

Spokes Meeting with Cllrs Macinnes & Doran, 2.8.17

Brief notes...

Present: Council officers Ewan Kennedy; Andrew Easson; Phil Noble
Spokes Dave du Feu; Martin McDonnell; David French; Mies Knottenbelt

The meeting lasted if anything under an hour as started a bit late and the Councillors had another meeting after, so we couldn't cover as much as hoped; but it had a quite positive feeling.

Spokes maps - Presented cllrs with Spokes Ed maps – Cllr Macinnes will pin it on her wall!

Coalition programme – expected to be published in next few weeks, but parties still working on amalgamating the two manifestos.

Council targets – are very ambitious but stats are moving in the right direction, unlike the government's all-Scotland target. If bike use rises this has to come from other modes, which is recognised by Edinburgh through targets for traffic reduction (actual data is also moving that way). Most other councils, and the Scot government, have targets to raise bike use but no parallel targets to cut motor use.

Princes St/ City Centre – Following 29 June Council motion (which Martin did a deputation at) the officers are preparing a report for Nov Transport Cttee. It will discuss a major city centre traffic reorganisation to cut traffic and prioritise walk/ cycle etc (as we have been pressing for, so definitely worth keeping emphasising this). We weren't told what the report would recommend however.

East-West route – This remains the priority AT project. Another staff member recently recruited to handle the public engagement side. On the 'critical path' to rapid completion the biggest unknown and potential delay will be the type of objections received to the TROs and what sort of public inquiry, if any, results. If it looks like this brings big delays to one part of the scheme they will try and implement a different section first.

Melville Crescent – separate team working on this – consultation expected soon.

George Street – separate project under Anna Herriman, consultants recently appointed to work on design – didn't get an impression of timescale.

General cycle project delays – largely due to the major staff reorganisation, now complete. AT team same size as before, but other sections less, which impacts on AT. e.g. less staff to handle design, TRO processes, etc.

Lots of cycle projects now being put out to consultants who will undertake the whole process – consultation, design, TRO assistance (but legally the Council has to do most of that), and managing construction. The projects consulted on last year now entering the TRO phase, after which we should see construction. [Didn't think of asking about how this affected costs/budgets].

Roseburn to Canal, Meadows to Canal – consultants just appointed (or in process of appointing?)

Also setting up a consultancy 'framework' – think this is a short list of approved consultants – to whom small jobs can be passed (without long tendering processes presumably). This is likely to be used (amongst other things) to handle some of the very many small suggestions that the Council keeps receiving (e.g. dropped kerbs, chicane problems, etc).

Tramline issues – Council working on short term (weeks) and longer term (needing TROs, consultn etc). Will be arranging mtg with Spokes for next week to discuss. The short-term measures likely to include some unusual signs which need government permission, but hopeful of getting rapid decisions.

There seemed a general acceptance of our point that the tramline layout had been designed “tram first” then fit everything else around it. They said that if the tram is extended it will very definitely be done on a holistic basis – it will be a transport/ place project, not just a tram project.

Spokes summer competition (cheap ideas to boost cycle use) – Council will be happy to look carefully at the prizewinning entries to see which, if any, can be implemented.

[after meeting] **Cllr Macinnes** – keen to try an electric bike (lives in hilly Liberton). Mies will put in touch with Bike Station. Also interested in a bike ride at some point to see good and poor provision in central area. David is in her ward and may have further contact on this. Didn't speak to Cllr Doran but hopefully she too would be interested?