

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

### 10% BUDGET SAFE

The Edinburgh Council 2017 election result means that the city's UK-leading cycle funding, 10% of transport capital and revenue budgets, looks safe.

The election result was complex, with no party near to an overall majority. A continued SNP/Labour coalition, with Green support where policies agree, looks likely; but if that fails the SNP, now the largest party, plans a minority administration. **All three of these parties have a clear manifesto commitment to the 10% policy, so it looks guaranteed** [see p6 for manifesto details].

It's also excellent news for the city economy as quality cycle projects can be 50/50 match-funded by Sustrans - Edinburgh gets **over £2.5m** Community Links funding from Sustrans this year [p6]. And of course a healthier population and a greener city bring many further indirect economic benefits [Spokes 126, Business Supplement].

**A big thank-you** to members/readers who contacted councillors about manifestos, from last December when we first wrote to parties. **Now is the time to follow it up - email your new councillors about local cycling needs!**

Many thanks too to [WalkCycleVote.scot](http://WalkCycleVote.scot) who contacted candidates across Scotland - a huge task - and lobbied for % promises. Spokes donated to WCV costs.



### SPOKES IS 40 !!

There's a Spokes bikeography and some historic photos in our centre-page supplement, and we are planning an exhibition and special events in the autumn. If you've any ideas, useful photos, old video footage, or want to help, get in touch. Meanwhile we had this nice email...

*"I learned to cycle through a project supported by Spokes since its inception, Edinburgh Bike Station. Then someone dropped a Spokes Bulletin in my basket and I've been reading it ever since. Now I am manager of Glasgow Bike Station - that's how Spokes and cycling changed my life!"*

**Did Spokes change your life too? - let us know!**

Spokes public meeting, June 14 - see page 2

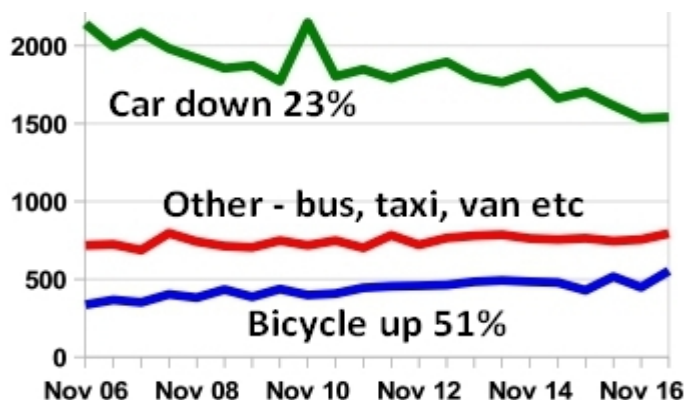
### TACKLING ROAD DANGER

with Police Scotland, Mark Ruskell MSP and more

### A GREAT LEGACY!!

The new Edinburgh Council has a great transport policy legacy from its predecessor, with bike use rising and car falling on inner-city peak-period journeys. **Its challenge is to maintain and enhance this progress to a quieter, safer, less polluted, more people-friendly city centre.** Tell your new councillors what you'd like to see - email them or visit their surgery. [Find them at [writetothem.com](http://writetothem.com)].

Our May traffic count found bikes **up 7%** from last year and **up 51%** from 2007, our first May count - whilst cars were **down 4.6%** on last year and **23%** on 2007. This corresponds well with the last Census which found Edinburgh to be the only Scottish council to achieve a drop in the % of journeys to work made by car [see p6].



Spokes traffic counts, Nov 2006 to May 2017, showing the total of each vehicle type 8-9am at our 4 count points

Even on bike-unfriendly Lothian Road 26% of citybound vehicles were bikes. Experience around the UK suggests this figure would be boosted yet further by protected cyclistoutes [Spokes 127 p4] - and falling car use should make this easier, both technically and politically.

**More details + links to full data:** [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [10.5.17].



1000 people at **Glasgow Pedal on Parliament 2017!!** With its segregated main-road South West Way and flourishing bike hire scheme (currently being extended) could Glasgow topple Edinburgh's cycling crown? *Pic: John Lauder*

**Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by contacting your MSPs, MP, councillors and the press periodically. See back page for contacts. Ask them to raise your point with the relevant Minister / Convener. Send us the results!**

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

[Spokes members get the EdFoC program in their mailing]

**June 8-18 ... [edfoc.org.uk](http://edfoc.org.uk) ...** A superb collection of talks, rides, films, events ... including the following by Spokes ...

**Summer Public Meeting : all welcome : Weds 14 June**

A superb event in Edinburgh Festival of Cycling 2017

# Tackling Road Danger

We all want quality bike infrastructure, but most roads will still be unprotected for the near future, so how can danger be reduced?

**Hear and debate the issues with the police, politicians and road-danger researchers**

♦ #OpClosePass	PC Dominic Doyle	Edinburgh Divisional Road Policing Unit
♦ Reducing danger from large vehicles	Dr Caroline Brown Lecturer	The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University
♦ Parliamentary Bill for a 20mph urban default limit	Mark Ruskell MSP	Mid-Scotland and Fife, Green MSP
♦ Road danger for vulnerable road users, by age	Suzanne Meade Researcher	Transport Research Institute, Edinburgh Napier University

Four short talks, then audience QA and panel discussion ... chaired by

**Kirsty Lewin**

trustee of Sustrans UK

# SPOKES

For meeting tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg

**STARTS 7.30PM, DOORS OPEN 6.45, ENDS 9.30**  
**Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh**

☺ Come early ☺ coffee ☺ Spokes stall ☺ exhibition ☺ chat

**Thurs 15 June - City Chambers, 7.45-9.45**

## Spokes Bike Breakfast

Stalls, rolls, tea/coffee, councillors to lobby, chain clean, Bike Co-op £50 voucher draw, police security marking, etc.

**Speakers** [8.30ish] We'll invite a **senior councillor** from the new council and an **MSP** from the Cross-Party Cycling Group.

**More info:** See poster or email [bikebreakfast\[AT\]spokes.org.uk](mailto:bikebreakfast[AT]spokes.org.uk)

**Other Spokes stalls (help welcome!) include ...**

June 3-4 **Meadows Festival** [meadowsfestival.org](http://meadowsfestival.org)

June 10 **Leith Gala Day** [leithfestival.com](http://leithfestival.com)

June 17 **Canal Festival** [edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk](http://edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk)

July 12 & 19; Aug 2 & 9 **West Lothian Wild Wednesdays**  
Details will be at [livi20milers.blogspot.co.uk](http://livi20milers.blogspot.co.uk).

Aug 20 **Linlithgow Canal Fun Day** [lucs.org.uk/canal-fun-day](http://lucs.org.uk/canal-fun-day)  
Sep 23, Oct 28 **Farmers Market** Castle Terrace, morning.  
[edinburghfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://edinburghfarmersmarket.co.uk)

**Other events ...** See [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) [events column]

## Regular rides ...

**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.

**Other Edinburgh rides -** [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk) includes 'very easy' rides, regular rides, weekend rides.

**On all rides ... Please ride considerably and carefully. You are entirely responsible for your own safety.**

## 2017 IDEAS COMPETITION

Our great *Summer Competition* tradition continues...



A council could easily drop this kerb @WillForster

We're looking for *low cost* ideas for councils, employers or others to make life even better, quicker or safer for getting round by bike.

Of course, major change will need major schemes, but many little things could be done right now to solve a local problem or improve cycling life - a dropped kerb, allowing 2-way cycling in a quiet 1-way street, signs, plants, blocking a rat-run, or employer initiatives. Ideas likely to cost up to a few £1000s so *not* a bikepath or a roundabout rebuild!

Your entry must be about a *specific* possibility, place or idea in Edinburgh or Lothian... e.g. a specific undropped kerb affecting you, not a general plea for dropped kerbs.



A business could buy a cargo bike to use & hire out, like @edfoc

**Top entries will win one of the brilliant prizes below.** First prize-winner chooses first and so on. And we may try to get top ideas implemented, so yours could happen!

- ♦ **ScotRail:** Standard return for 2 between any 2 Scottish stns
- ♦ **Edinburgh Bicycle Coop:** £50 voucher
- ♦ **Sustrans:** Choice of 5 Sustrans Scotland Pocket Maps
- ♦ **Biketrax:** £30 voucher **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2
- ♦ **Laidback Bikes:** Recumbent tour for one or two people
- ♦ **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket [2]
- ♦ **Craigie's Farm & Deli:** £15 hamper + £10 voucher
- ♦ **Ed Festival of Cycling:** Day hire of Urban Arrow cargobike
- ♦ **Kalpna:** Indian Vegetarian Restaurant, £20 voucher

**Important:** Spokes may use your entry in our Bulletin, website, or other ways. By entering, you agree to this.

**Closing date 3 Sept. Download an entry form/rules at.** [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : downloads : odds&ends : competitions.

## SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew for 2017 if not yet done. If you can't remember if you've renewed, please don't ask - you'll get a final autumn reminder, and you won't miss anything.

## ☺ THANK YOU ☺

Spokes is funded by donations from our 1000+ members and sales of our unmissable maps. Thus we can speak out without fear or favour, not worried about losing funds. **Join Spokes! Download or phone for application form.**

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

**Editor** Dave du Feu **Printer** Barr Printers **Print run** 13,000  
Bulletin text may be used freely, if you credit us and give our website **Created with** Openoffice.org **Next Issue** October.

## IN & AROUND BY BIKE

Commissioned by **Sustrans & Network Rail**, Spokes has produced an innovative **information board** at the lovely new Haymarket bike park. The board includes...

- ◆ A mini-map for novice or nervous cyclists, showing the option of walking to nearby cycleroutes
- ◆ A mini-map showing rail destinations to combine with a bike ride [NB: think of wind direction in deciding!]
- ◆ Pictures of 5 popular destinations, and routes to them
- ◆ A big extract from the Spokes Edinburgh map.

**We'd be happy to consider other such commissions!!**

*If you're planning a Lothians leisure trip, here are some more new developments to help you...*

### WEST LOTHIAN : CANAL TOWPATH


- ◆ Thanks to a Scottish Canals/ Sustrans partnership, the entire Lowland Canal towpath from Edinburgh to and beyond Glasgow, much of it in West Lothian, should be hard-surfaced by the end of June. Congratulations!!

### MIDLOTHIAN : TOUCHSCREENS


- ◆ Midlothian's new rail stations have local-information touchscreens - based on our Midlothian map!
- ◆ For cafes & attractions which welcome cyclists see the factsheet at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : local : Midlothian.

### EAST LOTHIAN : NEW SPOKES MAP






- ◆ Our 4th-edition East Lothian map is out!! It's printed on the same water- and tear-resistant material as our much-praised 2016 Edinburgh map. *More details:* p4.




**Five popular places to visit**





**On Foot By Bike**



	<b>North Edinburgh Cycle Network</b> via Roseburn Path - follow 1 15 mins on foot 8 mins on bike
	<b>Union Canal</b> 75 754 12 mins on foot 6 mins on bike
	<b>Princes Street</b> 15 mins on foot 8 mins on bike
	<b>Silverknowes Prom</b> 70 mins on foot 25 mins on bike
	<b>The Meadows</b> 75 754 1 30 mins on foot 10 mins on bike

This information board produced by Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign with support from Sustrans, the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish and Network Rail.



SUPPORTED BY

*Extract from the Spokes Haymarket Info Board*

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## SUPER SPOKES CYCLE MAPS

- ◆ **Midlothian; West Lothian/Livingston** - £5.95 each in shops
- ◆ **Edinburgh; East Lothian** - £6.95 each in shops. Now on water-resistant, tear-resistant paper!
- ◆ **Users say:** *a joy to use, wonderful, superb, among the finest, We have a Spokes map on our office wall – it's often used.*
- ◆ **More details at:** [spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps](http://spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps)
- ◆ **Bulk orders** for shops or groups of friends – see website for bulk prices. We've had several bulk orders from company Bicycle User Groups for re-sale to their members
- ◆ **Special offer:** for orders to Spokes by post – Edinb or EL £5. WL or ML £4; **Plus** £1 p&p **per order**. Cheques to 'Spokes.'
- ◆ **Free with orders by post:** one copy **per order** (not per map) of *Favourite Cycle Rides* or *Favourite Cycling Recipes*. Please say which you would like - otherwise none will be sent.

**New for summer 2017...**



**All the usual great features, including...**

- ◆ Easy-to-read gradients
  - ◆ Mileages
  - ◆ Off-road paths
  - ◆ Quiet roads
  - ◆ Town maps
  - ◆ Overlaps our Edin & Midlothian maps
  - ◆ Fully updated
- Plus in this new edition...**
- ◆ Water-resistant paper
  - ◆ Tear-resistant paper

## Bikes, tandems + trikes @LaidBackBikes



**Bakfiets & Dutch bikes?**  
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14 St Peter's Place, Edinburgh EH3 9PH

E: [laid-back@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:laid-back@blueyonder.co.uk) M: 07981 430159 [www.laid-back-bikes.scot](http://www.laid-back-bikes.scot)

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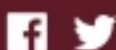
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# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Despite talk by Ministers of the value of cycling, their departments don't take cycling seriously enough. A new Scottish Government report, *Review of Active Travel Policy Implementation*, says cycling doesn't have a high profile among "key decision makers" and struggles for adequate support in areas such as health, education and environment because, whilst it contributes to all, it is not a main objective of any. Even within Transport Scotland, only the Active Travel Team seems fully on board - other sections, such as Rail, or Trunk Roads, tend only to consider cycling once the 'big' decisions are taken, and often only following outside pressure. Our Bulletin frequently gives examples, and this page gives yet more. Good cycling solutions need integrated thought from day 1, not 'silo' thinking. Ministers must get a grip!

## CYCLING: AN AFTERTHOUGHT

Examples of non-integration are many, including...

- ◆ New **Haymarket Station** - poor access; bike parking not in initial plans; option for major bike hub not taken.
- ◆ The **Forth Bridges** - several issues [see Spokes 127].
- ◆ **Bathgate/Airdrie rail project** - cycle links to nearby towns not designed and funded as an integrated project - left to councils/Sustrans, and so years later [Spokes 122].
- ◆ Two recent new examples, **Sheriffhall roundabout** and **HST train bike spaces** - see below.

- ◆ **Scottish Budget** - For every adult & child in Scotland £150 is spent on trunk roads and just £7 on walk+cycle. And cycling is now falling as a % of transport spending.

### Percentage of transport budget allocated to cycling: Scottish Government v. Edinburgh City Council

Scotland £m	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Transport total	1893	2019	2019	2108	2210	2376
*Cycling total	20.1	21.3	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2
Cycling as %	1.1%	1.1%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%
Edinb Council	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%

\*These are *active travel* figures from CAPS3, so cycling is less.

## SHERIFFHALL ROUNDABOUT

Sheriffhall is a "dangerous and intimidating" barrier for cycling between Edinburgh and Midlothian according to Regional Transport Authority **SEStran**. Yet the Scottish Government's "preferred option" for Sheriffhall's future does little to change this: cycling trips will mean crossing up to four roundabout approach roads at-grade! Cycle routes are slotted in once 'big' decisions are taken, instead of being a main consideration from the start.

SEStran recommends a "fully segregated bridge" and "the highest quality solution for cyclists." Instead the government dropped Option C, which includes a bridge.

How this fits with the government's "vision" for 10% of all trips to be by bike in 2020 is a total mystery!

A bridge has long been recognised as the best solution. Indeed, in 2004 the then Labour government granted Midlothian Council £800k for a bridge - but, for various reasons, the council diverted the money. Now, 13 years later, with cycling supposedly higher up the agenda, the present government adopts a much inferior solution.

People from Midlothian are as concerned as those from Edinburgh, and **Gorebridge Community Trust** has set up a Scottish Parliament petition seeking active travel provision in all major new infrastructure projects, and citing Sheriffhall as the issue prompting their concern.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ See our 2.5.17 article at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) and our letter to Transport Minister **Humza Yousaf MSP**.
- ◆ Follow the article's suggestions & contact your MSPs.

## TRUNK ROAD CYCLING INITIATIVE

In 2015 we revealed that the Scottish Government's *Trunk Road Cycling Initiative* had not been revised since **Lord James Douglas Hamilton** announced it, back in 1996! [Spokes 123]. As a result, it is at last being updated - but will it stop designs like Sheriffhall being chosen?

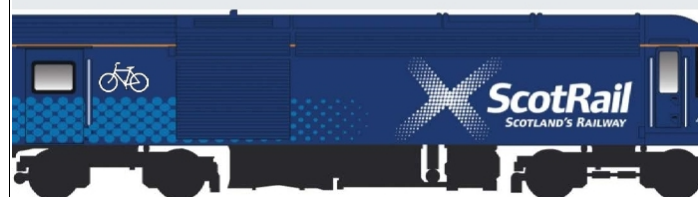
## HST125 BIKE CUTS

Getting bikes north from Edinburgh/Glasgow has long been a problem for commuting and tourism. Transport Scotland and ScotRail had promised huge improvements in 2018/19, with the introduction of refurbished 4-coach and 5-coach InterCity 125 High Speed Trains (HSTs) to Inverness and Aberdeen - with "at least" 20 bike spaces, as in this presentation at the Scottish Parliament.

All trains will have at least 2 dedicated cycle spaces; all new and refurbished trains will additionally have multi-functional areas, creating space for seating, prams, wheelchairs as well as cycles.

Reservation in advance through our 'journey companion' in line with ticket purchase, with information on whether a particular train has spare capacity.

The Class 125s will have a capacity of at least 20 cycles.



ScotRail presentation at Scottish Parliament, 25.2.15

The promised spaces have been cut drastically, to 6 in the power cars for trips between termini plus a mere two for intermediate stations like Aviemore (cut from four now) - though some stations will also have local services.

There is wide concern, and North East Scotland MSP **Liam Kerr** has lodged a Parliamentary motion, signed so far by 38 MSPs of all parties - except the SNP - seeking action by Transport Scotland and ScotRail. The problem appears to be cash to convert redundant toilets into bike or flexible space - otherwise they will just carry air!

Meanwhile there is still no news on the promise to look again at West Highland lines bike-space cuts [Spokes 125].

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Read the full story at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [4.4.17 & 12.4.17]
- ◆ Contact your MSPs - email them or visit their surgery.

# EDINBURGH CYCLING DEVELOPMENT

## REMEMBER THE PROMISES!

Council election results across Scotland were complex – not least in Edinburgh with 19 SNP councillors, 18 Conservative, 12 Labour, 8 Green and 6 LibDem. No party is near to a majority, so as issues arise there's plenty scope to remind councillors of the **manifestos** on which they were elected. See the summary here or full analysis at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) 13.4.17.

### CYCLE BUDGET

SNP, Labour and Greens all promised to maintain 10% of transport budgets for cycling. LibDems promised 10% for active travel as a whole - a potential problem as the council already spends ~10% on footway maintenance. The point is that there is a huge *existing* footway network, which needs maintenance and improvement, whereas for cycling very little yet exists and so *new* facilities and networks are needed.

### NEW FUNDING: PARKING LEVY & CITY DEAL

Labour and Greens wanted a levy on premises with more than a specified number of parking spaces. This would bring cash for sustainable transport and better road repair, and also could motivate employers, superstores etc to promote and provide for walking, cycling and public transport for customers and staff. *If you agree* – ask your councillors to push for this.

The Greens also wanted the City/Region Deal, which will bring huge money into the area, made greener, including for transport [more on the Deal in Spokes 126, Business Supplement].

### CITY-WIDE 20MPH ROLLOUT

All except the Conservatives wanted the rollout continued.

### SEGREGATED MAIN ROAD ROUTES

Not all manifestos mentioned this, but all parties are already committed to the West-East route, including the main-road Option A at Roseburn [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 16.12.16].

## EXPECTED SOON!!

**Edinburgh Bike Hire** – pilot scheme expected this year, but details are secret for commercial reasons.

**Leith Walk** – next phase of seg routes, to Annandale St

**West-East route** – Work on this much awaited route is expected in 2018 as legal orders are needed, then a public hearing if there are unresolved objections as seems likely.

**Community Links** – Successful bids by Edinburgh and Lothians Councils just announced for Sustrans 50/50 cash *include* these... [we don't yet have details, just names]

- ◆ A8 Gyle-Newbridge, phase 3
- ◆ Roseburn – Edinburgh Park, Quiet Route 8 (QR8),
- ◆ Broughton St roundabout (design)
- ◆ Meadows to Canal (detailed design)
- ◆ Lower Granton Road path (on QR13)
- ◆ Castle Terrace to Kings Buildings (QR17 – part only?)
- ◆ North Edinburgh network (drainage, accesses, etc)
- ◆ Saughton Park routes
- ◆ Davidsons Mains Park path works (QR60)
- ◆ Design packages for future projects - many
- ◆ **East Lothian** Luffness-Aberlady path
- ◆ **East Lothian** Wallyford Station to Dury Way
- ◆ **Midlothian** B7003 to B7006 connection at Roslin
- ◆ **West Lothian** East-west active travel corridor, part 1
- ◆ **West Lothian** Fauldhouse-Longridge resurfacing

### CITY BIKE HIRE & BIKE STORAGE SCHEMES

Only Labour, Green and LibDem manifestos mentioned these, but all parties had voted in favour in Council, and some didn't put it in manifestos as the decisions were already taken.

### ROAD REPAIR CASH

SNP & Labour both promised £20m a year (or equivalent) whilst Conservatives & Greens promised an unknown rise.

## INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS

Individuals matter too, regardless of party – some are proactive, enthusiastic and push ideas forward; others can be uninterested and even a drag on fellow councillors.



Cllr Adam McVey at Spokes Bike Breakfast 2016 *pic: Chris Hill*

We have already thanked **Andrew Burns & Lesley Hinds** [Spokes 126], now retired, who had been very effective and proactive on cycling. However, **Cllr Adam McVey**, first elected only in 2012, grew into an excellent transport deputy with a good understanding of cycling - and is now likely to be Council leader!

We were really sorry that 3 Spokes members, all great councillors, lost their seats, Greens **Nigel Bagshaw** and **Ian Baxter** [Midlothian] and **Richard Lewis** SNP. But Spokes member **Claire Miller** is a new Green councillor along with re-elected **Gavin Corbett**, **Melanie Main**, **Chas Booth** and Labour's **Maureen Child** and **Gordon Munro**. Sadly no SNP, Conservatives or LibDems yet!

**Community Links Plus** – the winner of this competition for a major exemplary scheme should be known in late August. Edinburgh is shortlisted for **Meadows to George Street** and **West Edinburgh Mini-Holland** [Spokes 127].

**Gilmerton-Shawfair** – a Sustrans NCN route extending the existing railway path from the city bypass underpass, with sealed surface and street lighting, catering for major housing developments planned in the Shawfair area.

**Innocent path street lighting** – work underway now.

## CONCERNS

### Onstreet secure bike storage

[also Spokes 125/127] Despite Committee approval and high demand, we are concerned at how long this is taking to get started. London shows what can be done [[cyclehoop.rentals](http://cyclehoop.rentals)].



**Leith Street/ Picardy Place/ York Place** We have had meetings with developers and the council, but no plans are yet available. Hints suggest a Picardy Place traffic gyratory - and with cyclist routes only on 2 of its 3 sides.

We are also very unhappy that the segregated cycle route from Leith Walk ends at Calton Road, without even a one-way cycle lane continuing uphill in Leith Street.

*Contact your councillors if these issues concern you.*

## STATISTICAL CORNER

## EDINBURGH PEOPLE SURVEY 2016

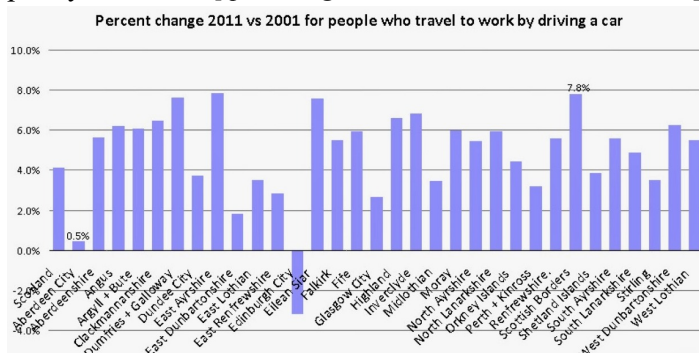
This annual Council survey, using a large, representative sample of over 5000 people, found that...

- ◆ 59% support the **20mph policy** and 20% oppose
- ◆ Of those who said they cycled, 53% felt **safe** (including 18% very safe) and 47% **unsafe** (12% very unsafe).

[Source: search for People Survey at *edinburgh.gov.uk*]

# CENSUS 2011

It's now a bit old, but we've put some interesting graphs on our census web page showing Edinburgh's transport policy successes [*spokes.org.uk*: documents: technical: census]



*You'll probably have to go to our website to read the above, but note how one council - Edinburgh - stands out!! It was the only council to achieve a fall in the % driving to work.*

There's also a list of % travel to work by bike for council wards, ranging from 9.9% in Meadows/Morningside to 2.5% in Liberton/Gilmerton [possibly the hilliest ward].

## PUBLIC BIKE COUNTERS

We are often asked about data from the Meadows and Canal public counters. Raw data is publicly available at [falco.co.uk](http://falco.co.uk) [click *Live Counter Cycle Data*]. We make the totals **519,557** in **2015** and **570,194** in **2016**. But note there are several 'funnies' in the data – odd spikes and missing chunks, so the figures may be questionable.

## TRAMLINE INJURIES

Spokes member Prof Chris Oliver and colleagues have analysed 252 patients with tramline or other tram-related injuries (yes, 252 cases!) who were treated by NHS Lothian between May 2009-April 2016...

- ◆ 192 were cyclists, of whom 175 crashed due to wheels trapped in or slipping on tramlines
- ◆ Surprisingly, 53 were walkers who tripped on tramlines
- ◆ 81 people required one or more further hospital visits; 20 were admitted for ongoing care, and 21 had surgery
- ◆ Cost to the NHS alone was over £1m.

**The results will be presented on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2pm in the Central Library. Details & booking at [edfoc.org.uk](http://edfoc.org.uk).**

If only our ideas on tramline layouts had been heeded back in 2008, this pain, injury, lost time and cost to the NHS, individuals and employers might have been less.

Interestingly despite scepticism about the new coloured curved cycle lane at the Haymarket blackspot, reports to Spokes suggest a big fall in tramline crashes there, whereas they have remained more constant elsewhere.

## SPOKES TRAFFIC COUNTS DATA

Go to [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : projects : traffic counts  
The page also includes links to other data sources.

## ROADWORKS & CYCLING

If you find roadworks blocking a road, where you think a cycle bypass could be provided, contact the contractor. That's what happened in the first example below, at Riversdale Crescent. Thank them if they act - it may encourage them to 'think bike' automatically in future!



A cycle-aware contractor *pic*: Henry Whaley



No cycle bypass *pic*: Martin McDonnell

## TACTILE SLABS

Many people report skidding on the 'tramline' slabs used on paths to assist blind people and they are possible factors in at least one serious crash. The slabs follow official UK guidance, which appears to have been written with little thought of cycling implications. The Council is investigating what improvements may be possible.

## GARDEN SHEDS

For many people, a garden shed or container is their only realistic option to store household bikes. Unfortunately, in many cases, planning permission (fee £202) is needed. If you don't apply, and are reported, you may be told to remove the shed or apply retrospectively - and stressful, time-consuming appeal processes may follow.

To reduce uncertainty Spokes produced a factsheet, which the Council deems “appropriate,” listing criteria which make it *likely* (but not certain) that permission will be granted - position, size, colour, screening, discussion with neighbours. There have now been several cases where applications quoting our advice have succeeded.

It seems crazy that small sheds or containers meeting appropriate criteria need to pay a planning application fee of £202 – often more than the materials – just to find out whether or not they will be permitted! We are seeking changes at the Scottish Parliament so that such sheds are deemed *permitted development*, not needing a planning application. This is now being considered, following a Scottish government planning review.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **If you need a garden shed or container** do check our factsheet before making a planning application
- ◆ **To help us get the rules changed** contact your MSPs
- ◆ **For more info** and a link to our factsheet, go to our website [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [21.1.14 article].

# POLICE INITIATIVES

Spokes is delighted at two police pilot road safety schemes in Edinburgh - which are likely also to be implemented elsewhere in Scotland if successful...

## URBAN AVERAGE SPEED CAM

Average speed cameras (ASCs) have been massively successful on several trunk roads. On the A9 north of Dunblane, deaths are down 43%, serious injury 63% and there is "the biggest change in driver behaviour for decades" according to police [Herald 29.12.16].

Now Police Scotland is trialling Scotland's first urban ASCs, on **Old Dalkeith Road** in Edinburgh. There is a high rate of illegality here, with many drivers exceeding the speed limit - and this one road has seen three serious-injury crashes, one fatal, in just 3 years.

The cameras are expected to go operational in June. **Police Inspector Vinnie Fisher** believes they will have "a major impact on driver behaviour" [Ev News 2.5.17].

## #OPCLOSEPASS

Police Scotland's operation to improve safety and reduce scary vehicle close passes of people on bikes is now well underway. In the first week alone, in April, 68 drivers were pulled over after passing too close to an unmarked police cyclist equipped with a helmet camera.

Drivers are taken to a specially designed mat where they have to stand whilst shown how closely they passed the police cyclist and advised in future to give as much space as when passing a car. In later phases of the pilot close-pass drivers may get points on their license or face court action for careless or dangerous driving.

**PC Dominic Doyle** [who will speak at our public meeting on June 14 - see p2] reported that generally the advice is well received by drivers and, following press publicity, the police have noticed fewer close passes than before.

The operation is happening in different parts of the city, with different unmarked officers on different bikes, so no driver will know if a cyclist ahead is a police officer.

The operation also uncovered other offences which endanger safety for all road users. Penalties were issued for speeding, no MOT, careless driving, no insurance, no license and driving with a dangerous load.

The pilot is to be evaluated at the end of May and if considered successful will be rolled out elsewhere - and, we trust, continued in Edinburgh! *Scotland's Road Safety Framework 2020* includes an aim to reduce cyclist road casualties, and it is hoped #OpClosePass will assist.

### Background info on #OpClosePass...

Go to [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : road policing



## HOW TO REPORT A CLOSE PASS

The police are happy to receive reports of close passes, if there is clear video evidence. Follow these steps...

- ♦ Phone 101 quickly, within a day or two of the incident. If there is a case to pursue, the police have to prepare and issue a notice within 14 days of the possible offence
- ♦ On the phone you will be passed to roads policing officers for assessment and possible action
- ♦ Don't post your footage on social media or elsewhere on the internet - this may compromise any court action
- ♦ Keep full footage - if at all possible at least 2 minutes before and after, not just the incident itself.

## HOW TO CONTACT POLITICIANS

1. Simplest - find them all at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Or...
  2. MSPs - you have one constituency MSP and several Regional MSPs. Find them at [scottish.parliament.uk/msps](http://scottish.parliament.uk/msps)
  3. Councillors web+phone below
- |  |               | Who runs the council? |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|
| <a href="http://edinburgh.gov.uk">edinburgh.gov.uk</a>     | 0131.529.3186 | probably SNP/Lab      |
| <a href="http://eastlothian.gov.uk">eastlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01620.827827  | Lab minority          |
| <a href="http://midlothian.gov.uk">midlothian.gov.uk</a>   | 0131.270.7500 | not yet known         |
| <a href="http://westlothian.gov.uk">westlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01506.775000  | not yet known         |

## A PERSONAL VISIT??

Many people email their MSP/councillor, but why not visit their surgery for a chat on issues that concerns you - it could make an even bigger impact! Ask them for time/place.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

To suggest bike parking sites: [cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
Adult cycle training: 668.1996 [info@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto:info@thebikestation.org.uk)  
[www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com): bikes on rail, bus and ferry.  
**Potholes, glass on paths, broken lights, in Edinb/Lothian:** [Use lamp-post numbers to report location]. 0800.232323 [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence). Or [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk).  
**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]** Rapid Response 0808 100 3366  
**Taxi issues:** [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) [try taxi firm first]  
**Lothian Buses:** [mail@lothianbuses.com](mailto:mail@lothianbuses.com) 554 4494.  
**Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : links : reporting  
**Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 0208964102

Help Spokes, other cyclists and yourself by joining us!  
Download a membership form at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)