

SPOKES

The Lothian Cycle Campaign

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Councillor Gordon Mackenzie
Convener Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City of Edinburgh Council
High St
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Dear Councillor Mackenzie

QUALITY BIKE CORRIDOR: MOUND TO KINGS BUILDINGS

I have been acting on behalf of SPOKES, in consultation with the SPOKES Planning Group, in response to the Council's proposals for this Corridor. I submitted our comments on the original consultation in December 2010 and I had a recent meeting with Council officials from the Transport Department to discuss the revised proposals.

This meeting was very helpful in clarifying the current position and we were pleased to note that a number of very welcome changes had been made in response to our, earlier detailed comments which should increase the overall value of the corridor for cyclists in Edinburgh.

There is, however, one further change which we think would substantially increase the added value of the route. This is to ensure that there is a consistent, good quality red surfacing along the entirety of the proposed cycle lanes. At present, red surfacing is only proposed for new lanes in certain specific locations and although there are some existing cycle lanes with red surfacing which are incorporated into the corridor, many of these are in poor condition. Our view is that good quality red surfacing on all cycle lanes in the corridor would act as a signal to cyclists, motorists and the public that this is a new and major initiative to promote cycling in Edinburgh rather than a number of limited, ad hoc changes. And it is clear that single, white lines to denote cycle lanes degrade quickly with the result that this type of lane can become indistinguishable, over time, from the normal road surface.

Research undertaken in Edinburgh at Napier University, under the supervision of Professor Tom Rye, on cycle and bus lanes concluded that coloured lanes are significantly less likely to be subject to motorist intrusion than uncoloured lanes and also are more reassuring to cyclists.

In short, we think that a commitment to continuous red surfacing for all the cycle lanes in the proposed Quality Bike Corridor would be a major improvement and underpin the excellent work that has been undertaken.

I look forward to hearing further from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD GRANT