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<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-letters/take-bigger-steps-to-sustainable-travel-1.1134825>

Text of letter as printed [i.e. as edited by The Herald letters editor!]

## **Take bigger steps to sustainable travel**

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Alex Salmond states in Parliament that his Government must follow the SNP election manifesto on an independence referendum – a worthy sentiment, particularly as his party has an overall majority.

But on the lower profile subject of investment in walking and cycling he is quite content to run a coach and horses (or should that be an HGV?) through the same manifesto.

The manifesto promised to “increase the proportion of transport spending on ... active and sustainable travel”. Not a difficult task, given that the existing proportion is around 1%.

Yet the draft budget 2012/13, now being consulted on, slashes the sustainable and active travel budget from £25 million in 2011/12 to £16m in 2012/13, while throwing doubt over the very existence of the cycling, walking and safer streets fund, which forms the basis of local authority walking and cycling investment. At the same time, total transport spending shoots up, thanks to a £100m boost for trunk roads and motorways.

Rather than increasing the proportion of transport spending on walking and cycling, it is being devastated.

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