

From: <Cara.Hilton.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>

Date: 8 December 2015 at 17:03:37 GMT

To:

Subject: Re: Letter from your constituent

Thanks for your email.

I have taken this issue up with the Transport Minister who has provided me with the following response:

"In essence, there is a risk of further damage until FRB repaired therefore on balance not safe to allow pedestrians and cyclists over (in event of further structural damage), and in due course the remedy work will begin and all efforts should remain with it being a live work site. Exemptions have been very carefully considered, and a full travel plan in place as communicated "

Personally I find this explanation dubious and I'm happy to offer my support to any campaign to allow cyclists and indeed pedestrians to access the bridge.

Best wishes

Cara Hilton MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Dunfermline

Scottish Labour Opportunities Spokesperson (Children and Young People)

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On 8 Dec 2015, at 02:10, xxxxxx wrote:

Dear Cara Hilton,

I write to you with regards to the forth road bridge closure and the cycle path

I am a regular commuter to Edinburgh and Livingston - parking at the ferry toll car park and commuting into Edinburgh by bicycle

Whilst I appreciate that safety is paramount - as a cyclist, a GP and an A&E doctor I am aware of the risks of cycling but also its benefits

I will not go into the motoring misery, of which you are all too aware, but surely the weight of a handful of cyclists every hour on one side of the bridge is neither going to contribute to the stress on the bridge nor hinder repair work

This is an excellent public health opportunity to encourage people to cycle into work - perhaps the biggest single incentive cycling will ever see - by opening one cycle lane

I commute, admittedly not every journey , but do so regardless of weather or time of year - frequently making commutes late at night to start a midnight shift in Edinburgh.

Would you lend your voice to the cyclists who wish to not only commute, who would ease the traffic burden and who want, not to have this privilege to themselves, but to promote healthy living and less dependence on cars.

There is a growing voice seeking this end and your voice would add much more than mine

I feel I am not able to get adequate answers as to why the cycle path had to be closed. If, even in an emergency it is possible for a 10 ton (estimate) fire engine to cross, or a 3 ton service vehicle, even a slightly heavier cyclist like myself is going to cause no damage

Best wishes

Yours sincerely,