

## SP Petitions Committee, 29 June 2017

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### Dave's intro

I will spend 2 minutes outlining policy issues.

As Michaela said, the government's preferred [Sheriffhall Option B](#) is the worst option for cycling and walking, making it impossible to include a pedestrian/cycle bridge, and with numerous slip road crossings. The government's [Option B announcement](#) did not even mention cycling.

**SEStran**, the Regional Transport authority, in its report [Strategic Cross-Boundary Cycle Development](#), identifies the importance of a bridge if there is to be “high quality” cycle provision.

**Sustrans**, the Scottish Government's main partner on cycling infrastructure, states in a [letter](#) to the designers that this option is so poor that they will not comment on its details and instead urge a rethink on options.

Even the **Scottish Government**, in a [letter](#) to Spokes, damns option B with faint praise, merely saying it is “*better than the existing arrangements.*”

In 2004 Scottish Ministers **allocated £800K** to Midlothian Council for a cycle bridge. Sadly, the cash was subsequently re-allocated – apparently because a roundabout rebuild appeared to be moving up the agenda.

More generally, the Scottish Government has a **Trunk Roads Cycling Initiative** policy [[1](#), [2](#)] - which may particularly interest Mr Whittle and Mr Corry as it was introduced by Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, back in 1996! It is still current, and commits the government to...

- ◆ “give special consideration for cyclists ... in trunk road improvements”
- ◆ “ensure no hazards to cyclists are built in”
- ◆ “ensure that opportunities for cyclists ... are ... exploited.”

This policy is clearly breached by Option B.

Finally, Option B reflects a **general issue in the treatment of walking and cycling in infrastructure projects**, of which there are countless examples. Namely, major decisions are taken and *only then* do designers try to fit in active travel, although good options may now be impossible. Instead, cycling and walking should be essential criteria from the outset, and holistic solutions developed.