

1987 to 1996



“Present policies aim to treat the symptoms of excessive motorised mobility, while creating more of it.”

— Tony Grant of Sustrans at Spokes public meeting, 1994



Maps

1987 - After much demand Spokes produces Edinburgh's first cycle map, in black and white with a red overlay. It sells 3,000 copies.

Further maps appear in 1991 (5,000 copies sold), 1994 (10,000 sold) and 1996.



Rail die in

1993 - Spokes members hold a die-in at Waverley over new ScotRail bike fees, which quadruple some local trip costs. Years of campaigning before fees are scrapped in 1998. Space for cycles on trains is an on-going problem.



Innocent Railway

1989 - The Innocent Railway path began in 1982 as a short stretch between the tunnel and Duddingston Road South. In 1989 the tunnel is opened and the route extends to become a busy commuting and leisure route taking cyclists from the south east to St Leonards.



Safe Routes for Schools

1996 - Spokes begins a campaign for safe and healthy school travel with a competition offering £500 to a local school with the best plan to spend the money to encourage cycling to school. The local councils and Edinburgh Health Challenge join in, providing additional funding.

1987

First cycle team

Thanks to Spokes efforts, Lothian Regional Council creates a 3-person Cycle Team, a huge advance for proper cycling strategies. Their four main areas of work are: off-road networks; safe routes to schools; on-road schemes; and publicity and signposting.

1988

Cycle parking

Lothian Regional Council specifies bike parking requirements for all future planning applications. Bike stands start appearing throughout the city.

1991

ScotRail bike ban defeated

ScotRail announces a total, immediate ban of bicycles on most rail services between Scotland's main cities. Within days Spokes' 700 members plus many cycling and transport bodies are in action. Cyclists are furious, as are the press, politicians, the tourist industry, and ordinary rail staff. ScotRail's post room and local MP's mailboxes are overwhelmed. 4 weeks later the ban is lifted.

1996

Cycle team scrapped

In spite of much campaigning from many organisations, the Conservative government scraps Regional Councils, including Lothian. That is the end of the cycle team and their experience. The smaller councils that are created have less capability to carry out cycle projects and joined up transport development.

1996

Struggle for funding

The Scottish Office responds to years of lobbying with new policies and some actions on cycling. But money for trunk roads soars while all other transport modes are squeezed.

Scale: 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 mile

(half kilometre per grid square) kilometre

You can cycle a mile in:
10 minutes (leisurely pace)
5 minutes (medium pace)
3 minutes (speedy)



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