

Spokes – the Lothian Cycle Campaign

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[Trams to Newhaven Support for Business Consultation](#)

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing on behalf of Spokes – the Lothian Cycle Campaign – in connection with your consultation re support for businesses on Leith Walk during the proposed tram extension works.

Spokes believes that it is essential that cycleways are retained in both directions along the whole of Leith Walk throughout the works, with cycle parking facilities at regular intervals.

There has been talk of alternative cycle routes being provided on nearby streets, but this is likely to:

- reduce the passing trade from cyclists
- be inconvenient in its indirectness
- have difficulties connecting to other routes

There is much evidence that people on bikes bring much trade to local businesses and usually more so than is realised by those businesses.

We support a number of the proposals in the survey document for facilitating local deliveries and assisting access, where we see that the use of cargo bikes (possibly electrically assisted), all ability bikes and pedal taxis should play an essential and significant part.

We note that cargo bikes are mentioned as a “fresh approach” but we think that they could be used far more extensively than suggested – eg from nearby redistribution centres and for last mile deliveries.

Pedal taxis could bring the less able who will not be able to park near the shops from their cars to the shops that they wish to visit and cargo bikes could take their shopping home for them.

It is good to see that opportunities are being presented that could make this an exemplar project for keeping a “High street” open for business and actually thriving during a major construction project.

There are lots of great ideas in the consultation that go beyond the period of disruption and we see it as an excellent opportunity for testing local redistribution, reducing private motor traffic, testing the extended usage of bikes of all kinds and making this more of a people-friendly place.

Martin McDonnell
Spokes Planning Group