

Councillor Phil Wheeler

Date 7 May 2008

Our Ref PW/Tpt/08

Your Ref

Mr Stewart Stevenson MSP
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure
and Climate Change
The Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear

FORTH ROAD BRIDGE AND A90: CYCLE ROUTE

I refer to the statement by John Swinney of 20th August 2007 when, in relation to the congestion predicted to occur because of the abolition of the Forth Road Bridge tolls, he stated that:

"We will continue to invest in initiatives which reduce congestion, such as ... improved rail, bus and cycle links." (Scottish Government news release)

Subsequent correspondence from the Scottish Government to Dave du Feu of Spokes (26th November 2007) indicated that you would be happy to discuss with The City of Edinburgh Council the issue of improving the cycle route between Edinburgh and Queensferry (in the light of the Spending Review outcomes and the local government settlement).

The City of Edinburgh Council has previously highlighted the A90 cycle route upgrade as a high priority due to:

- its importance as a commuter route between Fife, Queensferry and Edinburgh;
- its importance as a tourist route between Edinburgh, Queensferry, Fife, the Round the Forth loop (Route 76) and other Scottish National Cycle Network routes;
- its status as part of the National Cycle Network (NCN1 and 76); and
- its role as the main alternative to the A90 on which cyclists are banned.

The scheme was also submitted by the Council as written evidence to the Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee on the proposed Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill.

Regarding the other sources of funding for this project that were identified by the Scottish Government in its letter: