'field CC** is lobbying for a ped/cycle railway bridge to help students and school children; but costs are very high.

ST JAMES CENTRE

 [planning application 08/03361]

Thank you if you commented to the Council on this massive redevelopment proposal, as we suggested. The developers have been told to submit further plans for “pedestrian and cycle access, including *through the development*,” “signing of p&c routes” and bike parking, at Council standards, for “staff, guests and customers.” **These plans will be available for comment.**

There will also be separate applications for each phase of development, giving plenty scope to mess up coherent cycle routes/access, as with the canal to Rutland Sq route. Sadly, the Council ok'd 1800 car spaces - close to a tram stop, bus and cycle routes, and Scotland's top rail station!

PRINCES STREET

 [Spokes 104; Spokesworker 28 12 09]

A trial **Mound to Princes St** left-turn should appear soon, to be copied at Lothian Rd and Dalry Rd if successful. We protested strongly about the **cobbles** – which the bus stop forces you to enter – but again ‘Streetscape’ won the day. **More cobbles are planned at several other tram stops.**

Consultation on **Princes Street long-term plans** is due soon and will include options removing all motor traffic. Our website has reports on our public meeting [downloads - odds&ends] and on our cyclist survey [downloads - tram], both showing strong demand for a quality cycleroute.

PICARDY PLACE

 [background in Spokesworker 31.3.09]

Picardy Place is scary, but unavoidable on many trips. The Council's **Draft Development Principles** ignored cycling - so thanks if you commented. The final version admits, “provision of facilities for cyclists is yet to be finalised” - **shocking when tram and road layouts are finalised**. The consultation report promises to “consider” offroad cycle access to the tram stop and new developments. [Search: *Picardy Place Development Principles* at edinburgh.gov.uk]

Detailed developer plans and exhibition are due soon – we hope to publicise this via website and twitter.

BIKES EVERYWHERE!!

[photo: Chris Hill]



CHARTER OF BRUSSELS: 15% target



Edinburgh City's Transport Director **Marshall Poulton** signed the Charter in May '09 on behalf of the council. [www.velo-city2009.com/charter-brussels.html] It covers bike commuting, parking, tourism, theft and a **2020 target for 15% of all trips by bike.**

The Council is drawing up a **Cycle Action Plan** to meet the target [p1]. *Good early signs:* £130k extra in the 09/10 budget, red surfacing renewal policy review [Spokesworker 28.12.09], and inclusion of Health and other departments.

THE TARGET IS VERY TOUGH BUT POSSIBLE

Council figures show 30%-50% of Edinburgh residents' work journeys to be 2-5km in length, with many more under 10km – ideal cycling distances. Yet only 4% of work trips are made by bike, so there is huge potential. Even just a 5km circle round most major destinations (city centre, NRIE, etc) covers much of the population.

In two years, 2008-9, New York has seen a huge 66% bike use rise, a growth rate which would overshoot Edinburgh's 2020 target. The respected *streetsblog.org* says this “bolsters the evidence linking safer bikeways to increased cycling. New York's bike network expanded significantly in the 12 months” [tinyurl.com/ygpj4xj].

The 2009 Scottish Government report, *Mitigating Transport's Climate Change Impact*, sees cycling rising to 10%-20% of all trips (up 500%+) to help meet emissions targets. So if the **Climate Change Act** is to be observed, new funding for initiatives like Edinburgh's will be vital – **a big issue for May 2011 Holyrood election manifestos.**

To suggest public bike racks: cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk

Strange - no cyclists today! Pic: theolddog1 at flickr.com



The Council decided that gritting the path network would cost too much (£70k), other than main accesses. A few cyclists still used the paths – we know of several resulting injuries.

Sustrans Scotland in and around Edinburgh

Seafield to Leith cycle path

One of Sustrans' long-term objectives is to complete the Round The Forth route (National Route 76) between Musselburgh and Cramond. This year Sustrans is funding City of Edinburgh Council to design improvements to a key section between Portobello and Leith. We hope to begin construction in financial year 2010-11 on resurfacing the existing track by Seafield Sewage works and the old railway path between Seafield and Leith Links, and on improving on-road cycle infrastructure to Sandport Street, where the route will link with National Route 75 on the Water of Leith. Early discussions have taken place regarding a potential artworks plan for the Edinburgh Waterfront, in which Spokes and the Bike Station were involved.

Edinburgh University project

Sustrans has been working in partnership with Cycling Scotland and the University of Edinburgh on a project called 'Get Active Getting There!' Improved cycling facilities such as secure cycle parking, signage, posters and active travel notice boards have been installed at sites throughout the Central Area and King's Buildings. Staff from the University's Centre for Sport and Exercise have also been trained as Cycle Instructors and will be running commuter cycling training for staff and students.

Cycle Parking Fund

A number of health and further/higher education establishments across Edinburgh and the Lothians have benefited from Sustrans' recent Cycle Parking Fund. Over 50 applications were made to the fund and 38 applicants were successful, including the Royal Infirmary, St John's Hospital, Stevenson College and Queen Margaret University.

Canal towpath upgrades

Sustrans continues to provide funding to British Waterways to improve the canal towpath in Edinburgh, now part of National Route 754. More resurfacing work is planned for 2010.

Sustrans I Bike

In September 2009 Sustrans started a new two year pilot project called Sustrans I Bike which works particularly with girls and focuses on the transition years from primary school to secondary school. The cycling industry initiative Bike Hub is providing the funding for Cycling Officers to work with 12 schools and their feeder primary schools in both Edinburgh and Perth.



The activities include cycle to school events, cycle training and bike maintenance for girls. The project also aims to inspire girls to banish their concerns over 'helmet hair' and other image worries by giving cycling fashion tips and promoting the wider health and fitness benefits. As well as encouraging girls to take to two wheels, the project also includes whole school activities where boys will also benefit.

For more information see www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/bike-it/I-Bike-in-Scotland

Bike Belles petition



Our Bike Belles petition was presented to Stewart Stevenson MSP, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change on 19 January. Local Bike Belle and Sustrans Volunteer Liaison Ranger

Ruth Nicol, Volunteer Ranger Lynn Gall from Glasgow and I-Bike officers Lynn Stooks and Kelly Richardson presented the petition. It was signed by 9,500 women throughout the UK and calls on all UK administrations to provide better infrastructure for cycling.



2010 marks the 15th anniversary of the National Cycle Network.

The Network is now made up of more than 12,000 miles of traffic-free walking and cycling paths, quiet lanes and on-road cycling routes that are often a great way to get to work, school,

the shops or just for exercise and fun. The Network is available to everyone and carries more than a million walking and cycling journeys every single day.

The Network has come a long way, but Sustrans wants to do more. You can help us to develop the Network so that it can be enjoyed by even more people for years to come. Make your move by donating online at www.sustrans.org.uk or over the phone on 0845 838 0651.



Get your hands on a free pack of local cycling information including a 48 page booklet of traffic-free cycling routes in your area.

www.freeyourbike.org.uk


sustrans
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I see an adult
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H.G. Wells.



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NATIONAL

PLANNING POLICY

Being fiercely critical of the government in this Spokes Bulletin it's nice to give one plaudit and the new *Scottish Planning Policy* document deserves it. Not least as every Spokes comment on the draft was agreed! This is a vital document for responding to planning applications, area masterplans, policies, etc. Whilst the government refuses to fund cycling adequately, they clearly expect developers to do so! www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605

"Planning permission should not be granted for significant travel generating uses ... where direct links to walking and cycling networks ... cannot be made available."

"Opportunities for personal travel should be prioritised in (this) order – walking, cycling, public transport, car .."

CYCLE FUNDS 09/10

Despite minor funding improvements since our last report, the picture is still down and drastic. **We now estimate 09/10 cycle investment from all main sources at £17.4m** - equivalent to 0.7% of Scotland's £2.5bn transport budget.

Source	£m	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10est
Council cap [e]		1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	3.1	3.1f
Cycle CWSS [e]		1.6	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.7f
Public Tr Fnd[e]		3.5	3.4	0.7	PT fund now ended		
Partnerships [e]		1.1	1.1	3.7	4.9	0.7	0.6
Sustrans [b]		3.5	2.0	7.8	7.8	5.0	4.0
Cycling Scot		0.0	0.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.9
Smarter Choices		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9c	1.4c
Trunk roads		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0f
Other [e,h]		1.1	0.9	1.1	1.1a	1.5	1.7
TOTAL	£m	13.9	13.5	21.2	21.7	18.4	17.4
Total transport		1329	1488	2248	2335	2255	2488
Pence per head		272p	265p	414p	422p	357p	336p
Equiv % cycling		1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%

See Spokes 104 p4 for **funding source explanations and more notes.**

b Total Sustrans govt grant shown, as impossible to extract walking.

c Assume 1/3 of SC fund is bike spend [£0.9m of £2.8m in 08/09].

e Data mainly from councils. Some slight underestimates each year.

f Not yet surveyed - assume unchanged in 09/10.

h Mainly councils other [f]; also SG Climate Challenge & CAPS.

PREDICTIONS 2010

Spokes's Old Moore has been reading the runes...

Summer 2010 - the Scottish government with a fanfare issues the *Cycling Action Plan for Scotland*, with £9m a year funding – far less than Europe, and wholly unreal for its 2020 target of 10% of trips by bike, but a nice gesture!

Autumn 2010 – the Scottish government publishes its *Spending Review 2011-14*. Buried deep inside we find cancellation of the £9m a year CWSS scheme, one of the few other remaining cycle (& walk) investment funds.

Scurrilous sceptics say Old Moore's predictions come from past experience, not the stars - so we tried that! We found that the government trumpets its excellent Smarter Choices scheme - but forgets to say it is largely funded by cutting Sustrans work with councils across Scotland! [p1]

BIKES EVERYWHERE!!

[photo: Chris Hill]



Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill MSP being questioned about the mysterious disappearance of cycling investment ??

A NEW ADONIS

Cyclists in England are falling for a new Adonis – the Secretary of State for Transport! But most of his powers, unfortunately, don't extend to Scotland.

Lord Adonis told the Labour conference [28.9.09], *"We face a challenge: how to reconcile personal mobility with tackling climate change. It means fundamental change in the way we travel. No lazy cop-out that government should be neutral between different forms of transport, but going for green as a matter of principle. ..."*

For too long we have hesitated to promote cycling as a mainstream form of transport. Yet more than half of journeys are 5 miles or less. In Copenhagen a staggering 40% of journeys are now by bike. It is similar in towns in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Holland. ..."

Our continental neighbours don't cycle more because it's in their genes, but because it's safe and supported. It needs to be here too. That's why I am today...." [cid p7]

[full speech is at epolitix.com, search for 'adonis bicycle rail']

INTERVIEW BY CYCLINGENGLAND.CO.UK

What do you like most about using your bike?



Not being crammed like a sardine on The Victoria Line, the other way of getting to work now that I have given up my ministerial car.

What most discourages you about cycling?

Getting round busy roundabouts like Highbury Corner.

What is your job or activity that involves cycling?

Secretary of State for Transport! I also cycle for leisure.

What is your greatest achievement, in terms of encouraging more people to cycle?

I hope it is the Cycle to Work Guarantee, as a result of which far more employers will provide decent cycle facilities for their staff. [www.cycletoworkguarantee.org.uk]

TARGETS: MAGIC OR MONEY?

England: bike/rail integration target [p7] – **funds allocated**

England: Cycling demo towns – **funds allocated**

Edinburgh: Charter of Brussels target – **funds increased**

Scotland: 2020 target 10% of all trips – **investment down!**

BIKES & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

[ctd from p6] A NEW ADONIS

“... that is why, as one step forward, I am announcing £14m to create 'cycling hubs' in ten major stations, including Leeds, Sheffield, St Pancras and Waterloo. They will have thousands of supervised bike parking places, cheap cycle repairs and safe cycle routes to and from the station. The rail station in the small Dutch city of Leiden has supervised parking for 6000 bikes – four times the total in all London's rail termini combined. A third of all Dutch rail passengers use bikes to get to and from their final destination – in Britain it is 3%.”

NOT IN SCOTLAND

Responsibility for a similar scheme in Scotland would lie with **Scottish Ministers** and their national agency for rail and trunk roads, **Transport Scotland**. On an equivalent population basis, TS should now be creating cycling hubs at two major stations - but they don't seem interested.

Please ask your MSP why this isn't happening!!

Transport Scotland is also failing to integrate bike/rail elsewhere. Plans for **Gogar rail/tram station** have an A8 underpath which could be a vital link in Edinburgh's path network, but instead is shown as 'get-off-and-push.'

And while the **Bathgate-Airdrie railway** includes the replacement cyclepath, several stations won't get proper cycle links to the towns. Instead of a genuinely integrated transport project, *it's not our responsibility* - cycle links are left to the council – which isn't given funds for them.

CYCLING TO THE STATION

Another Adonis initiative is the expert report, *Better Rail Stations*. Its understanding of cycle access potential is a huge breath of fresh air - if only it included Scotland! Recommendations include “a breakthrough in the 2% of passengers accessing stations by bicycle” with a 5-year target of 5% - and the above £14m is a first step to that.

[dft.gov.uk/pgf/rail/passenger/stations/beterrailstations]

EAST LOTHIAN RAIL

Sustrans, Spokes and ScotRail are working towards **cycle information boards** at Musselburgh and possibly other East Lothian stations, following the Linlithgow board's success [Spokes 105 and spokes.org.uk/wordpress/downloads].

The **North Berwick line** gets Class 380 trains in March '11, replacing the existing award-winning 8-bike-space stock [Spokes 102 & 95]. However, while the new 4-coach trains only have 2 designated bike spaces, a bike is also allowed in each of the 8 vestibules – 10 bikes in total – though guards have discretion to say 'no' if there are too many standing passengers. This is in line with policy on Strathclyde electrics. We are urging ScotRail to provide vestibule signs showing that bikes are normally allowed in this space – **please contact them if you use this line**.

All other Scottish Class 380's - Ayrshire & Inverclyde routes - will have the same bike-carriage regulations.

BIKES EVERYWHERE!! [www.cyclesheffield.org.uk]



CycleSheffield and Sheffield SuperTram made a world record for **number of bikes in a tram** in October 2009, with 34 bikes plus a tandem and a folding tricycle! Bikes don't yet go on regular services, but SuperTram already runs countryside Sunday bike specials like this one.

EDINBURGH TRAM

Princes St tramlines have resulted in cyclist falls and a known broken foot. The photo shows how wheels can be trapped. Belatedly TIE ran a training session, but their detailed risk assessments have mainly concerned when the tram is running, not full attention *when tramlines appear*.

Spokes has published a **tramline cycling advice note**. This and some other tram/bike documents can be found at www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress – downloads –tram. But detailed cycling advice is needed – we urge TIE to produce this.



Tramline bike parking!! photo: Duncan Wallace

'ENLIGHTENED EDINBURGH' Manchester Metrolink is continuing its bike-carriage ban, despite a positive report on the issue. The CTC website comments: “Thankfully Edinburgh is far more enlightened!”

FOLDERS ON BUSES

As promised at our public meeting [Spokes 104] **Ian Craig**, director of **Lothian Buses**, has amended the Conditions of Carriage to make clear that “*folding bicycles which are folded and fully enclosed in a suitable carrying bag*” are allowed. **Ian would like to hear your experiences, good or bad: send them to us and we'll pass them on.**

Most country services are run by **First**. Their rule bans bikes “*unless they fold small enough to be accommodated in the luggage rack, or the bus has a boot or side lockers and space available.*” This should allow most folders. We're not sure which buses have a boot/locker, or how happy drivers would be to load bikes on shorter journeys!

Lothian and First conditions are now on our website.

NB – the Bike Station Special is in a separate file, not p8-11.

THANK YOU!!

Spokes is funded by kind donations from our hundreds of members, and sales of our unmissable maps. So we can speak out and tell the facts as we see them, without fear or favour, and not concerned about losing funding. To join Spokes download or phone for an application form. And if you're already a member - thank you! You can help further by contacting politicians – tell your MSPs if you disagree with their budget decisions!

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

SNP

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

LIBDEM

Mike Pringle, Ed South
Margaret Smith, Ed W

CONSERVATIVE

David McLetchie, Pentlands
Gavin Brown, List

INDEPENDENT

Margo MacDonald, List

GREEN

Robin Harper, List

To find name/email of your [3 or 4] local councillors...

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.Loithian 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 Gordon Mackenzie, LibD
E. Lothian	SNP/Lib	Cllr Paul McLennan, SNP
W. Lothian	SNP/Ind	Cllr Martyn Day, SNP
Midlothian	Labour*	Cllr Russell Imrie, Lab

Sestran: 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

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 02089641021

BIKES EVERYWHERE!! mlewis_edinburgh, flickr



Spokes Copenhagen climate ride, December 6 2009

For the background see Spokes 105 and rideplanetearth.org. Spokes members Sarah Boyack MSP (pink trouser bands) & Mark Lazarowicz MP spoke at our lunch at Out of the Blue.



CO2 AND CYCLING

"Inter-country comparisons suggest that policies to make cycling safer and more convenient, e.g. prioritisation and segregation, correlate closely with cycling levels.

Increasing the share of cycling in Britain to levels closer to our North European neighbours could yield emission savings of around 2MtC [7.3Mt CO2] per year [approx 6% of total transport emissions] if like-for-like mode switching was delivered. Savings could be greater if destination switching was also achieved."

Dr Jillian Anable, Aberdeen Uni, Scottish Transport Review Oct 09

COLD JANUARY

While parts of the Northern hemisphere shivered, other parts of the world were far hotter than usual. Globally, '09 was the 5th hottest year since records began [SH 17.1.10].

MORE SPOKES NEWS [also p2]

SPOKES IN PARLIAMENT - Spokes was asked to give oral evidence at the Inquiry into Active Travel. See our website – downloads - submissions – national – 0911.

LEGAL LIABILITY - Many countries have a presumed driver liability in a crash with a vulnerable road user. Should Scotland do this? And what of presumed cyclist liability in a crash with a pedestrian? A Spokes member has drawn up a paper on these questions. See our website – downloads – technical – papers. Comments welcome.

CORRECTION to Spokes 105 – the survey reported in column 2 on page 7 was conducted in 2007, not 1997.

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.