

Councillor Phil Wheeler

- CWSS – this is budgeted at £800K for 2008/09 (and is not yet guaranteed for future years) but must also cover walking and safer streets projects across the wider Edinburgh area.
- SFStran - the £800K of SFStran RTP funding for upgrading cycleways around Edinburgh was an exceptionally large amount from the partnership due to underspends elsewhere in its' budget. The money had to be spent in a four month period and was not therefore available for the longer term project of upgrading the A90 route. SFStran funding has now been significantly cut by the Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council has budgeted to replace this money with its' own 'Key City Connections' fund at a similar level to that provided by SFStran before 2007-08 (£150-200K per annum).

It is therefore clear that the funds available to The City of Edinburgh Council for a cycle scheme of this scale (estimated at £2m) are insufficient and we are unable to take it forward without significant external funding. In the past Sustrans would have also been a potential source of funding for a National Cycle Network link but our understanding is that their budget will also be much diminished in the coming years.

I am therefore writing to you to establish:

- what investment in cycling the Scottish Government is intending to spend to mitigate the Forth Bridge toll-related congestion?
- What proportion of this investment would be available for upgrading the A90 cycle route?

I am sure you will agree that the A90 cycle route is not only an important local link but one of significant national importance too. The City of Edinburgh Council considers the improvement project to be a high priority, but it is one which we are unable to take forward without substantial external funding.

I would welcome a meeting with you to discuss this issue but I would first appreciate assurances that the Scottish Government is willing to invest in this project.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Phil Wheeler

Convenor, Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Enc

CC: Dave du Feu, SPOKES