

## DECADE ENDS UP!

After three years of declining Scottish cycle project investment we celebrate some recovery in 2010/11! And Edinburgh City Council has just launched its ambitious *Active Travel Action Plan*, confirming and working towards its Charter of Brussels target of **15% of trips by bike in 2020** [see p4 inside].

The Scottish Government was under intense pressure, thanks to our highly respected *Spokes funding survey* [see col 2], reports from official government watchdog the *Sustainable Development Commission*, from the Parliament's *Transport, Infrastructure, Climate Change Committee*, and in many individual letters to MSPs.

Having almost reached a still meagre 1% of transport spend in the former Lab/Lib period, cycle investment under SNP stewardship was cut to below 0.7% [see p7].

But now they have responded, as part of CAPS [Cycling Action Plan for Scotland] with a **£3.9m funding boost in 2010/11, returning Scottish cycle investment nearly to its previous peak level** [see p7]. Although still far behind European comparator countries Scotland is again moving the right way! *The new money includes..*

- ◆ **£2.65m extra to Sustrans**, restoring them to 2006/8 funding levels – meaning **100 infrastructure projects, large and small, across Scotland** [local examples p5] – on top of school and promotional work. Cycleroute projects are also labour-intensive: the money brings more jobs than an equivalent sum for road building.

- ◆ **£0.5m to the Connect2 lottery project** to transform walking/cycling in central Glasgow, bridging the 1960's-style city-centre M8 motorway, and with links to Central Station, along the Clyde and to Kelvingrove Park.

- ◆ **£259k for cycle training** run by Cycling Scotland.

- ◆ **£150k to encourage workplace cycling schemes.**

- ◆ **£110k to boost Cycling Scotland's Community Fund** – a bidding fund to support local cycling initiatives.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN 2011/12 AND AFTER??

November sees the *Scottish draft 2011/12 budget* plus a *Spending Review* setting funding patterns for 2011/14 [though a future government could change it]. As this marks the end of the previous Spending Review period, **all existing funding, such as the Sustrans grant or CWSS will be rethought, and could even be scrapped.** We are only months from the new financial year but there are no clues in CAPS or elsewhere: council bike project plans post-10/11 across Scotland are in limbo.

**Total transport funds may be cut - our argument is that budgets within transport need revised to at last give a sensible allocation to cycling/walking.** *ctd p8*

**Inside SPOKES BULLETIN 108 ... Spokes public meeting on bike storage / Path Art competition winners / Edinburgh Cycling Action Plan / Ride Planet Earth 5<sup>th</sup> Dec / Stop Press: consultation on quality bike corridor – see p5**

## P'BELLO to LEITH: your choice!

Noise, lorries and danger along Seafield Road? Or, up steps and through mud and undergrowth? – great for a Sunday explore, but useless for your Monday commute!

The Council, with Sustrans matching funds, is designing a quality route as part of *ATAP* [p4]. Construction will take 1-4 years depending on funding, Orders, etc. **The best way to speed it up is for you to lobby your MSPs about cycle funding from 2011 on** [see opposite].



Photos: greenerleith.org



## “the most comprehensive”

The **Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe)** has published briefing paper 10/62 - *Cycling in Scotland: Update 2010*. It uses data\* from our **Spokes annual surveys of Scottish cycle project investment**, which it calls “**the most detailed and comprehensive overview of annual public sector cycle expenditure available.**”

Spice Research Briefings are background documents to inform MSPs and others in the Parliament. They are impartial and quite independent of the governing party. See ... [www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research).

\*Note - the table on p7 updates the one in the SPICe Briefing.

**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 Government 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](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) [stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mike@cycling-edinburgh.org.uk).

**Very Easy** - [www.greenerleith.org](http://www.greenerleith.org) - search for 'bike rides'

**Weekends** - 'Mellow Velo' - Hostel/ B&B w'ends - evolved from Spokes weekends group - [www.mellowvelo.org.uk](http://www.mellowvelo.org.uk).

**More Edinburgh rides/events** [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.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).

Nov 6/7 UK Cyclenation Conference Edinburgh. See p3.

### Thur 25 Nov: Spokes Autumn Public Meeting

#### Tackling Bike Storage – moving forward with practical solutions at home and work

- **TPI Consultants** Solutions for tenements and flats
- **Gary Bell, Bike Station** Workplace bike parking
- **Angela Hull** Tollcross Energy & Carbon Saving Project – actual stairwell bike parking installations

*Venue:* Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge

*Time:* 7.30; open 6.45 for coffee, stall, exhibition and chat

*Meeting info:* [jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com](mailto:jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com) 664 0526

*Spokes storage project:* [spokesbikestorage@tusks.org.uk](mailto:spokesbikestorage@tusks.org.uk)

Dec 5 Ride Planet Earth – see opposite

Dec 12 Bathgate-Airdrie Expected opening of new *Glasgow to Edinburgh railway* and of reconstructed *Airdrie-Bathgate railway path!!* Details soon at [www.gobike.org/rides.php](http://www.gobike.org/rides.php).

## SPOKES WEBSITE

There's lots of useful info - find it via tabs at the top of the screen, or links from relevant news stories. Including...

- **Inspirational papers/documents** [downloads – technical]
- **Maintenance review** [downloads – submissions – local]
- **Bike storage project** [downloads – technical – tenements]
- **Scotland bike policy** [links – legislation & national]
- **Local councils transport & planning** [links – council]
- **A90 phase 1 plans** [downloads – local – Edinburgh – A90]
- **Public meeting reports** [downloads – odds & ends]
- **Spokes traffic counts** [downloads – technical – counts]
- **Spokes competitions 2004-10** [downloads – odds & ends]
- **Kudos for Spokes funding survey** [news 28 September]

### SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members not yet renewed for 2010 receive a reminder in this mailing. If you are up to date you'll get a 2011 renewal form in Feb/Mar – please don't try to renew in advance!

### SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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Bulletin text may be used freely if you credit us and give our website. Created with Openoffice.org. Next Issue February.



## RIDE PLANET EARTH

RPE is a worldwide grassroots campaign highlighting cycling as a practical, visible action people can take to reduce carbon footprints. RPE encourages local events during international negotiations, and publicises concerned citizens who cycle vast distances to raise awareness, like founder **Kim Nguyen's** 2009 Australia->Asia->Copenhagen ride. RPE's motivation is "the commitment ordinary people have to protecting the planet for future generations ... and raising awareness about climate change impacts on the developing world." RPE is all-volunteer, and is funded by personal donations.



Shanghai, China, Ride Planet Earth

The international grass-roots nature of RPE is its real inspiration. Photos from **Edinburgh's 2009 ride** appear in the online slideshow at [rideplanetearth.org](http://rideplanetearth.org), alongside RPE rides from Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas.

**Join our Dec 5 ride during Mexico climate talks.** Note this is not a short 'demo': it is a Spokes winter Sunday ride of 20ish miles [see general Sunday Ride info]. Our members **Mark Lazarowicz MP** and **Sarah Boyack MSP** [both long-time climate campaigners] will speak briefly at lunch.

**Meet:** 10am, Usher Hall, Lothian Rd [keep pavement clear!]

**Lunch:** 12.30 at *Out of the Blue*, Dalmeny St. Lunch is £6.50 [soup/sandwiches/tea/coffee/cake] payable at the door.

**You must book (by 20 Nov) to ensure enough lunches for everyone:** Email [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk) with names & any diets [subject line *Ride Planet Earth*]. Or phone 313 2114.

**If it's too wet:** please come to your booked lunch anyway.

**If 20 miles is too far:** please book & come to lunch!

### HELP INFLUENCE HOLYROOD MANIFESTOS..

Parties are preparing manifestos for the May 2011 vote. Along with 60 other organisations, from RSPB to Oxfam, Spokes is asking parties to consider the SCCS manifesto [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland] which urges 10% of transport investment for walking and cycling. **For more info, and a quick e-action see Oct 2 news item on Spokes website.**

## HOW & WHAT

- **Tramline crash info?** See p4 - "Princes Street Now."
- **Use North Berwick trains?** See website Sep 16<sup>th</sup> news item, and *please complete the survey* on your next trip(s).
- **Problem with youngsters on offroad paths?** See news item Sep 25<sup>th</sup> on website. Report it before problems grow.
- **Know a non-cyclist living in a tenement?** Pass them our non-cyclist online survey! - website Oct 9 news item.
- **In Case of Emergency'** If you have a mobile phone, add a contact called **ICE** (or ICE1, ICE2...) with the number(s) to be phoned if you are injured. Many police, paramedics etc now look for this on a casualty's mobile.

# CONSULTATIONS

Please respond by the date shown to any consultation which concerns you. Copy your comments to Spokes.

## EDINBURGH CANAL STRATEGY - by December 3

Canal proposals in Edinburgh, with 'hubs' at Ratho, Wester Hailes and between Harrison Park and the basin.

The towpath is a hugely valuable traffic-free link to the city's heart. But its width makes considerate use by cyclists (and by all users) of supreme importance.

Your consultation response could include...

- ◆ suggest improved accesses/links to surrounding areas [e.g. Fountainbridge cycle lanes, linked via Harrison Park].
- ◆ ideas for reducing potential conflicts with other users
- ◆ emphasising the value of the towpath
- ◆ responding to detailed points in the consultation

Send your comments to: kate.hopper@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Consultation details: search for 'canal strategy' at www.edinburgh.gov.uk. Public meetings not yet announced.

See also: spokes website – downloads – advice – considerate.

## HOUSEHOLDER PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT

- by Jan 14. One aim is that minor and uncontroversial development should no longer need planning permission. Possibly this could make it easier to install communal bike parking for stairwells, backgreens, shared stores etc.

Details: <http://register.scotland.gov.uk/s/2188>.

[We welcome points from anyone with an understanding of the technicalities: email [spokesbikestorage@tusks.org.uk](mailto:spokesbikestorage@tusks.org.uk)]

## SCOTLAND'S LAND USE STRATEGY – by Dec 17

We've not yet looked at this document: copy us your ideas. Important topics include location of new development; and safe accessibility where the only option now is fast roads.

Find it at [www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/current](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/current).

Very relevant: In July the Scottish Parliament's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee reported on the relationship between transport and land use policies. See [scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ticc](http://scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ticc) [Cttee Reports].



On Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Spokes hosts the UK Cyclenation conference [[cyclenation.org.uk](http://cyclenation.org.uk)] - some 100 cycle campaign delegates are expected for the first Scottish conference in 10 years – a great chance to meet other UK campaigners.

Progress on growing cycling in Edinburgh and London will be compared, with speakers from the cities [Transport Convener Cllr Mackenzie from Edinburgh] followed by a commentary from Spokes's Dave du Feu and new chief executive of the London Cycling Campaign Ashok Sinha.

Other topics include Spending Review impact on cycle policy, tenement storage, training, cycle hire schemes, shared space – and there's an evening ceilidh. A report and maybe videos will later appear on the Spokes website.

All Spokes members welcome. More info: see website or contact Ian Maxwell 07887 500667 [imaxwell@gn.apc.org](mailto:imaxwell@gn.apc.org).

Thanks to a member's letter Edinburgh Zoo website now tells you how to get there by bike, not just car, bus and train as before. Please do the same for other destinations!

# BIKE PATH ART

Our 2010 summer competition sought ideas for artworks on local paths. Our top two prizewinners had a very special appeal: to experience them fully you have to actually cycle on or through them. They are not just to cycle to or stop and look at: rather, they provide dynamic experiences of sound and/or sensation from cycling along the path, as well as embodying a great sense of fun.

Several themes emerged from the entries ...

- ◆ **Fun!** acoustic effects, things to discover (a treasure hunt, fruit, semi-hidden sculptures), the joy of motion.
- ◆ **Raising awareness/usage** of paths and destinations.
- ◆ **Encouraging children and family cycling.**
- ◆ **Attractive functional extras:** signs, racks, seats etc.
- ◆ **Community involvement** in design and management.

On our website [Oct 8 news item] you can find: all entries, a report on the results and web links to prize-donors.

The top entries were judged to be...

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Oliver Brookes                       | Undulating landscaped bike paths - Bike 'Whoo-ops!'                            |
| 2 Jon Jewitt                           | Sound-generating bike paths  |
| 3 Dave du Feu [no prize as in group]   | Be Fruitful: path-side plantings of fruit bushes, with hints at entries        |
| 4 Katharine Taylor                     | Train design for the side of a bike-path railway bridge                        |
| 5 Tim Smith                            | Railway/canal paths & the navy   |
| 6 Tim Smith [no prize as second entry] | Fork in the path at fork in the path [NB: see picture online for legible text] |

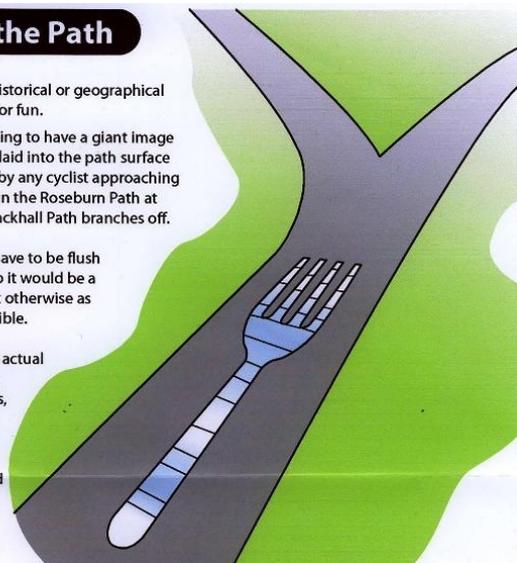
## A Fork in the Path

This visual pun has no historical or geographical significance, but is just for fun.

I think it would be amusing to have a giant image of a fork (eating kind) inlaid into the path surface where it would be seen by any cyclist approaching the fork (ie 'Y' junction) in the Roseburn Path at Craighleith, where the Blackhall Path branches off.

The fork image would have to be flush with the path surface, so it would be a flattened, plan view, but otherwise as realistic-looking as possible.

I'm assuming that using actual metal for the fork shape would be too dangerous, as this would be rather like multiple tram lines! Instead, I think a good effect could be achieved with some sort of ceramic mosaic.



|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 Angus Ivory      | Bike-shape objects for kids to climb |
| 8 Corrine Anderson | Decorative bike racks                |
| 9 Peter Hawkins    | Livingstonehenge                     |
| 10 Katharine Wake  | 3D map of the surrounding area       |
| 11 Malcolm Jack    | Cycling-related sculpture-signs      |
| 12 Lynn Molleson   | Geo-caching trail                    |

It would be great if some of this inspiration became actual path art. We are passing the ideas to various bodies - please contact Spokes if you have suggestions.

Judging: done anonymously by Spokes Resources Group helped by Ben Tindall [[www.benjaminindallarchitects.co.uk](http://www.benjaminindallarchitects.co.uk)]

Prizes: many thanks to our prize-donors: Jupiter Artland, Camera Obscura/World of Illusions, Lauriston Castle, Gallery of Modern Art, Scottish Seabird Centre, Sustrans, Edinburgh Bicycle, Out of the Blue, Engine Shed cafe.

# LOCAL NEWS: ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN / TENEMENTS / SUSTRANS / POLITICIANS ...

If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, tell your local councillors! – see page 8 for contacts.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN

The *Active Travel Action Plan* [ATAP], including the *Cycling Action Plan*, has been approved by Edinburgh City Council. For a summary, commentary and link to the full plan, see *Spokes website*, September 24 news item.

The *core objective*: “to increase the numbers of people walking and cycling, both as a means of transport and for leisure.”

The *headline cycling targets for 2020*:

- ◆ 15% of journeys to work by bike [currently 5%-6%]
- ◆ 10% of all journeys by bike [currently around 2%]



By Sep 2011: public bike counter

It will be delivered through two programmes, *main road upgrades* [A1, A7, A8, A90, etc] and *area improvements* [first being the already announced south-central Edinburgh corridor – see *stop press* opposite].

Spokes does have some criticisms: for example, the omission of Princes Street, Picardy Place, etc, despite the central area's crucial role [Spokes 107 & below]. But overall we are delighted and strongly support the plan. The biggest uncertainty is **future funding and staffing**. As the committee report on ATAP says,

*“Any withdrawal of Scottish Government CWSS funding is likely to have serious implications ... the ambitious cycling targets are unlikely to be met in this scenario.”*

## PRINCES STREET FUTURE

At Spokes public meetings a year ago Transport Convener **Cllr Mackenzie** and Head of Transport **Marshall Poulton** told the audiences to expect public consultation in 2010 on the long-term future of Princes Street, and that this would include the option of a European-style cycleroute on one side of the tram [Spokes 107].

However, a wider study including George St is now underway with public consultation expected in 2011. One hopeful sign is that **Gehl architects** are drafting initial recommendations. Their recent booklet *Our Cities Ourselves* is truly inspirational [download free at [www.gehlarchitects.com](http://www.gehlarchitects.com)]. **However there will be pressures from many sides and no certainty about the outcome – continued lobbying of councillors remains vital.**

## PRINCES STREET NOW

The slow litany of cyclist crashes in Princes Street continues. A **big problem** seems to be when someone cycling parallel to the tramlines is forced by traffic or other conditions to move sideways unexpectedly, thus meeting the tramline at a bad angle.

*Useful info on our website* [downloads – public transport – tram]:

- **How to report a tram-related bike crash** [& *why it matters*]
- **Advice note on cycling near tramlines**
- **Advice note on claiming after a tramline-related crash**

## TOP PEOPLE'S RIDE

Spokes in June organised a ride for Edinburgh councillors and senior officials, to show Edinburgh's good and not-so-good cycle provision, in the hope that procedures and decisions in future can lead to more of the good. See *June 27 news item on our website for notes describing the route, the good and the bad*.

We were delighted with the ‘top people’ who came along [see below] and enjoyed the ride; even the high-up participant who gained a clear understanding of the bad Hotel Missoni road layout when he struck the mirror of a car encroaching into the cycle lane! Maybe our ride encouraged some of the positive moves described on this page [e.g. ‘maintenance’].



**Which of your leaders can you identify??** photo: Euan Renton  
**Cllr Gordon Mackenzie**, LibDem, Transport Convener  
**Cllr Tom Buchanan**, SNP transport spokesperson  
**Cllr Alison Johnstone**, Green group leader  
**Cllr Cammy Day**, Labour  
**Cllr Tim McKay**, LibDem, Spokes member  
**Dave Anderson**, Director of City Development [transport, planning, economic development; next under the Chief Exec]  
**David Lyon**, Services for Communities, Road Maintenance Head  
**Phil Noble** and **Chris Brace**, Transport Planning section  
**Karen Stevenson**, Planning Dept, Streetscape section

## MAINTENANCE

A huge bugbear, and a deterrent to using a bike in Edinburgh, is poor maintenance of coloured surfaces, lines and the road itself. Transport Convener **Cllr Mackenzie** appears to be really taking this seriously in terms of changes to policies and procedures – the first transport convener to do so. There are 3 aspects...

The Council spends a big £10-20m yearly on **road, path and footway renewal**, using a system of prioritisation. These rules are being revised in line with ATAP to give higher priority to

surfaces affecting buses, cycling and walking. Spokes has submitted comments [website: downloads – submissions – local].

Some £7m yearly goes to **local and/or urgent maintenance**: urgent potholes, coloured surfacing, white lines, etc. Priorities are decided by council area managers, influenced by Clarence reports, councillors, community councils, etc – but with no systematic council-wide priorities. But! - ATAP makes a hugely significant promise, **by April 2011** to “*establish regular programmed maintenance of lines and coloured surfacing ... for onroad bus and cycle facilities.*” It is not clear how this will be done – Spokes urges that some of the budget is 'top sliced' to enable this promised regular programme.

Third is **offroad path vegetation and winter salting**. ATAP promises *by April 2011* higher priority on vegetation and *by Nov 2011* to amend winter priorities. Again it is unclear how this will be done – there is talk of involving local communities and users.

A **temporary problem** is an embargo on non-urgent main-road maintenance, to avoid traffic delays until the tram opens(!)

## BIKE STORAGE

The Spokes **flats/tenements bike storage project** [Spokes 107] has progressed well. We hope to have online and printed advice notes around the time of our Bike Storage public meeting [p2].

The most complex problems have turned out to be not the 'hardware' but 'softer' issues like planning, building regulations, neighbour communication, etc. Many people need urgent answers and come up with their own solution, like a Sheffield 'toastrack' in a wide stairwell. Such local solutions often work well, but can fall foul of some regulations if known officially.

Where possible, the simplest way to avoid these problems is by storing the bike in your flat. Sometimes this can be fairly easy – for example with hooks or by choosing a Brompton or other fully-folding bike. Our notes will of course also cover in-stair, backgreen and onstreet/offsite options: storage in-flat is often impossible, so communal solutions are vital too.



*Ceiling hooks behind door*  
Photo – Melanie Main

## SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS MASSIVE PROBLEM

Within days of us posting on our website an online survey about storage problems, 100 people had completed it. **Although self-selected this response, and the results, highlight just how serious a problem is bike storage for many flat-dwellers.**

86% had problems storing their bike, and for 32% this was so serious that it reduced their bike use. Only 14% had no problem! A few were unable to own a bike at all.. “*No storage facilities in flat, and unable to keep in the stair. I would love to have a bike!*” Bike congestion [often 'dead' bikes] was also revealed, with a remarkable 52% saying other people's bikes were a problem.

**A keenness to act on practical proposals was also clear** - 41% would pay for home storage equipment, and a few for collective facilities, 85% would contact neighbours on shared solutions and 52% would lobby councillors for public initiatives.

**For survey results, including the full remarkable range of detailed comments, and for more on our project, go to...**

[www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress-downloads-technical-tenements](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress-downloads-technical-tenements)

## SUSTRANS LOCALLY

Thanks to Sustrans's increased 2010/11 funds [p1] they are working jointly with local councils on all the projects below.

**The same is going on across Scotland: 100 projects in all!** (except in a very few councils who are unable or unwilling to raise the required 50% match funding). **Please help us ensure funding in future years, by lobbying your MSPs** [see p1,7,8].

★ **Kirkcaldy** town-wide walk/cycle project, green corridor from station to sea, bike parking, 'community streets', traffic calming etc. If successful this could be a model for other areas – possibly including parts of Edinburgh, under ATAP.

★ **Dunbar** - upgrading Route 76 near cement works

★ **Hopetoun** – coastal path upgrade including new ramp

★ **Loanhead** – disused railway cyclistroute to Straiton Ponds

★ **Peebles** - next phase of route to Innerleithen/Glentress

★ **Linlithgow** - town centre towpath surfacing

★ **East Lothian** - station cycle info boards [cf Spokes 105]

★ **Rosyth** route to station – upgrade

## INSIDE EDINBURGH

★ **Leith-Seafield** [funds towards plan preparation] – see p1

★ **Portobello** – Christian path surfacing

★ **Lochend** – path surface completion Lochend to Seafield

★ **North Edinburgh** – surface from 5-ways jn to Warriston

★ **Craiglockhart** – access improvements to canal towpath

★ **Wester Drylaw** – access improvements to North Ed path

## OTHER EDINBURGH

Using other funds: its own cycle budget, government CWSS funds, developer money, former-RTP money [more on these funds in Spokes 107] Edinburgh in 2010/11 should also see...

★ **Fountainbridge** – convert the roundabout to lights and complete the route from canal to Lothian Road/ West End

★ **Innocent path** – new link to Peffermill Rd, towards hospital

★ **Craigleith** – toucan from Roseburn path to retail park [with onwards connection to Botanicus hoped in 2011/12]

★ **A90/Forth Bridge** – phase 1 of new/upgraded cyclistroute

★ **Harrison Park** – link canal to West Bryson Road

★ **West Colinton** – improve drainage on WoL path

★ **Canal** – trial section of solar LED lighting

★ **Onstreet bike parking** – installations continue

★ **Kings Buildings to Centre** – design & consult [Spokes 105]

**STOP PRESS - This consultation is to be in November. Details on Spokes website as soon as we have them.**

## THE MONEY

In the present financial climate it must be stressed that...

◆ *Promoting shift from car to cycle/walk is a very cost-effective way of tackling urban transport/congestion problems* – quite apart from its benefits to health, business and environment.

◆ *Much of Edinburgh's cycle investment is from outside sources* – Sustrans, CWSS, developers, etc. But Sustrans and funds like CWSS rely on government support. **Thus the best way to ensure ongoing investment by Edinburgh - and all councils - is to lobby MSPs for the government to lift cycling from its under-1% of the transport budget. It's up to you!!** [see p1,7,8]

# EDINBURGH BICYCLE COOPERATIVE

New Autumn/Winter catalogue out now. Tips, ideas and products to help you to

## FREEWHEEL WINTER AWAY...



Email enquiries@edinburghbicycle.com or phone 0845 257 0808 for your copy.



Thom asks:

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Helios Duo 16 speed £920. E: [laid-back@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:laid-back@blueyonder.co.uk) for quotes and test rides. Official Dealer for ICE, Challenge, Nazca & Raptobike recumbent bikes and tikes. Demos/tours by appointment.



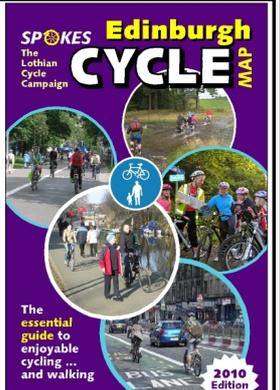
### Shake off the Winter Blues with a Snowdrop Tour of the Scottish Borders 20-26 February 2011

Cycle through breathtaking Borders countryside, seeing fabulous spreads of snowdrops and hearing stories of the region. Contact Storybikes: 07762 000 039 / [andy@storybikes.co.uk](mailto:andy@storybikes.co.uk) [www.storybikes.co.uk](http://www.storybikes.co.uk)

### The unbelievably excellent SPOKES Cycle Maps of Edinburgh, Glasgow Mid, East, West Lothian

Midlothian & Ed £6 each, incl post; others £5. **Specials:** £1 off each map after the first. Ask for *My Favourite Ride* free with any order by post.

Spokes maps may not be copied without permission. If you see this done please email [tim@vizualz.co.uk](mailto:tim@vizualz.co.uk)



#### ADVERTS IN SPOKES!!

- exploring Netherlands on a Laidback [photo: A Roach]
- countless Spokes members use ScotRail and Edinburgh Bike Co-op
- some are StoryBiking
- and two cyclists sadly in crashes are being helped by Thompsons Scotland...



For a day away, or a longer break, take your cycle on ScotRail trains. Cycles are carried free on all services, and we provide cycle storage facilities at most of our stations. Find out more at [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk) or contact us on 0845 601 5929.



# NATIONAL ISSUES

## CYCLE FUNDING

Thanks to new funding under CAPS (Cycling Action Plan for Scotland) cycling investment in Scotland this financial year in cash terms should return to its level when the SNP government came to power [though still less as a percentage of total transport spending, less in real terms, i.e. including inflation, and less per head of population].

The table shows all main sources of cycle investment in Scotland. Our previous 2010/11 estimate [Bulletin 107] has been revised, as CAPS money was higher than had been rumoured - it has particularly boosted cycle project investment across Scotland through Sustrans. This helps compensate for the earlier severe loss of cycle funds caused by the government's transfer of capital funding to councils from Regional Transport Partnerships.

If the government's 2020 target for 10% of trips by bike is to be met, this year's recovery must be just stage 1 of a continuing increase [see p1&p8]. As the Parliament's all-party **Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change Committee** concluded in its *Inquiry into Active Travel*<sup>1</sup>, "this target will be meaningless if the Scottish Government fails to match its stated ambition with realistic funding." The Committee also called for properly targeted funding mechanisms: a point stressed in our submission to the Inquiry.<sup>1</sup> [<sup>1</sup>both documents are at [spokes.org.uk/wordpress-downloads-submissions](http://spokes.org.uk/wordpress-downloads-submissions)]

| Source                 | £m        | 05/06               | 06/07       | 07/08             | 08/09       | 09/10       | 10/11est    |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Council own[*]         |           | 0.8                 | 1.0         | 1.0               | 3.5         | 2.8         | 2.5?&       |
| Partnerships [*]       |           | 1.1                 | 3.7         | 4.9               | 0.7#        | 0.6         | 0.6?        |
| Cycle CWSS [*]         |           | 3.0                 | 3.3         | 3.3               | 3.9         | 3.6         | 4.5>?       |
| Public Tr Fund [*]     |           | 3.4                 | 0.7         | PT fund now ended |             |             |             |
| Sustrans [+]           |           | 2.0                 | 7.8         | 7.8               | 5.0         | 3.9         | 7.7         |
| Cycling Scot [+]       |           | 0.3                 | 1.6         | 1.6               | 1.5         | 0.9         | 1.3         |
| SCSP [*<]              |           | Project not started |             |                   | 0.5         | 1.7         | 0.7?        |
| Trunk roads[=]         |           | 2.0                 | 2.0         | 2.0               | 1.0         | 1.4         | 2.0         |
| Other [*\$]            |           | 0.9                 | 1.1         | 1.1               | 2.1         | 1.5         | 2.5?        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>£m</b> | <b>13.5</b>         | <b>21.2</b> | <b>21.7</b>       | <b>18.2</b> | <b>16.4</b> | <b>21.8</b> |
| <b>Total transport</b> |           | 1488                | 2248        | 2335              | 2255        | 2502        | 2457        |
| <b>Pence per head</b>  |           | <b>265p</b>         | <b>414p</b> | <b>422p</b>       | <b>352p</b> | <b>316p</b> | <b>418p</b> |
| <b>Equiv % cycling</b> |           | 0.91%               | 0.94%       | 0.93%             | 0.81%       | 0.66%       | 0.89%       |

\* Based in whole or part on Spokes annual survey [earlier Bulletins].  
 + Total govt grant (includes 10/11 CAPS funds). *Sustrans* includes some walk-only. *Cycling Scot* includes child training & CFC fund.  
 < *Smarter Choices Smarter Places* – 08/09 & 09/10 survey results. For 10/11 assume 1/3 of SC fund is bike spend [£0.7m of £2.2m].  
 > *CWSS* - SG is asking councils to consider allocating 36%+, ideally 50%+, of their share of the £9.1m CWSS total to cycling in 10/11, so total guesstimated higher than in 09/10.  
 & *Council own funding* – assumed continued fall likely, due to cuts and ongoing reallocation of former RTP money away from transport.  
 ? *Councils* to be surveyed later for some/all this 2010/11 data  
 = *Transport Scotland* – No reply, despite 2 requests. CAPS report gives 08/09-10/11 data. Pre-08 assumed based on Minister's letter to Mike Pringle MSP [18.8.08].  
 # Only SPT received capital funding from govt after 07/08.  
 \$ *Other* includes Council 'other,' SG Climate Challenge Fund, lottery, Connect 2 (including CAPS Connect2 contribution) etc.  
*See Spokes 107 and 104 for more background notes.*

## TRANSPORT NETWORKS

"The Sustrans National Cycle Network carries one third of the number of journeys on the UK rail network, generating huge economic benefits in health and carbon savings. Yet it is the only UK national transport network with no obligation on government to support, develop or maintain, either at local or national level." [Sustrans 2009 report - search for *Moving Forward* at [sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk)]



Sustrans is seeking a new law requiring government to develop and maintain a national network of paths for walking and cycling. [The Hub, Sustrans, Autumn 2010] *Just like road or rail, a bike path can be used for leisure too! - and it's more fun* [National route 7, Kirbarchan/Lochwinnoch, Jon Jewitt]

## TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government has merged Transport Scotland (which dealt with trunk roads and rail) with the Transport Directorate (which handled local transport including cycling). All transport is now under Transport Scotland [[www.transportscotland.gov.uk](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk), Chief Exec **David Middleton**].

We really hope this means *transport integration* and *active travel* move up the TS agenda: **Spokes was very troubled by former Transport Scotland's do-minimum attitude to bike integration.** Examples include ...

- ◆ The planned **Gogar rail/tram station** will have a vital A8 pedestrian underpass: crossing a dreadful road, and a potential cycle link to Edinburgh's International Business Gateway, the airport and more. But, despite 28 objectors and pleas from council transport planners, the underpass is to be *get off and push*, it leads only to the station (with no direct link to existing paths) and it is to close at night.

- ◆ In reopening the **Bathgate-Airdrie railway** TS rightly has replaced the Sustrans path – but has *not* ensured good bike linkages to stations from nearby towns including **Blackburn, Whitburn, East Whitburn, Armadale** – all ideal cycling distances. TS dismiss this as being up to the council – who have no money for it. Given the total project cost, this is a shocking example of non-integrated transport. TS leaves cyclists to compete with peak traffic on busy roads: hardly promotion of cycling or bike/rail!

- ◆ **Emails to TS** asking for information for the Spokes annual financial survey have not been answered – unlike emails to the government's Sustainable Transport Team which always receive a prompt and helpful response.

- ◆ Transport Scotland has a major role in specifying new trains. In July **Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson** via his Private Secretary asked TS to respond to a Spokes request for a meeting over reduced bike space in planned new North Berwick rolling stock [[spokes.org.uk/workpress-downloads-public-transport-and-spokes-107](http://spokes.org.uk/workpress-downloads-public-transport-and-spokes-107)]. **Despite this Ministerial request, Transport Scotland has not replied.**

ctd from p1 **FUNDING 2011-14**

### WHY REALLOCATE TRANSPORT FUNDING?

- ◆ In Scotland 1%-2% of journeys are by bike, and the official government target in CAPS is 10% by 2020. Yet, even after this year's partial recovery cycling investment comprises under 1% of transport spending [p7].
- ◆ The government set the 10% target – *the government must fund it!* Our annual survey over the years shows abundantly clearly that a funding lead from government – whether in grants, matched funds or bidding funds – is essential if councils are to invest substantially in cycling.
- ◆ Annual trunk road spend has *risen by over £200m* since the SNP came to power, whilst annual cycling investment averaged under £20m [p7]. *Total cycle investment could be doubled with just 10% of the rise in trunk road spend.*
- ◆ It's not just **Spokes!** A proper cycle share of transport investment has been repeatedly urged over the last three years in reports from the Scottish Parliament's **Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change Committee** and the **Sustainable Development Commission**, as well as by many professional and expert transport, health and environment bodies – as in the ADPH report [next para].

### WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- ◆ We support the **Assn of Directors of Public Health** call for cycling/walking to get 10% of transport budgets [report signed by over 100 transport, medical, and other organisations: [adph.org.uk/policies\\_and\\_publications.php](http://adph.org.uk/policies_and_publications.php)]
- ◆ The **Stop Climate Chaos Scotland manifesto for the 2011 Holyrood election** has the same proposal [see p3, 'Holyrood Manifestos,' and see Oct 2 news on Spokes website].
- ◆ **For the immediate 2011/12 budget** Spokes urges..
  - **A £10m councils walk/cycle fund**, replacing CWSS, to ensure a basic level of investment throughout Scotland.
  - **Maintain Sustrans and Cycling Scotland** at least at their present restored levels, total around £10m.
  - **A new £30m fund open to bids by any organisation:** councils/ regional transport partnerships for big projects, ScotRail, British Waterways, voluntary groups, employer bodies, etc. It could be a walk/cycle fund only, or perhaps part of a wider **Transport Carbon Reduction Fund**. **The £50m total is £10 per head, the minimum needed for substantial bike use growth, based on European and English Cycle Demonstration Towns experience.**

### YOU CAN HELP – PLEASE DO!!

Please don't see budgets as a dry subject which don't affect you – they mean **real projects in Edinburgh, the Lothians, and right across Scotland!** In Edinburgh, *“Withdrawal of Government CWSS funding is likely to have serious implications... the ambitious cycling targets are unlikely to be met in this scenario”* [see p4 – ATAP].

**Please ask your MSPs for proper cycle investment in the 2011/12 budget and 2011/14 Spending Review. Also for cycling investment in their party manifestos for the May 2011 Holyrood elections.** [Contacts opposite or see p3, *Holyrood Manifestos*]. **Send us any useful replies.**



The Bike Station **Better Way to Work** campaign has now helped 132 companies and run 2 major challenges – with 2329 cyclists [336 new] and 24674 bike journeys logged. For more info see [findabetterwaytowork.org](http://findabetterwaytowork.org) and Spokes 106.

### ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

- Adult cycle training** 668.1996 [ruairidh@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) - transport - Clarence or 0800.232323. Or use [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk) and [www.clearthattrail.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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

### 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](mailto:firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk). For example, [Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk). **LABOUR**  
**SNP** Sarah Boyack, Ed Central Fiona Hyslop, List Malcolm Chisholm, Ed N Kenny MacAskill, Ed East Mary Mulligan, Linlithgow Angela Constance, Livingston Rhona Brankin, Midlothian Ian McKee, List George Foulkes, List Shirley-Anne Somerville, List Iain Gray, East Lothian  
**LIBDEM** Mike Pringle, Ed South Margaret Smith, Ed W  
**CONSERVATIVE** David McLetchie, Pentlands Gavin Brown, List  
**INDEPENDENT** MacDonal, List  
**GREEN** Robin Harper, List Margo

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

[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. Phil.Wheeler@edinburgh.gov.uk. Except that E.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

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

| Council   | Power    | Transport Convener              |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Edinburgh | Lib/SNP* | Cllr Gordon Mackenzie, LibDE.   |
| Lothian   | SNP/Lib  | Cllr Paul McLennan, SNP W.      |
| Lothian   | SNP/Ind  | Cllr Martyn Day, SNP Midlothian |
| Labour*   |          | Cllr Russell Imrie, Lab         |

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

**More info including Westminster MPs & European MEPs:**  
[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com), [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)  
[www.mysociety.org](http://www.mysociety.org), [politics.guardian.co.uk/askaristotle](http://politics.guardian.co.uk/askaristotle)

**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](http://www.spokes.org.uk) or **send your name, address, email address and donation [you choose how much]** to Spokes [address on p1].