



SPOKES campaigns on cycling issues in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Here are some of our current concerns which you may wish to follow up (February 2017).

www.spokes.org.uk

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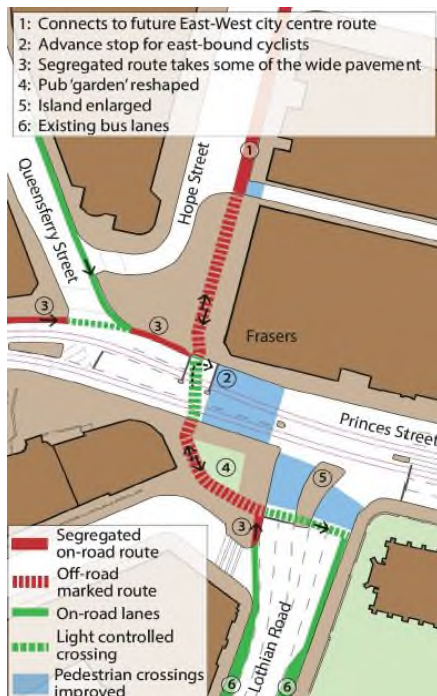
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Email:- spokes@spokes.org.uk

1. Cycle Fatality West End 31 May 2017

The death of a 24 year old woman in an accident at the west end of Princes Street has been widely reported. As yet the exact details of what happened are not clear, but it seems that her wheel got stuck in the tramlines, she fell and a tour minibus ran her over.

We have been very distressed about this, and among Edinburgh's cycling community it has caused a great deal of sadness and anger.



Spokes has repeatedly warned about the design of the tramlines and their interaction with both cyclists and pedestrians. We suggested a different layout at the Princes Street and West End junction in our Bulletin no.123 (see Spokes.org.uk/bulletin), and there are other options which could be considered.

Measures can be taken to improve safety as was done successfully at the previous top blackspot, outside Haymarket station, with a brightly coloured lane highlighting the danger and a better approach to the tramlines (i.e. tending to right angle instead of parallel to the lines). It is not a final solution, and would not suit the West End junction, but has made a big difference here.

Surgeon Professor Chris Oliver has analysed 192 cycling and 53 walking tramline-related injuries treated at the Royal Infirmary.

"Patrick McGuire a partner at Thompson's solicitors, said: "Almost two years ago to the day I spoke out about the need for urgent action to be taken by the council to make the tram lines safer for cyclists because if it wasn't we would be facing a fatality. (*Edinburgh Evening News*, 31 May 2017. Thompsons represent cyclists suing the council for damages from accidents caused by tram lines).

Of course properly segregated cycle routes and less motor traffic in the city centre would make cycling safe and far more attractive.

Spokes Public Meeting Tackling Road Danger

Wednesday 14 June, 7.30-9.30pm.

Doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls & chat. Tea/Coffee served until 7.15

Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Topics and Speakers

Operation Close Pass - PC Dominic Doyle ... Using an undercover police cyclist, with helmet-cam, to identify drivers passing cyclist too close

Default 20mph limit - Mark Ruskell MSP A bill in the Scottish Parliament to make 20mph the default urban speed limit

Reducing danger from large vehicles - Dr Caroline Brown, The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University

Vulnerable road user safety, including by age **Suzanne Meade**, Transport Research Unit, Edinburgh Napier University

followed by a one-hour audience QA/ panel discussion chaired by **Kirsty Lewin**, trustee of **Sustrans UK**

More information here:-

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2017/05/public-meeting-tackling-road-danger/>

(Part of the **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** <https://edfoc.org.uk/>)

4.. Consultations

There are often consultations in your area, which will include a cycling aspect.

At present:-

Cycling and walking improvements between Saughton Park and QuietRoute 8

Cycling and walking improvements from Holyrood Park to Ratcliffe Terrace

These usually have some space where you can write about how you would like improved cycling facilities across Edinburgh generally.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

5. Keep in touch

Join Spokes – we keep you in touch with what is going on and when it's useful to email your councillors or MSPs to get things done