

2007 to 2017

SPOKES

“George Street is “a car park” and Princes Street “a bus station”.

– Internationally renowned city planner Jan Gehl in his 2011 report to Edinburgh City Council.

2008

Collapse of funding

New SNP government slashes cycle funds while trunk road spending hugely increases. Government gives a target of 10% of trips by bike by 2020, but cycle funding dwindles to below 0.7% of the transport budget.

2010

Active travel plan

Edinburgh City Council launches an ambitious Active Travel Action Plan aiming to build a Family-Friendly Network and make Edinburgh a Cycle Friendly city through main road upgrades and area improvements.

2010

Funding decision reversed

Scottish Government boosts funding to nearly its previous peak level. £2.65m extra to Sustrans, meaning 100 infrastructure projects, large and small, across Scotland.

2010

Tramline – layout and crashes

Spokes campaigns unsuccessfully against the tramline layout and brings over a Dutch expert. The Council rejects his recommendations, and the basic layout fails to properly consider cycling or walking. Result, some 250 hospital-recorded injuries so far. After a fatality in May 2017 the Council agrees short and longer-term improvements, though none can fully overcome the basic layout problems.

2012

Council cycle funding

Edinburgh Council decision, unique in UK, to allocate 5% of transport budgets to cycling, rising 1% a year until 10%, thanks to Transport Convener Cllr Graham Mackenzie.

2015

Routes opened

Meadows to Innocent Railway route opens including the first segregated on road section in Edinburgh. A90 route to Fife and round the Forth opens after 10 years of campaigning.

2017

Traffic count

Cycles up by 51% since 2007. Private vehicle usage down by 23%. At Lothian Road cycles make up 26% of traffic.

2017

Funding doubled

Thanks to years of growing campaigning by Spokes and other groups and individuals, and a pro-active Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf MSP, Scottish active travel funding is doubled to £80m a year, £15 per head of population.



Pedal on Parliament

2012 to 2017 - The first of the annual Pedal on Parliaments. Spokes fully supports them and donates to the first mass pedal from the Meadows to Holyrood.

The event is wildly successful, with 3000 cyclists. Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness now also run Pedals on Parliament.



Bike Alert video

2015 to 2017 - Spokes joins with the emergency services at events for young drivers in Edinburgh and the Lothians. We introduce our Be Bike Alert video and hand out leaflets to around 6,000 year 6 pupils each year. Police Scotland also use our leaflets as part of Operation Close Pass to educate drivers about sharing the road safely with cyclists.



Cycle storage

2011 - Spokes runs a survey which shows the difficulties of storing bicycles in tenements, and how this can prevent bike ownership. Spokes produces a factsheet with practical suggestions and persuades the Council to include it in its official Planning Guidance.

Spokes also lobbies the Council for covered, secure bike storage on streets near flats.



West-East route

2016 - The proposed West-East segregated route from Roseburn via the City Centre to Leith, proves highly controversial. Spokes and others e.g. the Roseburn Cycle Route Support Group lobby vigorously. Cllr Lesley Hinds leads negotiations and the route is agreed.