

# SPOKES *The Lothian Cycle Campaign*

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7 November 2011

Dear Sirs

## EGIP Consultation

SPOKES – The Lothian Cycle Campaign welcomes the extension of electrification on environmental grounds.

In respect of the detailed implementation of EGIP, our principal areas of comment are that:

1. The specification of the internal layout of the new trains be such that the fixed seating for commuters should not be to the detriment of equality of access for other stakeholder groups. Equitable provision should be made in each coach for cycles, luggage, sporting equipment, pushchairs and wheeled walking aids.

We are particularly concerned because the newly introduced Cl. 380 electric trains include space for only 2 cycles per 4-car set, which is a fraction of the existing 6 cycles per 3-car set in most of the existing Cl.170 diesel powered trains in use on EGIP routes. Such a reduction in capacity would lead to inordinate problems, as well as contradicting government policies and intentions such as in the National Transport Strategy and in the government's Cycling Action Plan for Scotland.

2. It is vital that existing routes by way of footpaths, cycle paths and minor roads are maintained. We are particularly concerned that bridges serving such routes are not closed to save the cost of raising them to accommodate electrification clearances. It should be noted that the diversion of a path or minor road to an alternative bridge is not an appropriate alternative if that involves the use of a busy road.
3. Due consideration be given in civil engineering design to wider community benefits to path networks. For instance, making a stream culvert slightly wider can enable path network benefits at minor or no cost to the overall scheme, whilst yielding great community benefit.
4. Provision be made for employees to access new depots etc by bicycle by the provision of suitable access routes, parking and secure storage. We note that the assessments of the locations for the proposed Stirling maintenance depot mentions car parking only.

We hereby request that Spokes be included in the list of community groups being consulted. We have been told verbally that this would be the case, but no contact appears to have been received.

In addition, in many consultations, an organisation may consent to having its submissions published on the consultation website. We hereby give such consent.

Yours faithfully

Ewan Jeffrey, for Spokes.