



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sarah Boyack MSP

Lothian

Via email: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: SB/ATB/KF

Your Ref:

28 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Funding for cycling

Thank you for your e-mail about funding for cycling infrastructure.

The Scottish Government has recently announced its draft budget for 2016/17 which indicates that it will not give any additional funding for cycling and active travel. I believe that making active travel options more accessible for everyone could help address the physical and mental health problems we face in Scotland. I and my party, Scottish Labour, support active travel and the encouragement of walking and cycling, as well as more generally the culture of active travel which is why I back SPOKES calls on the Government that 1% of the 2016/17 transport budget be transferred from road building to cycling and walking spending. My colleague, David Stewart MSP, Shadow Cabinet Spokesperson for Transport, recently raised the Spoke's proposal during the Scottish Parliament Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee. Details of David's question and the Minister's response can be found here:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10296&mode=pdf>.

As a regular cyclist myself, I want to see increased, sustained year on year investment in infrastructure to encourage cycling so I have previously welcomed Edinburgh's leadership with the council's commitment to ensure continual, increasing investment in cycling. However, due to the Scottish Government passing on a 5% cut to local government budgets despite themselves only receiving a 1% real term cut to their budget, all Scottish council's will have less money to invest in active travel infrastructure – something it's vital we raise awareness of.

The Scottish Government has previously said they aim to have 10% of all road journeys made by bike by 2020 which is to be welcomed, but by only investing in trunk roads in the transport budget, thereby supporting car needs over active travel needs, it is difficult to see how they intend to achieve their goals, including that of cutting down on CO2 emissions. I have called on the Scottish Government to put in place proper funding and sustained investment. Part of this process must be to ensure that the needs of cyclists are designed into our roads maintenance, our local transport strategies and our planning decisions so that routes and dedicated infrastructure such as parking facilities are designed with the needs of cyclists in mind.

Alongside considering cycling as a mode of transport, there are interesting opportunities to take a broader approach. I'm keen that the debate considers how cycling can help to address other Scottish Government goals such as physical activity targets and legacy initiatives attached to the 2014

Sarah Boyack MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothian

• The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

• Tel: 0131 348 5751

• Email: sarah.boyack.msp@scottish.parliament.uk • Online: www.sarahboyack.com

Commonwealth Games as opportunities to set clear targets on cycling participation. Promoting cycling amongst school students is also crucial.

We need to promote safer road cycling opportunities generally as well as targeting specific cycle interest developments for sport and tourism.

We need a step change to deliver the increases in cycle participation that the Scottish Government want to achieve under the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and I, along with my Scottish Labour colleagues will continue to press for investment in facilities and initiatives to make this a reality.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Boyack MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothian (Scottish Labour)