

Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign 0131 313 2114 spokes.org.uk 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

11.8% BIKE COMMUTING

The Scottish Household Survey reports a phenomenal **11.8% of Edinburgh work journeys by bike in 2014** - almost double the next council, Highland, on 6.1%, and way over Scotland's 2.6% average.

The figure needs caution as the small sample size means the true figure is +/- 4% i.e. between roughly 8% and 16%. Even 8%, however, would be impressive in the Scottish context. Council Leader **Cllr Andrew Burns**, who commutes daily by bike, says the data matches his own feeling of substantial cycling growth.

We only have the local data for *commuting*, not for *all travel*, but 4.2% of Edinburgh people say their *main travel mode* is bike, again the highest in Scotland. Edinburgh's other *commuting* and *main travel mode* data

Inside CLIMATE / TRANSPORT / CYCLING

- ♦ Spokes public meeting Nov 17
- ♦ Scotland climate march Nov 28
- ... see centre pages supplement

are also excellent - **bus**, highest of any council; **driving**, lowest; **walking**, among the top 4 councils.

For all-Scotland just 2.6% of 2014 commuter trips, and a mere 1.4% of all trips, were by bike, albeit both figures are the highest for many years!!

On p8 we discuss reasons for Edinburgh's cycling success. The Council is making many positive moves – though not all is rosy as in the bus lane cuts below.

Sources: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/statistics **ctd p8**

"CIVILISED" "IMPRESSIVE"

Just 2 adjectives from users on citycyclingedinburgh.info about the completed Innocent-Meadows route, with its segregated sections on busier roads [and a mural - see p8]. A similar-style continuation to the canal is due in 2016.



Buccleuch Street segregated link photo DdF

but: CITY CUTS BUS LANES :(

Edinburgh Council's inexplicable scrapping of Saturday bus lanes, with lorries and cars also in bus lanes offpeak on weekdays, contradicting its *Local Transport Strategy*, is now being trialled. A final decision is due in 2016, based on public reaction and monitoring [Spokes 122, p3].

If you find cycling/walking conditions worse please tell all your (3 or 4) councillors [www.writetothem.com] and copy emails to us. Glasgow gives Edinburgh a clear lesson with its wider consultation, leading to its **7-7-7 decision**, i.e. most Glasgow bus lanes will be operational 7am-7pm, 7 days a week. More info: spokes.org.uk 3.6.15

EDINBURGH BUDGET

Edinburgh continues its exemplary practice of allocating a % of the transport budget (now 8%) to cycling [p8].

Also: there's now a chance to comment on the council's entire budget ... go to edinburgh.gov.uk/budget.

WAVERLEY WELCOME

From this...

photo @theSpurtle



to this...

photo @reggietricker



For the full story see spokes.org.uk, 3.9.15

Top credit goes to **Jim Eadie MSP**, with big thanks also to **Sarah Boyack MSP**, **Alison Johnstone MSP**, former MP **Mark Lazarowicz**, **Cllr Lesley Hinds**, and the influence of **Abellio** in the new **Abellio/ Network Rail ScotRail Alliance**. The politicians all made considerable efforts – visiting the site with officials, raising it in Parliament [Scotland & UK] and so on. Of course, they did so because many constituents got in touch – **congratulations and thanks if you were one.**

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

"The Spokes website is great: detailed & comprehensive"

"Your maps are superb; I use them regularly in my work"

Sources: transport academic; Herald writer

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!

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 stuart@snowcycle.co.uk 445.7073.

More Edinburgh rides/events www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk – includes 'very easy' rides, regular rides, weekend rides...

Climate, Transport & Cycling

Tues 17 Nov Spokes Autumn public meeting

Alison Johnstone MSP Cross-Party Cycling Group

Dave Gorman Edinburgh University, Sustainability Dept

Tom Ballantine Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

followed by questions to a panel of the speakers.

Our meeting comes in the context of the international Paris climate change summit in December. More details at spokes.org.uk and in our centre-page supplement.

Venue: Edinburgh Uni, Appleton Tower, 11 Crichton St

Time: 7.30. Open 6.45 for coffee, stall, exhibition & chat

Sat 28 Nov Scotland's Climate March

See centre page supplement or www.stopclimatechaos.org

Other events... See www.spokes.org.uk events column

BE BIKE ALERT

Spokes is producing a video and leaflet showing motorists some of the road hazards experienced by people on bikes - explaining why motorists should give cyclists space and keep speeds at a safe level. The project is funded by a donation in memory of CTC and Spokes member Audrey Fyfe who was killed when travelling by bike in Edinburgh.

Our materials are still in draft but have been trialled with 2000 West Lothian and a few hundred Edinburgh teenagers attending driving awareness days, with positive feedback. Once finalised we hope to circulate the materials to driving schools and other relevant outlets – *ideas & help welcome!*

People on bikes face sudden risks • **Slow down around cyclists**



• They may swerve round or stop suddenly for:

- Car doors
- Potholes and drains
- Pedestrians who walk out

• **Look before you open your door**

- **Leave space behind and around cyclists**

Our draft video and leaflet are at spokes.org.uk/videos

😊 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 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members not yet renewed for 2015 receive a reminder in this mailing. If you are up to date you'll get a 2016 renewal form in Feb/March – please don't try to renew in advance!

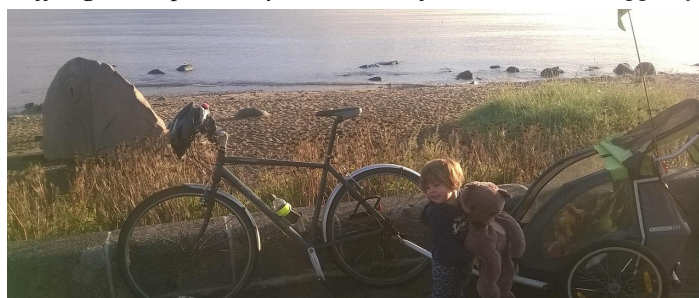
MY FAVOURITE BIKE RIDE

Whether it's your commute or a family outing, we all have favourite rides. Our summer competition found just how varied the rides, and the reasons for them, can be!

First was **Mark James** from bike-town Dunbar [50% of primary pupils regularly cycle to school! - Spokes 120]. His East Lothian ride can take anything between 2 hours and a whole day, depending on picnics and the places you visit – from National Trust properties to river ropeswings!



Second was **Tim Smith** with an imaginative “largely stress-free” East Edinburgh tour, linking green spaces and interesting places. The 3rd & 4th winners showed how a routine trip can become a delight via an offroad detour: “like cycling over the edge of a map, the noise and smell of traffic gone, replaced by the burble of water,” Elaine Appleby.



Playgroup journey becomes a daily adventure – David Dougal

1 Mark James, Dunbar	Rivers & Ropeswings
2 Tim Smith, Pilrig	The Edinburgh fEASTival
3 David Dougal, Silverknowes	Cramond Foreshore
4 Elaine Appleby, Piershill	Balgreen Rd via Water of Leith
5 Helen Boden, Colinton	Harlaw via edge of Pentlands
6 Shane Voss, Marchmont	Woodland Wonder Wheel
7 Eileen Holtum, Meadows	E.Loathian perfect cycling county
8 Charlie Wood, Portobello	The Playground & Coffee Run
9 David Monaghan, Plewlands	Home from Armadale
10 Yvonne, Newtongrange	Midlothian South Explore
11 Peter Martin, Tollcross	South-west Edinburgh circular
12 Malcolm Bruce, Telford	Go West the John Muir Way!

Our website [Sep 28 news] has a link to all the entries and to the amusing/amazing entries from earlier competitions such as *Cycling Jokes*, *Path Art* and *My Cycling Problem*.

Skilled volunteer wanted: The top entries could form the basis for a great booklet of favourite local bike rides, but the graphic artist who did our previous booklet is not available. Skill is needed, including creating outline sketch maps of rides and liaising on presentation and content.

Prizes: Thanks to Edinburgh Bike Coop, Sustrans, ScotRail, Camera Obscura & World of Illusions, Peter's Yard, Kalpna Indian Veg restaurant, BikeTrax, Filmhouse, Reiss Hair Salon.

SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

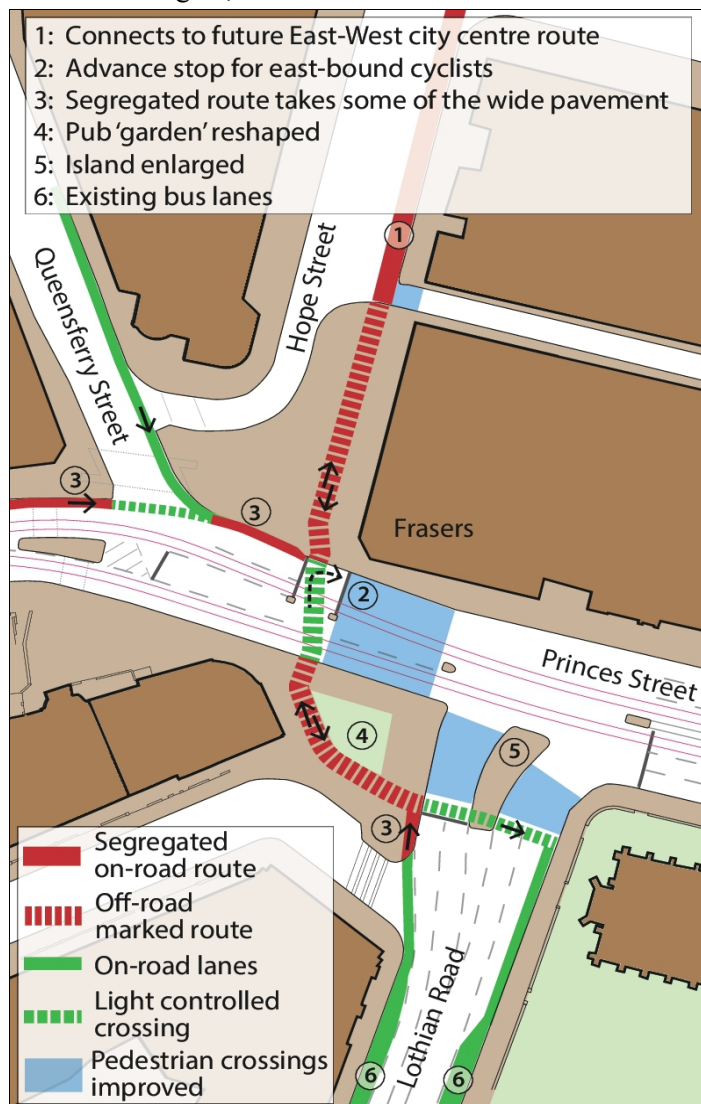
Editor Dave du Feu **Printer** Barr Printers **Print run** 12,500
Bulletin text may be used freely, if you credit us and give our website **Created with** Openoffice.org **Next Issue** February.

EDINBURGH CITY CENTRE

If you like our ideas, tell your councillors and ask them to act!! See p8 or use www.writetothem.com.

WEST END CROSSING

Spokes is campaigning for a Princes St cycle crossing at the West End - also improving the pedestrian crossing. The junction is complex and our drawing is intended as a basis for discussion. Clearly it would also entail changes to lanes and lights, which we have not tried to show.



A safe, comfortable crossing here is essential for several reasons. Many bikes already use Lothian Rd – our counts show they form nearly 20% of northbound rush hour vehicles – but numbers appear to be depressed by fear of the tramline crossing [spokes.org.uk 13.5.15]. **Second**, a quality connection is vital from Lothian Rd and South Edinburgh to the Council's planned city-centre east-west cycleroute [includes Melville St/Randolph Pl/Charlotte Sq].

Third, people turning sharp right to stay in Princes St face either a very dodgy tramline crossing [*the site of continual crashes*] or keeping to the left lane over the tramlines but then edging right, across moving traffic. Our solution would allow them to cross at 90° and then head for Princes Street with traffic light priority.

Any solution should also be compatible with future Lothian Rd segregated bike provision. East-West cycling must also be in the discussion, particularly the difficult E->W direction. Our drawing does not tackle this.

POLITICAL COURAGE !!

Taking space from motor traffic to improve conditions for cycling requires political courage – there are plenty votes from motorists and pressures from taxi and bus operators – yet it is often the only way to create conditions which will encourage a wide range of people to travel by bike.

So far Edinburgh has skirted the problem by investing mainly in routes not affecting cars (e.g. the excellent A90 path, or Leith-Portobello) and by installing advisory lanes on busy roads - i.e. still allowing offpeak parking/loading.

Despite the many problems of advisory lanes, these two measures have boosted cycling numbers considerably [p8 & spokes.org.uk, 13.5.15]. In turn this gives councillors confidence to adopt bolder measures, and attention is now at last turning to city centre segregated onroad provision.

The **Innocent-Southside-Meadows** link [p1] is first, and to the canal next year; segregated routes are promised for all **Leith Walk/Picardy** from Pilrig up; and....

CITY CENTRE EAST-WEST ROUTE

An onroad largely segregated route with (we understand) cyclist priority at side roads is planned via Roseburn – A8 - Melville St - George St - Leith Walk [Spokes 122]. A council traffic model predicts doubled cycle use on the route.

Public consultation on the **west section** is due soon. The initial plans show 'intermediate' political courage. The route turns up Rosebery Cres instead of continuing through Haymarket; but on the other hand its lengthy A8 segregated section includes much of Haymarket Terr and Roseburn Terr, meaning tough negotiations and likely loading/parking objections from shops and taxi operators.

The **east section**, via York Pl or Leith St (or both), will be later and is trickier. We are pleased that a segregated **Princes St** link from St Andrew Square to Waterloo Place seems likely. A high quality **Bridges** connection is also vital to cater for the south Edinburgh cycling population. Spokes is also urging a **Leith St <-> St Andrew Square** link via James Craig Walk, which becomes a bike route under the St James Quarter project. This would partly redeem the council's adamant refusal of cycle facilities in the top of Leith St (due to the junction).

The **central section** of the E-W route will run along...

GEORGE STREET

The 2014/5 2-way bike lane experiment, despite niggles, was a big success: indeed 40% of users said it encouraged them to cycle more. A final scheme is likely in 2017 and officials reported that the 2015 monitoring and feedback strongly pointed to **segregated 1-way lanes each side**. Until then the council agreed to advisory lanes rather than reverting to nothing, so thanks if *you* wrote to councillors.

SCOTLAND'S PREMIER STREET

Although strongly supporting the George Street proposal, Spokes argues that a Princes Street E-W cycleroute is also necessary, being particularly well connected and direct – the Strava heat map, for example, shows many cyclists using Princes St. However, a bike and pedestrian-friendly Princes St is unlikely any time soon - until the council has sufficient courage to make at least one side traffic free.

EDINBURGH [ctd]

If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your councillors! See p8 or use www.writetothem.com.

There's so much happening we can only give brief info here. You may find more using 'search' at spokes.org.uk.

EDINBURGH COUNCIL PROJECTS

- ♦ **Edinburgh Street Design Guidance** A major new document for everyone involved in designing and maintaining streets, with many rule-changes to make roads more pedestrian and bike-friendly. A vital source of quotes for campaigners! To find it, search for *street design guidance* at edinburgh.gov.uk.
- ♦ **On-street Bike Storage** A report on the Council's pilot project with onstreet lockable bike containers is expected in October - hopefully with plans to expand the scheme. For background, search for *residential bike storage* at spokes.org.uk.
- ♦ **Active Travel Action Plan** The Council's ATAP is being revised, with higher emphasis on segregated provision. A report is expected in January.
- ♦ **Bike Hire scheme** The Council has agreed to go out to tender for [we think] an adverts-funded cost-neutral scheme [the Committee met in private due to commercial confidentiality]. One company likely to bid is J C Decaux, who run 70 bike hire schemes worldwide and already hold Edinburgh's advert-funded bus shelters maintenance contract.
- ♦ **Meadows to City Centre** Spokes 119 proposed a radical redesign of Forrest Rd. We received great support, including from www.unionofgenius.com, the local soup cafe. **Thanks if you spoke to your councillors!** The Council has agreed to consider an even more ambitious project: a largely segregated route to George St, with initial planning in 2016.
- ♦ **Bike Life** Sustrans is working in Edinburgh and six other cities to produce reports in 2015 on the status of cycling and how it is perceived by the public, similar to the *Copenhagen Bicycle Account* reports. A further report, in 2017, will assess how cycling has progressed. Info: sustrans.org.uk/bikelife.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- ♦ **ABC All-ability Bike Club** A new club to encourage and enable cycling for people with barriers to overcome, whether physical or just being very scared. The club is run by fabb.org.uk with Council and CTC support and government cash. They need volunteers to accompany rides or help in other ways.... phone 07500 069357 or go to www.facebook.com/EdinburghABC.



- ♦ **Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust** ELGT has won £300,000 from Sustrans for a major path project in the future Little France Park; linking the Infirmary and BioQuarter, through extensive new housing, and on to Craigmillar. Future phases connect to more housing

Tramline bike crashes, sadly, continue - Thomson solicitors have **100 cases!** Spokes is meeting the council to discuss remedial measures, though the initial tramline layout is the basic problem [spokes.org.uk news 17.10.13]. The coloured lane at **Haymarket** is an improvement but not a full solution. At the **West End** see our idea on p3.

and to Shawfair rail stn. Info: elgt.org.uk, Apr 28 news. It would also assist the *Pentlands-Porty* route promoted by burdiehousefriends.org.uk and Cllr Keith Robson.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Edinburgh's cycling % budget offers a massive lesson to other councils [p8] - but it too has plenty to learn.

It seems to understand the European lesson that main road segregated cycling provision is a key next step. But despite positive trends in cycling, walking and bus, and falling car commuting %'s, Edinburgh bows to the motor lobby by cutting bus lane times – unlike **Glasgow's** wider consultation and brave 7-7-7 decision [p1].



PARIS SANS VOITURE
— collectif citoyen —

Another city to learn from is **Paris** - where Socialist mayor **Anne Hidalgo** held a hugely popular car-free day on 27 Sept over much of the city centre, to show that “*Paris can operate without cars.*” Car ownership has fallen from 60% to 40% of Parisians since 2001; tough measures to cut city centre car use are planned, and there is a €100m cycling budget.

The day went well, toxic pollution fell 30% and Mayor Hidalgo now wants regular carfree days [road.cc 4.10.15].

From this...



to this...



BIKES & TRAM

Bike carriage is now permanent, following Edinburgh's successful experiment [Spokes 122 & spokes.org.uk 26.4.15]. We hoped other UK trams would learn from Edinburgh's success – and now, thanks to local campaign group Pedals, **Nottingham Tramlink** is investigating.

One big complaint is that bikes were banned during the entire Edinburgh Festival month, rather than allowing guard discretion. Otherwise, feedback has been very positive – for example, “*It seemed quite normal*” and “*The conductor was very polite and helpful; I thanked him and said how good it is that bikes are carried.*”

SUPERB SPOKES CYCLE MAPS



- Edinburgh; Midlothian; East Lothian; W Lothian & Livingston
- New Edinburgh & Glasgow maps early Spring 2016
- Maps £5.95 in the shops
- **Special prices if you order by post:** £5 for first map, £4 for every other
- **Post-free.** Cheques to 'Spokes'
- **Users say:** *a joy to use, wonderful*
- spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps

Bikes, tandems + trikes @LaidBackBikes



Bakfiets & Dutch bikes?
Urban Arrow in Edinburgh.
Carrying loads more, safely.

Open 5pm - 6.30pm weekdays, all day Sat. Other times by appointment.



Lightweight tandem?
Test ride a Circe compact tandem and load carrier.



Comfortable cycling?
Try out a Hase or an ICE trike.
Or try a recumbent from various brands.

28 Marchmont Crescent, Edinburgh EH9 1HG

E: laid-back@blueyonder.co.uk M: 07981 430159 www.laid-back-bikes.scot

Laid Back f t

SPOKES RECOMMENDATIONS

- ♦ **Active Cities Report** A blueprint for city leaders to make their city an active city. Free download [& other resources] at designedtomove.org/resources/active-cities.
- ♦ **Urban Transport without the Hot Air** by Steve Melia. Sustainable solutions for UK cities, based on evidence. On sale at www.uit.co.uk/urban-transport.
- ♦ **Scottish C2C Guide** Coast to coast across Scotland, from Annan to the Forth Bridge. An excellent guidebook with detailed mapping and text. To buy a copy, follow the links at the author's website richardpeacecycling.com.



CYCLE LAW.
Scotland

**SCOTLAND'S ONLY AWARD WINNING,
SPECIALIST, LEGAL SERVICE
FOR CYCLISTS**



Visit: cyclelawscotland.co.uk

Call: 0800 089 3389

Text: "CLS" to 60155



BROMPTON

DROP IN TO SEE

THE NEW
BLACK
EDITION

FOLDING BIKES.

11-13 LOCHRIN PLACE

T: 0131 228 6633



BIKETRAX



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 or contact us on 0344 811 0141.

ScotRail is operated by
abellio

**EDINBURGH BICYCLE
COOPERATIVE**

SCOTLAND'S PREMIER FROG BIKE RETAILER

EDINBURGHBIKE.COM f t

BRUNTSFIELD 8 ALVANLEY TERRACE | **CANONMILLS** 30 RODNEY STREET



**Take away
a FROG today**

SCOTLAND + Lothians

LIVING IN THE PAST ??

"It was 20 years ago today..." sang The Beatles. Just the song for 2016, to mark 20 years since Scotland's Conservative Transport Minister (!) **Lord James Douglas-Hamilton MP** launched the *Trunk Road Cycling Initiative* - a great 1996 development but never since updated!!



Lord James

Spokes is writing to **Derek Mackay MSP**, the 2015 Transport Minister, to suggest an anniversary update – chiming well with Mr Mackay's planned *National Transport Strategy* review.

The TRCI promised "*special consideration to cyclists*" in trunk road projects, stressing National Cycle Network connections. It has delivered some good results [e.g. A828 Oban-Balachulish] but **it is not implemented sufficiently pro-actively to support the government's cycling aims - and it anyway needs brought into the 21st century.**

As one example, we followed up some Dumfries cases, where low-cost cycling projects (mainly just signs) could help cyclists avoid stretches of the **A701** and **A75** and would link local destinations. If Transport Scotland, who handle trunk roads, was proactive about the TRCI they would have found and implemented these opportunities.

Instead the local Council spotted them – but Transport

Scotland was uninterested when the council suggested two schemes. *Following a Spokes letter to Mr Mackay the Council has been asked to re-submit its ideas.*

There are many other examples, both small and large.

Trunk road cycling neglect is particularly shocking given **rural 'A' road cyclist fatality statistics** - death per km is 4 times more likely than on urban A roads and 8 times more than on non-A rural roads [Spokes 117].

A REVAMPED TRCI SHOULD INCLUDE

- ◆ Transport Scotland, working with councils, Sustrans and local cycling bodies, to be responsible for identifying trunk road alternatives and opportunities. Implementation could be by TS, Sustrans or the local council, as suited each case.
- ◆ Clarity that cycling work associated with new or existing trunk roads is funded by trunk road cash - not by Sustrans or the government's Sustainable Transport Team. Trunk road area managers should allocate cash to such projects – or there could be a central trunk roads cycling fund.
- ◆ Trunk road speed limits to be cut in rural settlements
- ◆ Full investigation of cycling fatality roads, like Fife's A92.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If trunk road cycling conditions concern you, tell your MSPs what you'd like to see [cc Spokes] and **ask them to press Mr Mackay for a new, 2016, version of the TRCI.**

"It's wonderful to be here," continued the Beatles song, 20 years on. Will we be able to sing that too in 2016?

THE Lothians

- ◆ **E. Lothian Segregated Active Travel Corridor [SATC]** The Council is looking into the feasibility of a SATC, connecting major towns to Edinburgh and with spurs to other settlements. The concept is at a very early stage, and the Council seeks comments on the idea and on potential routes. Email jane.dixon@ironsidefarrar.com.
- ◆ **West Lothian cycling info** Our excellent **West Lothian Cycle Map** [p5] includes on the back a unique 1:10,000 map of **Livingston** cycle routes. The extent of greenery is a revelation and, with stations north and south, it's not just



for local travel; visitors can have a great day exploring too. Or join a local ride with **Livingston 20-milers** - see livi20milers.blogspot.co.uk. For further WL info, see the Council web pages ... westlothian.gov.uk/smarter-travel.

- ◆ **Midlothian cycling info** As well as the great Spokes *Midlothian Cycle Map* [p5] there's a host of online info at midlothian.gov.uk/cycling & visitmidlothian.org.uk/cycling. Check out the excellent downloads at these sites too.
- ◆ **Midlothian cycle cash** Spokes member *Cllr Ian Baxter* is asking the Council to look into Edinburgh's policy of allocating a % of transport spending to cycling, enabling greater certainty in planning cycle projects. Meanwhile the Council is soon to publish its first **Cycling Strategy**.

HAVE YOU GOT THE BOTTLE?

Countries with deposits on glass containers have less litter and broken glass on roads and paths. In the US, container



litter fell 70-85% in deposit law States. **Please help APRS** [Association for Preservation of Rural Scotland] **to campaign for the same in Scotland.** Go to haveyogotthebottle.org.uk.

ROADS CASH GUARANTEE

The UK government has promised "*the biggest, boldest roads programme for decades*" - and is now giving major roads a guaranteed source of cash while rail, bus, cycling and potholes stay subject to the vagaries of annual budget cuts. Chancellor George Osborne announced that *Vehicle Excise Duty*, instead of being general tax income, will now be ring-fenced for trunk roads/ motorways. The *Campaign for Rural England* [CPRE] expects *major road expenditure to triple* in the next 5 years thanks to the programme and the guaranteed cash [search for *back on the roads* at cpre.org.uk].

Mr Osborne said he would discuss with the Scottish Government how they will use their share of VED cash. Sustrans, Transform and others have asked that it goes instead to active travel and road repairs. **Please tell your MSPs what you think!** More at spokes.org.uk, 2.9.15 news.

CYCLING INVESTMENT IN SCOTLAND

Scottish Government cycling cash this year, 15/16, is expected to just exceed 14/15's record £39m. The 15/16 total so far is £36.5m, but Transport Minister **Derek Mackay MSP** said at PoP that cycling investment in 15/16 would be the highest ever. He has now publicly repeated that so often that we include it in our table, and confidently expect a ~£3m announcement any day!

At less than 2% of total transport cash, the £39m+ total clearly won't achieve the government's 2020 aim for 10% of trips to be by bike, or match Edinburgh's budget policy [p1&8] - but it is at least moving up after years of flatlining around 1%. And the election makes the 2016 budget interesting!



Derek Mackay

FUTURE CASH UNCERTAINTY

If there is one thing Council cycling officers crave it is *clarity* about what funding will be available in the next few years. *This now looks unlikely any time soon.*

Cycle projects often need considerable advance work – traffic regulation orders; land acquisition; design; consulting the public, local groups, utilities, shops; etc. Councils are less likely to begin such projects if cash to actually build the scheme is uncertain.

Usually the draft budget comes out in *Sept/Oct* and is finalised in early Feb after 3-4 months of public and parliamentary scrutiny. But the draft 16/17 budget will be in *January* and, after reduced scrutiny, may only be approved just before the financial year starts on 1st April. And, even then, the amount for cycling may be unclear!

The budget is being delayed to await the Nov 25th UK Spending Review, which affects Scotland's total cash. Yet

the Scottish Government *could* give some certainty - e.g. guaranteeing for cycling, like Edinburgh, a minimum % of total transport cash. [spokes.org.uk 10.9.15]

Adding to the uncertainty the government has said it is to continue the *Future Transport Fund*. This is a general 'pot,' currently ~£20m a year, for transport initiatives – which have ranged from the Glasgow Fastlink bus to £10m for cycling in 15/16. **Extra cash is welcome, but what cycling really needs is a known regular adequate allocation, just like for trunk roads, rail or ferries.** Cycling is a transport mode - not a fluffy extra.

2015/16 CYCLING INVESTMENT

This summary table estimates *government cycle investment* including joint walk/cycle projects. It overestimates because all Sustrans funds are counted, including some walk-only.

The way funding appears in the budget is very complex. We therefore mainly show funding *destinations*, not *sources*.

[£million]	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Cycle CWSS [a]	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.2	~4.5	~4.4
Sustrans	7.7	5.8	9.7	11.9	26.3	24.4
Cycling Scotland	1.3	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.7
Trunk road cycling	~2.0	~2.0	~2.0	~2.0	~4.6	~2.0
SCSP [a]	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	~1.7
Other [e] + £3m*	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	~4.3*
Total cycling	16.4	15.0	17.9	20.4	39.0	39.5*
Total transport	1864	1812	1893	2019	2019	2108
Cycling % of total	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.9%	1.9%*

* Assumes additional £3m, expected any time soon – see text

~ Uncertain estimate, or assumed on basis of previous year.

[a] **CWSS**: Cycling Walking Safer Streets. **SCSP**: Smarter Choices, Smarter Places. We estimate how much of each goes to cycling.

[e] **Other**: includes orgs like Stirling Bike Hub, Bike Station, etc

For fuller explanation and more footnotes see Spokes 121.

ELECTION 2016: #walkcyclevote

Cycling and walking groups are getting together with shared basic priorities for the 2016 Holyrood election.

Top priority: Sustained, long-term investment in cycling and walking, reaching 10% of the transport budget. [Spokes note: Edinburgh's example is useful, 5%, + 1% a year]

also: Build & maintain dedicated cycling infrastructure, enabling people aged 8-80 to cycle [or how about 1-100!]

and: Promote & deliver safer roads for walking & cycling

#walk
cycle
vote



HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- ♦ Find out more and sign up at walkcyclevote.scot
- ♦ Tweet with the hashtag #walkcyclevote
- ♦ Ask your **MSP candidates** to sign up
- ♦ If you are [or aren't!] in a political party, try to get the priorities into **manifestos** – especially the 10%.

ELECTION DILEMMA!!

Two of Spokes's most energetic, long-standing members, **Sarah Boyack** (Labour) and **Alison Johnstone** (Green), are standing for Holyrood in the same seat, Edinburgh Central. Both have been massive supporters of Spokes and cycling: only a dice throw could decide our vote!

Of course, it's not currently a Labour or Green seat, and the other candidates may well be great, but if Sarah and Alison are also List candidates we wish them the best there too – we'd love to see them both back at Holyrood!



Alison Johnstone MSP



Sarah Boyack MSP

BIKE/RAIL IN SCOTLAND

The next year or two should see big developments - bike hire at 10+ stations, 3 CyclePoint bike hubs [maintenance, info, staffed storage], work with councils on routes to stations, and so on – as in the *Abellio Cycle Innovation Plan* [see Spokes 121 supplement & spokes.org.uk 10.6.15].

However we are very concerned about **on-train bike space**, particularly in the new rolling stock coming for Edinburgh-Falkirk-Glasgow and other electrified central-belt lines, and the big refurbishment programme of class 158 trains for rural lines such as the Borders.

The official requirement by the Scottish Government was for a minimum of just 2 bikes per train. Abellio has said it will train guards to be as flexible and helpful as possible, which is great but is no substitute for adequate bike space. **Bikes are not the only storage need** – there are prams, golf clubs, rucksacks, shopping trolleys, etc, which widen the railway offpeak travel customer base.

We are therefore campaigning for *every coach* in new and refurbished trains to also have a *flexible space* with fold-down seats. It appears that ScotRail is sympathetic but has been told by the Scottish Government transport body, Transport Scotland, to maximise fixed seating.

For more info see our story at spokes.org.uk [4.10.15].
If you support us, please speak to/email your MSPs.

BORDERS RAILWAY

Though bike space is low many people, like Spokes member **Alison Johnstone MSP**, have had some great offpeak leisure trips, with helpful train guards [alisonjohnstonemsp.com Sep 8]. Another cyclist tweeted some beautiful pictures and said “*First experience of Borders Railway. Fabulous cycle back. But need more bike space on train!*”



Gifford Park mural on the new Meadows-Innocent route

CYCLING GROWTH

On page 1 we reported Edinburgh's remarkable new figure for bike commuting. Less than 1% in 1981, it roughly doubled each decade even though static in most of Scotland and the UK. Here are some possible reasons ...

- ♦ **Consistent campaigning** - The regular *Spokes Bulletin* [12,000 copies, 100s going to named decision makers three times a year] and our excellent *Edinburgh bike map* [100,000 copies sold, now 9th edition] help keep cycling in the minds of politicians, press & public.
- ♦ Segregation is now the gold standard but in the 1990s/early 2000s the widespread growth of red advisory lanes helped change **cycling's public image** from 'eccentric' to 'expected' and 'accepted,' and contributed to bike use growth [Spokes 93,103].
- ♦ Edinburgh has great cycling **community activism**. The early Bike Workshop led to the Bike Station, then things exploded: the Innertube Map, the online Cycling Forum, Sustrans Scotland, PoP, now the amazing Festival of Cycling, and so on.
- ♦ After an interesting start [“*Spokes can get lost and take its Commie friends with it,*” said Cllr Brereton] the **Council** has grown into Scotland's most bike-friendly, with a Cycling Team for many years. *Spokes* has consistently urged individuals to speak to or email their own councillors - which hugely helps build councillor support. Thank you!! The councillor appreciation of cycling helped lead to...
- ♦ Most important in recent years - the policy to allocate 5% of transport budgets to cycling, rising 1% a year, now 8%, and on to 10% - allowing Edinburgh to plan ahead and raise big Sustrans match-funds. Initiated by LibDem Cllr **Gordon Mackenzie** [Spokes 112] it was continued by Labour transport convener **Cllr Lesley Hinds** and is now widely quoted as exemplary - from the Scottish Parliament to the London Assembly.

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

To suggest bike parking sites: cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk
Adult cycle training: 668.1996 info@thebikestation.org.uk
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. Or www.fillthathole.org.uk.
Bad glass/dumping [Ed only] Rapid Response 0808 100 3366
Taxi issues: licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk [try taxi firm first]
Lothian Buses: mail@lothianbuses.com 554 4494.
Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime: see www.spokes.org.uk : links : reporting
Emotional/practical victim support: RoadPeace 02089641021

How to... CONTACT YOUR POLITICIANS

Simplest is to find them all at www.writetothem.com. Or...
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.
 For example, Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk.

SNP

Ed Central, Marco Biagi	Ed North/Leith, Malcolm Chisholm
Ed Southern, Jim Eadie	List, Sarah Boyack
Ed Western, Colin Keir	List, Kezia Dugdale
Linlithgow, Fiona Hyslop	List, Neil Findlay

LABOUR

Ed Pentlands, Gordon MacDonald	CONSERVATIVE
Almond Valley, Angela Constance	List, Cameron Buchanan
Midloth N & Muss, Colin Beattie	List, Gavin Brown

GREEN List, Alison Johnstone

Local councils: Find councillors + Who runs the council

edinburgh.gov.uk	0131.529.3186	Lab/SNP
eastlothian.gov.uk	01620.827827	Lab/Con
midlothian.gov.uk	0131.270.7500	SNP/Ind [majority zero]
westlothian.gov.uk	01506.775000	Lab [minority]

Help Spokes, other cyclists and yourself by joining us!
Download a membership form at www.spokes.org.uk