

# SPOKES

## Bulletin 94 Summer 2006

SPOKES, The Lothian Cycle Campaign, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG © 0131.313.2114  
 [This is a postal address / answerphone - SPOKES is a voluntary body with no staff] www.spokes.org.uk spokes@spokes.org.uk

### QUALITY ROUTES

Quality bike routes linking Edinburgh and nearby areas have been allotted £1.1m in 2006-8 by the new South East Scotland Regional Transport Partnership SESTRAN, which comprises all local councils.\*

This follows a major Spokes campaign [Spokes 91 and 93]. We thank everyone who told councillors about existing commuting conditions: your letters truly help politicians understand the issues. "Appalling indictment" is how one cyclist described the existing A8 cyclistoute. "Completely inadequate" - A90 path. "Horribly busy main road" - A71. "I take death into my hands" - Edinburgh to Midlothian.

Thanks to our campaign Edinburgh appointed Halcrow consultants, who recommended a £4.6m bid to SESTRAN. Top priority for the £1.1m will be the A8, with a probable first phase to the airport area in 2006/7, extended in 2007/8 to join W. Lothian's excellent existing A89 path. Edinburgh should now look to other sources to speed the program. For example, the Gogar Royal Bank [Spokes 93] and the Airport should contribute to the A8, freeing money for other routes.

We hoped SESTRAN would allocate more, but they are also funding other cycle schemes. Midlothian, W.Lothian, Fife and Clacks' have big projects, with work too in Falkirk E.Lothian, and Borders [see Spokesworker - sent to members].

It is less clear if cycling is properly integrated into all SESTRAN transport projects - even though councils are asked in the Scottish Executive Guidance to do this. For example, many Quality Bus Corridors are proposed - but they should be Quality Bus/Cycle Corridors [see p7].

Another problem is that SESTRAN has over-committed its £9.6m funding in 06/07 and in 07/08, expecting some slippage. Cycle projects are often staff-intensive and could suffer badly unless enough staff time is allowed.

Despite these qualifications, Spokes congratulates SESTRAN on this start. And we ask you to maintain pressure on your councillor - to ensure enough staffing, and to seek additional funding for the routes you need.

\*Note: For more on Regional Transport Partnerships, see p7.

### SPOKES IN PARLIAMENT

Stop press: We congratulate local MP Mark Lazarowicz who obtained a 30 minute parliamentary debate on cycling (worth reading) - in which he referred to "the very effective Lothian Cycle Campaign, Spokes, of which I am proud to be a member."

See [www.parliament.uk/hansard/hansard.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/hansard/hansard.cfm), cols 24WH-49WH, 9 May 06.



photo: Judy Camteley

### MY FAVOURITE RIDE

A booklet of rides based on our 2005 competition is being produced. It will go free to members and be in bike shops.



'Pensioners Picnic' on Goff's Favourite Bike Ride

Our 2006 contest is 'My Favourite Cycling Food Recipe' Entry forms will be sent to all members, and on website.

### STOP PRESS - COLOUR RETURNS!!

18/5/06: Planning Committee councillors today rejected an official recommendation for black cycle lanes across the city centre. A final decision will come later this year.

Planning Chair Cllr Trevor Davies told Spokes "It is unlikely anyone would seriously advocate a red cycle lane down the Royal Mile or the new Castle St, but we would expect them to be maintained on traffic routes like Lothian Rd and Princes Street" - a sentiment we fully support. Before the meeting we reminded councillors of the huge consultation response [Spokes 93 p3], and we revealed new research showing car violation of black cycle and bus lanes to be 5 times higher than for coloured [p3].

### EMPTY PROMISES?

The Scottish Executive is proposing to scrap its target to quadruple cycle use between 1996 and 2012, and may even abandon any national target, according to the draft National Transport Strategy now out for consultation.

Progress towards the national target has been minimal, for while some councils such as Edinburgh have greatly increased cycling, others have declined. But the Executive is due much of the blame. It rightly set a bold objective on cycle use, to improve health, environment, accessibility, congestion and social justice - but not the policies to ensure all councils work effectively toward the target. Why is this?

⊗ Funding can depend on who is Transport Minister as much as on official policy. Nicol Stephen, impressed by Sustrans in 03/04 and 04/05, asked them to submit a higher 05/06 bid. But his successor Tavish Scott instead cut 2004/5's £3.5m to just £2m for 05/06 [Spokes 93].

⊗ Former minister Sarah Boyack set up rules to reward councils if Public Transport Fund bids included cycling: this became the top funding source. But when PTF was scrapped, this was lost. The Executive finally admitted "Ending the PTF in effect cut the major potential source of funds for large cycle projects" [Spokes 91] ctd p8

Help SPOKES, other cyclists, and yourself by writing to your MSP, MP, councillor and the press every so often. See back page for contacts. Ask your MSP / MP to raise your questions with the relevant minister. Send us the results!!

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**ON ALL RIDES:** Please ride considerately and carefully.

And you are entirely responsible for your own safety.

**Spokes Sunday Rides** - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!' Usually 1st Sun of month, 30-40 miles. Meet 10am, Usher Hall. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy. Your bike must be in good order. If under 14 you must come with an adult. [www.snowcycle.co.uk](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) [stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuart@snowcycle.co.uk) 445.7073. **Dates:** Jul 2, Aug 6, Sep 3 [picnic at Dave du Feu, Linlithgow. Free tea/coffee - bring own food], Oct 1, Nov 5.

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

**V. Easy Rides** Usually 5-15 miles, paths, quiet roads. 10am last Sun of month [www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk) 558.2647

**Weekends away** Occasional weekends may be organised by individuals. [Paul.McGuire@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.McGuire@ed.ac.uk), [Stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto:Stuart@snowcycle.co.uk).

**Go Bike!** Strathclyde Cycle Campaign rides. 1st Sunday + some others. [www.gobike.org](http://www.gobike.org) 07932.460093 [info@gobike.org](mailto:info@gobike.org).

**Events general** [edinburgh-bicycle.co.uk/resource/whats\\_on.html](http://edinburgh-bicycle.co.uk/resource/whats_on.html)

**Summer stalls/ festivals** - See p4-5. **TryCyclinginEdinburgh Perth & Kinross Cycling Summer 2006** Phone 01738 476515 for brochure or see [www.pkc.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/cycling).

**Jun 17-25 National Bike Week** [www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)  
Local details at [BikeWeekEdinburgh.info](http://BikeWeekEdinburgh.info).

**Jun 21 Spokes Bike Breakfast** 8-10am City Chambers, High Street. Competitions, stalls, breakfast! Speakers: **Clr Andrew Burns; Sarah Boyack MSP.** Help/ideas for stalls needed. [jackieh@waitrose.com](mailto:jackieh@waitrose.com) 664.0526. This is also **Bike to Work Day** [www.bike2work.info](http://www.bike2work.info) 0845.612.0661.

**June 21 Edinburgh Park Breakfast** Mark 661.9763.

**June 23-25 Bike Film Festival**, Filmhouse, Lothian Road. See p4-5 & [www.bicyclefilmfestival.info](http://www.bicyclefilmfestival.info), [BikeWeekEdinburgh.info](http://BikeWeekEdinburgh.info)

**Jun 24 Edinburgh to St Andrews** annual ride for LEPRAs. [Ros\\_Kerry@lepra.org.uk](mailto:Ros_Kerry@lepra.org.uk) 01968.682369. Transport back bookable.

**Jul 29 - Aug 5 Kirkpatrick MacMillan Rides** Week of cycling events in SW Scotland. [www.ctcscotland.org.uk/br2006..](http://www.ctcscotland.org.uk/br2006..)

**Aug 6 Festival Cavalcade** Princes St - to help see TCIE p4/5

**Aug 13 Fringe Sunday** at the Meadows - TCIE stall, see p4/5

**Aug 26-Sep 4 Camp for Climate Action** Roads, airports and other activists eco-village. [www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk).

**Aug 27 Pedal for Scotland** Glasgow->Edinburgh mass charity ride More information at [www.pedalforScotland.org](http://www.pedalforScotland.org)

**Sep 2-3 The Mela at Pilgrim Park** - TCIE stall/events, see p4/5

**Jun-Sept Ecotopia Biketour 2006** Lithuania-Poland-Slovakia [stop for Ecotopia - [www.efja.org/ecotopia](http://www.efja.org/ecotopia)] -Hungary-Slovenia, ending Italy for Sep 22 carfree day events. Join all or any section, or support the ride at [www.thebiketour.net](http://www.thebiketour.net).

**Sep 16-22 European Mobility Week** [theme, climate change] includes carfree day Fri 22. [www.mobilityweek-europe.org](http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org) and [www.22september.org](http://www.22september.org). **Edinburgh council**, working with TCIE [p4] hopes to do more this year - see [www.clevercommuting.info](http://www.clevercommuting.info).

**Oct 23-29 Energy Efficiency Week** [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk).

**2007: Velo-City** Conference, Munich [www.velo-city2007.com](http://www.velo-city2007.com).

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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**Copyright details:** SPOKES may be quoted freely, if we are acknowledged and our address given. **Next Bulletin:** Due to our long summer gap, Spokes 95 should be in October.

## WEBSITES & SNIPPETS

**bikeforall.net** Just about every cycling contact and fact you could ever need - cycling skills, charity rides, choosing a bike, campaign groups... Sponsored by Cycle Traders Assn. [www.stopatred.org](http://www.stopatred.org) - campaign for high cycling standards.



**Cyclist NB**  
**Motorist NB**  
Over 50% disobey sometimes!!



**www.loveyourbike.org** Manchester Council campaign.  
**www.givecyclistsroom.co.uk** Ambitious fight by a concerned individual cyclist. See also Spokes letter to W Lothian Council on pinch points, at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) in downloads - submissions.  
**www.seat61.com** How to use rail or sea instead of flying.

**Money for Scottish cycling projects** Cycling Scotland now makes grants to innovative cycle projects. *Details from Gordon Walker@cyclingscotland.org* 0141.229.5359.

**Mobile Phones** ROSPA publication for employers - "using a hand-held or hands-free mobile while driving substantially increases the risk of crashing" [www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com).

**Future of Rail** A long-term plan for rail is expected next year. Transport 2000 fears big rural cutbacks, and seeks support/donations. [www.transport2000.org.uk](http://www.transport2000.org.uk) 020.7613.0743.

**Future of Bike** The 1960s saw as many cars produced worldwide as bikes. By 2003 bike production at 105 million was 2.5 times higher than the 42m cars (sadly also a record). [www.earthpolicy.org/indicators/bike](http://www.earthpolicy.org/indicators/bike). And 2005 even saw more bikes sold than cars in the US! [worldcarfree.net](http://worldcarfree.net).

## SPOKES AND PROJECTS

☛ Many **Spokes submissions** and documents are online: see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads - submissions. For example...

*Commenting on Regional Transport Strategy, Holyrood Magazine article - Cycle Funding Cuts, Edinb Streetscape Manual.* Use these ideas to write to councillors, MSP, etc.

☛ **CraigmillarCycles.info** A new local project with endless ideas, involving the Bike Station, TryCycling, etc. It has won £4125 from the Council's Area Development Cttee.

☛ **'A Public Health Vision'** - Spokes member **Raj Bhopal**, professor of public health, has a vision of a city built with walkers and cyclists as top priority. He expects to be called 'naive, even unbalanced,' but points to 'exactly the same reaction when piped water, sewers, and houses with toilets were advocated by my public health predecessors' [See [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) downloads - spokesworker for article]

## HIGHWAY CODE

Spokes compliments the CTC on an excellent fight against proposed **Highway Code changes** requiring cycle facilities always to be used. Spokes strongly supports well-designed facilities - which encourage people to cycle [Spokes 93, p3]. But, for some manoeuvres or cyclists, some facilities are not appropriate: they may contain potholes or parked cars, and some are badly designed - so compulsion would be crazy. CTC is also seeking other changes to make the code more bike-friendly. A staggering **11,000 cyclists** across the UK have now contacted MPs!! **Edinburgh Council** may also make a submission, as the proposed rules could threaten its bike use targets. *Info:* [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk).

## SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*Please return your 2006 renewal form if not yet done. If you can't remember if you've renewed, please don't ask - you'll get an autumn reminder if not, and you won't miss anything.*

## LOCAL NEWS

If any points on this page concern you, please contact your local councillor [contact details p8]. For Edinburgh, also copy to transport boss Cllr Andrew Burns.

### THANK YOU !!

If the council has helped you, why not thank them? It's a nice thing to do, and a great way to increase the goodwill of councillors, MSPs, and officials. If more work is needed, mention that too! Here's a nice letter one member sent...

*"Thank you for the new parking restrictions on the cycle route to the Royal Infirmary from the centre of town. This makes my route to work significantly safer, and hopefully will encourage more people to cycle as part of their daily routine. I hope you continue to make further alternations to help other people get to work safely by bike."*

### CYCLE FACILITIES RED SURFACING

The Council has still not decided on this issue, which raised the highest level of concern ever by local cyclists: over 60 letters, showing very forcefully how Edinburgh's widespread prominent onroad facilities encourage more bike use and raise the feeling of safety [Spokes 93, p3]. And new research at Napier University shows cars 5 times more likely to encroach on black than on coloured lanes! [The effect of coloured surfacing on driver compliance, John McKeown]

Meantime, many cyclists have remarked with delight on the extensive lane colour resurfacing outside the city centre. This is from the council's expanded maintenance budget - quite separate from the central area black-lanes controversy.

*If the resurfacing helps you - thank your councillor!!*

### GOOD NEWS ON THE ROADS

After much lobbying by Spokes and individual cyclists [Spokes 91] the cycle lanes to the new Infirmary now have parking restrictions - which have been hugely welcomed [see Thank You]. The restrictions are however not as full as hoped. Please send us - and your councillor! - your views.



BEFORE



AFTER

For several years Spokes has had to object to Quality Bus Corridor plans which did not live up to the standard of the earlier Leith/Southside corridor in terms of integrating cycle facilities [p7]. But new plans, for a Niddrie Mains Rd corridor, while not perfect, show good attention at last! We

have just heard that, like the Southside project, this is a scheme from the now-ended Public Transport Fund, whose official Guidance sought cycle/bus integration. If only the Council could reach the same standard without being asked!

### PARTLY-INTEGRATED POLICY

Council documents often don't properly integrate cycling: e.g. the draft Parking Strategy and Streetscape Manual [Spokes 93 p7]. Sadly the pattern continues with Sustainable Buildings policy and Caltongate masterplan consultations. Often we see warm generalities about cycling but, when it comes to the nitty gritty, cycle access, routes and parking are given minimal if any attention. In Caltongate, for example, the Parliament Way is to be a motor road with pavements and maybe a cobbled road surface - a world away in practice from the avowedly cycle-friendly policies! [previously it was to be walk/cycle only - Spokes 72, and para 3.16 of consultation].

*Those consultations are over, but there's still time to write to your councillor if the issues concern you.* Spokes responses are at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads - submissions.

The council has a vision "to become the most successful and sustainable city region in Northern Europe by 2015." Groups like Spokes can not vouch for the reality of this whilst important policy documents neglect cycling!

However, when the council does put their mind to it, or instructs the relevant consultants properly, they can come up with the goods - the recent Craigmillar Area Masterplan [see it at 1 Cockburn St] being a good example.

### LOCAL CONSULTATIONS

There is a rash of vital consultations over the summer, but unfortunately no space to discuss in detail here! All will be inspectable at City Development Dept, 1 Cockburn St., at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) and probably at public libraries.

**Edinburgh City Local Plan** covers land-use including transport matters. Consultation now underway, until end June. [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/eclp](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/eclp) or 469.3411 Ben Wilson.

**Edinburgh Local Transport Strategy** - consultation expected July and early August. Details from 529.3595 Kim.Hunton@edinburgh.gov.uk. Our comments on an earlier stage are at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads - submissions.

**Regional Transport Strategy** - consulting late summer? Scott Leitham, MVA consultants. SLeitham@mva.co.uk 0131.240.8931. See article on p7, and Spokes advice based on government guidance, at [submissions](http://submissions) web page as above.

A **Haymarket Masterplan** study is underway, and is likely to result in major changes. The area covers many vital cycle commuting journeys, plus rail interchange, and needs to be fully bike-friendly to help Edinburgh achieve its 10% 2010 bike commuting target. Send your ideas and needs to McGrowGrahame@Halcrow.com or 16 Abercromby Pl, EH3 6LB.

### WEST LOTHIAN

The **A89 path** is to be extended to link directly to Uphall rail station, via the A89 cycle bridge. The Council is also seeking funds to extend from Uphall to Livingston.

Despite this excellent commuter route [often contrasted with Edinburgh's very poor A8 continuation - e.g. see p1], W.Lothian refuses to contemplate an **A71 path** ["a horribly busy main road" - cyclist]. Spokes has objected to W.Lothian local plan on these grounds. **It will be really helpful if readers who agree send us a letter/email of support [for the Inquiry].**

### GLASGOW

The Council plans 63 miles of new cycle lanes and paths, thanks to rising use of existing routes [Evening Times 3.2.06]. Bikes using city centre racks have also increased - by nearly 200% between 2000 and 2005 [Council report 2.5.06].

# Try Cycling in Edinburgh

New to cycling?  
Just bought a bicycle?  
Seeking safe places to  
ride your bike?

*Try Cycling in Edinburgh is a new campaign, backed by cycling organisations and the City of Edinburgh Council.*

*We organise gentle cycle rides to explore Edinburgh's cyclepath network and information stalls and try-out activities at summer festivals.*

## Events

*Come and take part in Try Cycling activities at the following events.*

**Saturday 3rd June**

Corstorphine Fair

**Sat 10th & Sun 11th June**

TreeFest at Inverleith Park

**Saturday 15th July**

Craigmillar Festival

**Sunday 30th July**

Hopetoun House Summer Fair

**Sunday 6 August**

Edinburgh Festival's Cavalcade

**Sunday 13th August**

Fringe Sunday at the Meadows

**Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd September**

The Mela at Pilrig Park

**16th - 22nd September**

European Mobility Week

## Easy Rides

*All welcome, but please book by emailing [maggie@trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:maggie@trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk) or ringing 313 2114 before each ride.*

**SUNDAY 28th May 10am**

FROM: Haymarket Station car park

TO: Four Winds Inspiration Centre, Inverleith Park  
6 miles, 2 hour outing including rest breaks

**SUNDAY 25th June 10am**

FROM: Saughton Park, by play park at Balgreen Road entrance

TO: Lauriston Castle

8 miles, 2.5 hour outing including rest breaks

**SUNDAY 30th July 10am**

FROM: The Meadows, the junction of Middle Meadow Walk and North Meadow Walk

TO: Swanston Village

14 miles, 4.5 hour outing including rest breaks

**SUNDAY 27th August 10am**

Royal Commonwealth Pool, Dalkeith Road  
River Esk at Musselburgh

12 miles, 4 hour outing including rest breaks

**SUNDAY 24th September 10am**

Water of Leith Visitor Centre

Heriot Watt University, Riccarton Campus

15 miles, 5 hour outing including rest breaks

**SUNDAY 29th October 10am**

Pilrig Park, by entrance from Pilrig Street, opposite Rosebank Cemetery

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford  
10 miles, 3.5 hour outing including rest breaks

**SUNDAY 26th November 10am**

FROM: Roseburn Park, Roseburn Place entrance

TO: Edinburgh Park

10 miles, 3.5 hour outing including rest breaks

[www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk)



# First Edinburgh Bicycle Film Festival

- HELL ON WHEELS
- OVERCOMING
- FULL CYCLE + STILL WE RIDE
- RED LIGHT GO + SPRINT
- BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUS
- JOE KID ON A STINGRAY  
+ ACCOMPLISH

Edinburgh's first Bicycle Film Festival runs from 23-25 June 2006. It is sponsored by Cycling Scotland, and has been organised by TryCycling in Edinburgh as part of National Bike Week.

The festival includes contributions from local talent, films about sporting achievement and skill, as well as some that have an element of mischief and humour.

Tickets available from Filmhouse 228 2688 See any three programmes in the Edinburgh Bicycle Film Festival for £12/£7.50 concessions, or all six for £18/£12 concessions. Tickets must all be bought at the same time. For full programme details see [www.bicyclefilmfestival.info](http://www.bicyclefilmfestival.info).

*For links to bike-related films and film festivals, see [www.bicyclefilmfestival.com](http://www.bicyclefilmfestival.com).*

## BIKE WEEK

Wednesday 21st  
Fri 23rd- Sun 25th  
Sat 24th - Sun 25th  
Saturday 24th -  
Sunday 25th -

**Bike Breakfast**  
**Bicycle Film Festival**  
**Cycling Grand Prix Meadowbank**  
**Cycling Fun at Festival Square, Edinburgh -12-4**  
**TCIE ride from Saughton Park to Lauriston Castle**

Bike Week takes place from 17-25 June 2006. The aim is to encourage more people to cycle more of the time.

TryCycling in Edinburgh will be organising a number of events in the city during Bike Week. The activities in Festival Square will complement the Bicycle Film Festival at the Edinburgh Filmhouse from 23-25 June.

On Saturday 24 June on Festival Square there will be a show case selection of every day bikes/unusual bikes/ family friendly bikes that the public can try. Some experienced cyclists will demonstrate their talents.

For example, the two Edinburgh school-boys who will be the only Scottish competitors at the World Unicycling Championships in Switzerland in July have been invited to show their skills.

[www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk)

# BAGS OF CLASS



Edinburgh Bicycle Co-op's exclusive Revolution Stow Expert cyclists' rucksac (£49.95)

'9/10 Best Buy' Cycling Plus magazine: February 2006

*'Equipped with all the features you'd expect from a high-end bag - lightweight ripstop fabric construction, CamelBak compatibility, helmet holder, LED light clip, large mesh side pockets, reflective piping and logos, and fluro yellow rain cover. In use, the Stow Expert fits superbly and the area it occupies on your back feels like a much smaller sack. It also sits well and doesn't slip even when worn off road. In all it's the perfect commuter pack (with the raincover for adverse weather, and elastic helmet holder for when you arrive) and an excellent weekend pack.'*

## WWW.EDINBURGHBIKCYCLE.COM

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### The hugely esteemed **SPOKES Cycle Maps of Edinburgh, Midlothian East and West Lothian**

£5 each post-free, £9 for any two,  
£12 for three, or £15 for four.

**Also £4.95 at all good bike & book shops**

*Spokes maps may not be copied without permission. If you see  
this done please email tim@vizualz.co.uk*

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www.citycarclubs.co.uk

*"I resigned from the AA in protest at their roads policy.  
I did so with trepidation, wondering how good other  
bodies would be ... My worries were groundless!"*

### Environmental Transport Association

**Membership includes:** magazine; legal expenses for  
injuries when walking, cycling, bussing, etc; lobbying for  
sustainable transport; supporting Green Transport Week.

**Extras:** Bicycle insurance; RoadRescue - car or bike -  
average rescue time 35minutes; travel insurance.

To join, phone 0800.212.810 - quote Spokes 1452

**Membership discount for Spokes members  
www.eta.co.uk**

## FUNDING FIASCO

The decline in Scottish Executive cycle funding revealed in Spokes 93 caused major shock waves, with the Minister quite unable to refute our conclusions. **From the ordinary cyclist to MSPs, all are amazed that only some 1% of transport spending goes to cycle projects - and that this could fall to a microscopic 0.6% next year.** Major articles appeared in the Sunday Herald [19.3.06] and in Holyrood Transport Quarterly [copy at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads].

Here we repeat the main summary table from Spokes 93.

Scotland	[£million]	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07
cycle spending	[a][b]	10.0	11.9	10.9	[est] 8.3
total transport spend		797.5	883.4	1007.0	1281.4
% for cycling	[a]	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%	0.6%

Notes: (a) the figures are probably slight underestimates (b) cycle spending includes various sources. See Spokes 93 for explanations.

Questioned in Parliament by local MSP **Mike Pringle** about the decline, the reply from Minister **Tavish Scott** was both factually inaccurate and very misleading ...

**Transport Minister Tavish Scott** Parliament 30.3.6 col 24595  
*"... We attach considerable importance to investments in cycling ... I am pleased to say that between 2005 and 2006 local authority funding has risen from £8.65m to £9.9m ... Sustrans funding for the national cycle network ... has risen from £1.5m in 2002/3 to £2m in the current financial year."*

**The Minister's answer is misleading and inaccurate...**

1. The local authority fund is Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets, not just cycling; and councils only allocate some 25-35% of it to cycle schemes [varies by year and council].
2. CWSS funding rises from £8.65m in 2005/6 to £8.87m in 2006/7 and £9.09m in 2007/8, *not* to £9.9m in 2006/7!
3. True, Sustrans funding did rise after 2002, but it would be more honest to admit it was *cut* from £3.5m in 2004/5 to £2m in 2005/6 - despite Sustrans being asked by previous Minister Nicol Stephen for an increased bid!
4. The Minister omits to mention the loss of some £3m p.a. to cycle projects due to abolition of the Public Transport Fund with no thought of the consequences for cycling.

### LIB DEM SUPPORTERS REVOLT

Shocked by what is happening under their own transport Minister, LibDem voters are complaining to their MSPs...

*"I am a Lib Dem supporter and involved in heart disease prevention ... Sustrans has a fantastic track record ..."*

*"The Executive has not grasped the role cycling can play in tackling pollution and obesity.. It is particularly regrettable that this happens when the Transport Minister is Lib Dem."*

At the LibDem March 24 conference **Danny Alexander MP** instigated a successful motion, asking the Executive to

- increase Sustrans and local authority funding, to enable more investment in and promotion of the cycle network;
- require regional transport partnerships to promote cycling in their regional transport strategies;
- create a Cycling Demonstration Town fund, to deliver a step-change in areas with low/moderate bike use.

**Even if the Transport Minister pays little heed to the Executive's own 'vision' [see box] will he now listen to his own supporters and his own party conference?**

**If you vote LibDem, raise this with your local party, and write to Scottish LibDem leader Nicol Stephen MSP. Ask what Mr Scott's actions say for LD green credentials.**

*"... a culture where fewer short journeys are made by car, where we favour public transport, walking and cycling because they are safe and sustainable ..."*

**The 'vision' of the Scottish Executive Transport White Paper Scotland's Transport Future - now discredited ?**

## REGIONAL TRANSPORT

The Scottish Exec has set up regional transport partnerships comprising all councils in each area, with £35m a year in 2006-08. SESTRAN's annual share is £9.6m. Individual councils will still fund most purely local transport projects.

As well as councillors and officials, each partnership has external members, appointed on individual merit, not as representatives. We are delighted that **Sandy Scotland**, Spokes Planning Group convener, succeeded in the arduous selection process and now sits on SESTRAN, alongside members of the Road Haulage Association, etc! As well as Sandy, **Graham Bell** of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce also expresses a strong interest in encouraging cycle use.



Sandy with Lord Provost **Lesley Hinds** and Transport Convener **Andrew Burns** at the Spokes Bike Breakfast

### CYCLE PROJECT FUNDING

**Regional Partnerships now seem the main hope for large-scale cycle projects** - though as their funding rises so does pressure for big public transport and road projects. In 06/07 some 10% of SESTRAN money goes to roads, but this may jump to 33% post-2007 for A801 and M9 projects. And the SESTRAN cycle budget might have been much lower in 06/07 without our cross-boundary campaign [p1]. However, if all partnerships do give real priority to cycle projects [as official Guidance requests - see below], this could even replace the Public Transport Fund cycle money.

**Also vital is that every partnership transport scheme should integrate cycling.** For example, instead of Quality Bus Corridors we should see Quality Bus/Cycle Corridors - like Edinburgh's excellent Southside / Leith Walk example, with cycle lanes where bus lanes are not possible, and with extensive bike parking in shopping areas along the route.

### YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

**Partnerships will soon consult on Regional Transport Strategies, and must follow Scottish Executive advice [Guidance on Regional Transport Strategies, March 2006. See [www.scotland.gov.uk/publications](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications) - transport - 08/03/06 or phone 0131.244.5077 if you need a copy]. It calls for...**

- ☉ A hierarchy for personal travel priority: walking, cycling, public transport, then private motor [para 45].
- ☉ Integration of cycling with other modes [para 45] - note our example above of Quality Bus/Cycle corridors.
- ☉ More roadspace to walking and cycling [para 18].
- ☉ Transport policy should improve public health through more walking and cycling [para 18, and pages 36, 46, 53].

**Some notes on the Guidance and on using it to promote cycling are at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads - submissions. Always make the point that partnerships which follow the Guidance are likely to get more Executive funding!**

ctd from p1

**INEFFECTIVE POLICY EXECUTION**

- ⊕ Census data showed cycling rising in urban areas but falling in rural. In 2003 we told the Executive, "rapid decline in rural bike use threatens government targets" [Spokes 85]. But they didn't research or act on this.
- ⊕ Despite pleas by cycle officers [Spokes 86] the Executive gave councils total discretion how to spend their 'Cycling Walking Safer Streets' [CWSS] money - some spent zero on cycling, some even went to 1-way streets!

**WHAT IS NEEDED**

- ★ A national target is vital, as a guide to whether policies are succeeding, and as a basis for setting local targets.
- ★ Policies and funding methods must be linked to targets.
- ★ Progress must be monitored, so that policies and funding mechanisms can be modified if they are failing.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Write to your MSP, and - very importantly - respond to the National Transport Strategy consultation [below].

**CONSULTATIONS**

*We urge readers to respond to these consultations! Please copy your response to Spokes, so we can use the ideas too.*

**NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

This is to guide Scottish transport policy for 10-20 years. There many interesting ideas in the document [e.g. a national railcard] - but actions don't always match words, so the final Strategy must be very tight. For example Executive actions have never matched their cycle use target [see p1]. In future, targets must be monitored and tied to actions and funding.

**Two excellent points raised in the consultation are...**

- ⊕ *Should transport policy play a bigger role in improving public health?* [p13-15, qn 2] - through active travel.
- ⊕ *Is the balance of spending on different modes correct?* [p22-23, qn 5] With cycling at 1% of expenditure, and falling, we've a clear answer there! [see p7 and Spokes 93]

**Two very disappointing suggestions are...**

- ⊕ *Drop the target to stabilise road traffic at 2001 levels by year 2021* [p80-84, qns 59-62] [Sunday Herald 2.4.06]. What new measures could make the target achievable?
- ⊕ *Dropping any national target on cycle use* [p80, qn 58] The existing target may now be unrealistic, but having an ambitious national target is vital [see p1, ctd above].

**For a copy of the consultation document** contact Pamela Gidney at transport@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, 0131.244.7281 or see [www.scotland.gov.uk/publications](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications), transport, 20.04.06.

**Even if you don't have time to read the full document, please respond on the above points** [same email address, or Pamela Gidney, Transport Strategy, Scottish Executive, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ] - *by 13 July*.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGIES**

Every part of Scotland is drawing up Regional Transport Strategies. This is vital to effective development of cycling. Contact your councillor or transport dept to find out when the consultation is, and how to participate. See also p3/p7.

**ELECTIONS 2007 - not consultation, but needs action!**

**Next year sees elections to Holyrood and to Councils.** At Holyrood this is your chance to get increased cycle project funding. In councils, there will be huge changes

**LOTHIAN POLITICIANS**

**Write to your area MSP or Lothians List (2<sup>nd</sup> vote) MSPs**  
at: Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. 0131.348.5000.  
or email: [firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk). For example, Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk.

**LABOUR**

Sarah Boyack, Ed Central  
Susan Deacon, Ed East  
Malcolm Chisholm, Ed North  
Mary Mulligan, Linlithgow  
Bristow Muldoon, Livingston  
Rhona Brankin, Midlothian  
John Home Robertson, E Lothian

**LIBDEM**

Mike Pringle, Ed South  
Margaret Smith, Ed West

**GREEN**

Robin Harper, List  
Mark Ballard, List

**SNP** Fiona Hyslop, List  
Kenny MacAskill, List

**CONSERVATIVE**

David McLetchie, Pentlands  
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, List

**INDEPENDENT**

Margo MacDonald, List  
**SSP** Colin Fox, List

**To find name/address/email of your Westminster MP...**

[www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm) 020.7219.3000.

**To find name/address/email of your local councillor...**

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) 0131.529.3186

[www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk) 0131.270.7500

[www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk) 01506.775000

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk) 01620.827827

Email councillors as: [firstname.surname@councilname.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@councilname.gov.uk)

e.g. Andrew.Burns@edinburgh.gov.uk. Except that East Lothian email is initialsurname e.g. [jross@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:jross@eastlothian.gov.uk).

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

**Europe:** [www.europe.org.uk/info](http://www.europe.org.uk/info) or [politics.guardian.co.uk/eu](http://politics.guardian.co.uk/eu)  
**Sestran:** Cllr Russell Imrie, c/o Midlothian Council [above]

**ESSENTIAL CONTACTS**

**Cycle training:** 0141.229.5359 [training@scottishcycling.co.uk](mailto:training@scottishcycling.co.uk).

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

**Potholes, glass on cyclist routes, broken lights, etc anywhere in Lothian [including Edinburgh], or Falkirk District:** [Use nearest lamp-post number to report exact location]. Tel 0800.232323; Or [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) - transport-Clarence.

**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]:** Rapid Response 0808.100.3366

**Smoky vehicles hotline:** 0870.606.0440.

**Taxis:** The Inspector, 33 Murrayburn Rd EH14 2TF. 529.5800.

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

**Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 020.8964.1021

due to a new proportional voting system - the press says Edinburgh could see coalitions like LD/Con/SNP, Lab/LD or even Lab/Green. **Parties will soon prepare manifestos - send them your ideas now! And send us useful contacts.** Some Spokes manifesto ideas are in Spokesworker 18.4.06 at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads. Send us comments.

**AIR QUALITY STRATEGY - SCOTLAND/UK**

This covers toxic pollution, not climate change gases. 'Man-made particulates,' for example, it says, reduce average UK life expectancy by 6 months! You might wish to propose stronger traffic-reduction and cycling measures. Andrew.Taylor2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk 0131.224.7813, or [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/index.htm#aqstrategy](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/index.htm#aqstrategy).

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

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

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope [9"x4" if possible].

Please enter your name, address, postcode...

