

## STERN WARNING

With just 0.7C global warming so far, weather extremes are rising worldwide as the warmer atmosphere holds more water and becomes more turbulent. **Lord Stern**, climate change economics expert, warns that we are on track to seriously exceed the dangerous 2C threshold. [Guardian 13.2.14 or search *Lord Stern* at [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)]



In this context increasing trunk road capacity at huge cost [e.g £3000m each for A96 and A9 dualling] is surely a waste of precious resources, quite apart from adding further to the problem. *Investment should prioritise infrastructure and transport modes with lower emissions and greater resilience to extreme weather.* Active travel ticks all the boxes in encouraging and catering for local trips, yet it receives only 1-1.5% of government transport spend [p4].

## RAIL: BIG OPPORTUNITY

Five companies are bidding to the Scottish Government to take over the ScotRail franchise in March 2015. **The outcome will have a big impact on Scotland bike/rail for 10 years to come.** The government has said that bike/rail issues will be considered when bids are assessed and the tender document includes a lot of detail about this.

**Spokes has met all 5 bidders. Our ideas include...**

- ◆ flexible space suitable for at least 2 bikes per carriage
- ◆ bike hubs at main stations (for repair, hire, etc)
- ◆ car-park charges that encourage cycle/walk to stations.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

If bike-rail matters to you, send your views to the bidders. *Email addresses and more info: [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [Jan 24 news].*

## ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

**To suggest bike parking sites:** [cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Adult cycle training:** 668.1996 [info@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto:info@thebikestation.org.uk)

**Www.travelinescotland.com:** bikes on rail, bus and ferry.

**Potholes, glass on paths, broken lights, in Edinb/Lothian:**

[Use lamp-post numbers to report location]. 0800.232323 [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence). Or [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk).

**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]** Rapid Response 0808 100 3366

**Taxi issues:** [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) [try taxi firm first]

**Lothian Buses:** [mail@lothianbuses.com](mailto:mail@lothianbuses.com) 554 4494.

**Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding,**

**other road crime:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : links : reporting

**Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 02089641021

## FACTS & FIGURES

### CYCLING FACTS

We often hear that the police target motorists and pay no attention to illegal cycling. **Fact:** in 2012/13 nearly 200 local cyclists were given £30 fixed penalties. Fines or warnings were issued for everything from inconsiderate or careless cycling to riding when drunk. [H 30.12.13]

### CYCLING + WALKING + DRIVING FACTS

Spokes urges cyclists not to use footways [see our shared paths leaflets, [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : considerate]. Nonetheless, Edinburgh pedestrian death and injury data makes stark reading [see table] and suggests where action is most vital to make walking in the city safe and more pleasant. The Council 20mph plans [p1] are a useful step.

*Table: Pedestrian deaths & serious injuries, 2006-2010 on Edinburgh roads and footways, according to whether a cyclist or motorist was involved.* [Council report, TEC Cttee 14.1.14]

Involving...	Pedestrian death	Pedestrian serious
Cyclist	0	6
Motorist	33	496

### DRIVING FACTS

**Sir Stephen House**, head of **Police Scotland**, recently reported a survey in which over 50% of drivers admitted illegal behaviour, for example using mobiles or speeding, and nearly 75% admitted 'risky driving.' He added, "Evidence shows that regular risky and illegal drivers do not acknowledge the risk they present or view their own actions as illegal or having any real social impact." Consultation with local communities, he said, had put high priority on road safety, and the police would act. [Direction, Road Safety Scotland magazine, Winter 2013]

### How to...

## CONTACT YOUR POLITICIANS

*Simplest is to find them all at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Or...*

**Write to your local MSP or Lothians Regional List MSPs** at Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. 0131 348 5000. **or email:** [firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk). For example, [Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk).

#### SNP

Ed Central, Marco Biagi

Ed Southern, Jim Eadie

Ed Western, Colin Keir

Linlithgow, Fiona Hyslop

Ed Pentlands, Gordon MacDonald

Almond Valley, Angela Constance

Midloth N & Muss, Colin Beattie

**GREEN** List, Alison Johnstone

**INDEPENDENT** List, Margo MacDonald

**Local councils: Find councillors + Who runs the council**

[edinburgh.gov.uk](http://edinburgh.gov.uk) 0131.529.3186 Lab/SNP

[eastlothian.gov.uk](http://eastlothian.gov.uk) 01620.827827 Lab/Con

[midlothian.gov.uk](http://midlothian.gov.uk) 0131.270.7500 SNP/Ind [majority zero]

[westlothian.gov.uk](http://westlothian.gov.uk) 01506.775000 Lab [minority]

**More info including Westminster MPs & European MEPs:**

[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com) [mysociety.org](http://mysociety.org)

**Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by joining us! Keep in touch with cycle route news in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scotland. Find out which politicians to write to, and when. Discover the latest bike maps. Download a membership form at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) or send your name, address, email address and donation [you choose how much] to Spokes [address on p1].**