

*Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact [spokesATspokes.org.uk](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk).*

## BUDGET 2010-11

The Spokes proposal for a new £20m cycle projects fund has been raised with Finance Secretary John Swinney MSP at the Scottish Parliament's Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change Committee [TICC] when he gave evidence about the draft government budget. The exchange between Labour MSP Des McNulty, who has supported Spokes several times, and Mr Swinney is below. Mr Swinney replied that he was happy to consider any proposals by the Committee. **That is actually a positive reply** – Mr Swinney had earlier in the debate firmly rejected another budget request - reinstatement of the GARL rail project. We have also had behind-the-scenes hints from politicians that cycle funding discussions are taking place.

Obviously this is no guarantee of success – the final budget depends on what Mr Swinney has to do to get it passed – that is vital to the government's standing, possibly even its survival. However, if he has an early informal behind-the-scenes agreement on cycling investment with 2 or 3 other parties, that greatly increases the hope that it will be in the final version of the budget.

**This means that emails/letters to MSPs are important.**

A long email is not necessary – *say why cycling investment matters to you, ask your MSPs to speak to their Transport and Finance party spokespersons, and for their party to make it a condition of supporting the budget. Ask them to let you know the result.* An easy way to find your MSPs is at [www.WriteToThem.com](http://www.WriteToThem.com); or see back of Spokes bulletins.

Our proposal is a **£20m cycle projects fund** on top of existing investment. It could be funded by a small reduction in the **increase** in the trunk roads budget. Astonishingly, our proposal would **double existing cycling investment** and yet would **reduce the increase in the trunk road budget by less than 10%!!** - it has risen by £233m from £930m in 08/09 to £1153m in 10/11. *Even with our proposal, total cycle investment would be equivalent to less than 2% of the £2500m total Scottish transport budget.*

**If you want more background info, see the Oct 24 news item on our website, with a link to the Spokes budget submission.**

[Note – this extract is abbreviated due to limited space]

**Official Report - Scottish Parliament  
Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee  
Tuesday 3 November 2009**

14:45

**Des McNulty:** "I have a question about cycling. Earlier this year, your colleague Mr Stevenson suggested a target of 10 per cent of all journeys to be by bike by 2020. However, the fact remains that the figure for Scotland has remained about 1 per cent of all journeys, compared with much higher percentages in other European countries. In light of that, are you satisfied that current funding levels are sufficient for the Scottish Government to have a realistic chance of meeting your aspirational targets for active travel? What is your view of the Spokes proposition that the draft budget be amended to allow a cycle projects fund of £20 million, administered by the Government sustainable transport team?"

Col 2280

**John Swinney:** "The issue is under active consideration by the committee. The last time I was here, the convener requested that the Government hold off on publishing further material on the cycling action plan until such time as the committee had considered the matter. We were happy to agree to his request; I hope that that has been conveyed to the committee. Money is spent on supporting cycling development in a number of parts of

the budget, but that is not always immediately obvious. I have made the point that we are spending money in parts of the trunk road network budgets to develop cycling infrastructure. It is possible to arrive at a compartmentalised figure for that, but such a figure does not appear in the budget document.

An extra £20 million is quite a sum of money to be wrestled with, given the financial constraints within which we are operating. **I know that the issue has concerned the committee and would be happy to consider its proposals on the matter."**

[Spokes note on the trunk roads point – Mr Swinney always responds to cycle funding questions by saying that some cycling infrastructure is from other budgets, such as cycle routes beside trunk roads. He is implying that cycling investment is higher than it seems. However the Spokes funding calculations *include* trunk road cycle spending (and most other main sources) – see Spokes Bulletin 104. The total *including* these other sources is still under £20m, and equivalent to less than 1% of the total transport budget. And as regards trunk road cycle routes – much more important is to foster everyday bike use in towns and cities. Trunk road routes like the A9 are great for holidays but are unlikely to make a big impact on carbon emissions, public health, or traffic congestion].

## SPOKES INTERNAL

### SPOKES BULLETIN 105 – IMPORTANT!!

We had less left-overs than usual after our mailout stuffing. It's always useful to have plenty extras, to use at conferences and other occasions. So if you have or see a pile of Bulletins that look as if they won't be used please return them to Spokes – thank you!

### SPOKES BULLETIN 105 – CORRECTION!!

On page 7, the survey in the table at the bottom of column 2 was undertaken in 2007, not 1997 as stated. This has been corrected in the pdf version of the Bulletin on our website.

Also, on p3 we refer to the Spokes 08/09 budget submission. However our 10/11 submission is now on our website [downloads – national, or Oct 24 budget news item].

### FACEBOOK and TWITTER

One of our members has created a **Spokes Facebook** page.

Also follow us at [twitter.com/SpokesLothian](http://twitter.com/SpokesLothian). We're using twitter to announce all significant updates to the website – so **be first to hear about new Spokesworkers and all other news items, by following SpokesLothian at twitter.com!**

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**See Spokes Bulletin 105 for more info and other dates..**

**Nov 15 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims**  
RoadPeace Service at St Andrew's & St George's Church,  
2.15pm: Linda Chilton Tel: 01875 835259. [www.roadpeace.org](http://www.roadpeace.org).

**Nov 19 Spokes Autumn Public Meeting** - Future of Princes St –  
chaired by BBC presenter Lesley Riddoch – see Spokes 105.

**Nov 28/29 Bank of Reason** – see next page

**The two next events are to help bring pressure on world leaders at the December Copenhagen climate conference.**

**Dec 5 Climate Change March** Glasgow [www.the-wave.org.uk](http://www.the-wave.org.uk).  
If you intend to go, the organisers say it would be very helpful to register – at [www.stopclimatechaos.org/09/oct/wave-scotland-sign-form](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/09/oct/wave-scotland-sign-form)

**Dec 6 Ride Planet Earth** [www.rideplanetearth.org](http://www.rideplanetearth.org). Our Sunday ride is part of this – **See Spokes 105 – and book lunch by 20 Nov.**

**Jun 28-Jul 1, 2010 Towards Carfree Cities IX** world conference in York. [www.worldcarfree.net/conference](http://www.worldcarfree.net/conference).

## ACTIVE-TRAVEL INQUIRY

The Scottish Parliament's Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee has launched an inquiry into how to encourage people to change travel habits and opt for walking and cycling as main forms of transport. It will also examine barriers to progress, and consider the position in other countries. **The committee wants views from any interested person or group.**

Committee Convener **Patrick Harvie MSP** said: "Efforts have been made in recent years by government, local authorities and others to encourage people to opt for walking and cycling as main forms of transport. However it is clear that we are not yet making a real difference in reducing harmful emissions from transport and encouraging people to have a healthy and active lifestyle.

**"And we don't just want to hear from organisations. We want to hear from ordinary people about how they choose to travel, and what incentives would make them walk or cycle more."**

The Committee is keen to hear any views on the above, but they particularly want answers to any or all of these questions...

Q1 *What more can be done to encourage people to change their travelling habits and walk and cycle more?*

Q2 *Is enough progress being made in developing and delivering improvements in the uptake of walking and cycling?*

Q3 *If not, what are the barriers to progress? (for example, lack of policy development, lack of political leadership, lack of funding/investment, the lack of prominence given to active travel in transport policy development, project planning and construction etc.)*

Q4 *Why do walking and cycling policies in national, regional and local transport plans not result in greater modal share for walking & cycling?*

Q5 *What further action is required by the Scottish Government, local authorities and other bodies to ensure that significant progress is made in the development and implementation of walking and cycling, particularly if transport is to make a greater and more meaningful contribution to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions?*

Q6 *What can Scotland learn from good practice and successful implementation in other countries?*

### WE URGE SPOKES MEMBERS TO SUBMIT VIEWS TO THE INQUIRY

Comments must be submitted by Friday 11 December 2009 to [activetravel@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:activetravel@scottish.parliament.uk)

More info: [www.scottish.parliament.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk) – committees – ticc

**Paper submissions to:** Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee, Room T3.40, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

**If you are short of time** a brief submission is fine, with your main concerns – particularly responses to any of the 6 questions.

### USEFUL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**If you wish to submit something more substantial** we suggest looking at any of the following...

a. **The Spokes submission to the inquiry** will be on our website around 18 November [[www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress)]

b. **The Spokes budget submission** already provides much useful info and background evidence [website, Oct 20 news]

c. [policy.rutgers.edu/faculty/pucher](http://policy.rutgers.edu/faculty/pucher) - publications. There are several excellent papers – especially **Making Cycling Irresistible**.

d. [konsult.leeds.ac.uk](http://konsult.leeds.ac.uk) – enter – instruments – management – cycle lanes – evidence. There are several other very useful pages on this site – have a browse around.

## BANK OF REASON

Anyone interested in new ideas may like to contribute to the Scottish pilot of the global 1mile<sup>2</sup> project - [www.square-mile.net](http://www.square-mile.net).

**"People of Edinburgh and beyond, we invite you to join us in forming The Bank of Reason.** You are invited to participate in free events over two weekends which find new ways for ecology and economy to work in harmony. The Bank of Reason is an ideas bank, a sound bank and a bank of transformations.

**Walk** - as the first act in forming The Bank of Reason, join an ecologist and an economist who will take us on a walk through the ecological and economic diversity of Edinburgh City Centre.

**Talk** - the walks will be followed by discussions with ecologists, economists and leading campaigners from near and far to search for a happier marriage between economy and ecology.

**Invest** - deposit your ideas in The Bank of Reason; a mobile repository of ideas on a sustainable future and economy. Big and small ideas are welcome to be invested and will get equal returns.

**Borrow** - share ideas and spread the seeds of knowledge."

The events are 12-5 on Nov 28/29 or Dec 5/6, and include free lunch [but on Dec 5/6 remember the Climate events – see Diary]

The organisers say, "the economy and ecology of the city relate to bike use as an alternative mode of transport to vehicles, and to reduce CO2 emissions, help protect city biodiversity, etc."

**More info:** [jennyrichardsATcollectivegallery.net](mailto:jennyrichardsATcollectivegallery.net) [www.square-mile.net](http://www.square-mile.net).

## OLD DALKEITH ROAD

Councillors have made a major change to the plans to improve bus/cycle conditions between Cameron Toll and the Infirmary [Spokes 105, p4]. The segregated bus and cycle section approaching Cameron Toll has been scrapped – the costs are not thought worth the benefits, with the money better used for other bus, cycle and walk schemes. At first sight this is disappointing, but depending on what other schemes happen, the outcome could be positive.

Officials have confirmed to us that other aspects of the OD Rd proposals – improved bike lanes and reduced parking - will still go ahead (but the bus lane section will now be peak-period only, not 24/7). Indeed, transport convener Cllr Gordon Mackenzie told us, "we will continue to progress and possibly enhance the elements which would have been of particular benefit to cyclists." For more on the pros & cons see spokes website news item.

**As a result, a big sum is now available for cycle/bus/walk schemes in SE or S Edinburgh. Please send suggestions to your local councillor, cc Spokes.** Say you understand funding has been freed up by cancelling the Old Dalkeith Rd segregated bus lane, and suggest what project(s) you'd like. Your ideas are more likely to succeed if they are new schemes, not maintenance; and if they benefit a lot of people in relation to the cost. Thus onroad improvements or short offroad cut-throughs/accesses etc are good, but a big and costly offroad scheme has less chance.

Finally although this money is allocated to S/SE Edinburgh we have argued that, since it was for hospital access, some should go to improved road access to the Western General Hospital, where cycle lanes would be useful on Crewe Road South and uphill on Orchard Brae to link to QF Road bus lanes. The roundabout at the foot of Orchard Brae also needs thought – traffic-lights instead?

## RAIL NEWS [england]

The Dept of Transport under new bike-aware Transport Secretary **Lord Adonis** has announced a £14m bike/rail integration funding package. This will provide **10,000 new station bike-park spaces, improved bike access to various stations** and, most exciting, **Cycle Hubs at 10 major (English) rail stations**. The hubs are modelled on the Dutch 'FietsPoint' - providing all-day supervised storage, bike hire, repair and basic retail. Commuters with busy schedules/ tight timescales can be confident that if they have a bike problem it can be fixed at the station or, if not, a bike is there to hire. The first Hub will be at Leeds station in 2010 [also mentioned in Spokes 105] and all are due to open by end 2011.

**None of these schemes apply in Scotland.** But if our Spokes budget proposal went ahead, ScotRail could bid for match-funding towards Scotland's first FietsPoint, probably in Edinburgh or Glasgow. **Another reason to lobby MSPs about the budget!!**

Lord Adonis said, "More and more people are turning to cycling as a healthy, green and convenient way to travel - I want to encourage this. Although half of us own a bike and 60% live just 15 minutes from a train station, only 2% of train passengers travel to the station by bike. This is in contrast to Holland where cycling accounts for a third of all trips to and from the station." **More info:** [nds.coi.gov.uk](http://nds.coi.gov.uk) – 28 September news item.

### STOP PRESS – road safety strategy

Edinburgh is preparing a new **Road Safety Strategy**. We are hopeful this will be more enlightened than some in the past. For more info, or if you have ideas for overall approaches to road safety, please email [steven.murrell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:steven.murrell@edinburgh.gov.uk).