

Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign 0131 313 2114 spokes.org.uk spokes@spokes.org.uk twitter @SpokesLothian
St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG - this is a postal address, Spokes is a voluntary body with no staff

THE CLIMATE OF TRANSPORT

Despite increasingly powerful scientific warnings of potential climate breakdown, despite transport now being Scotland's largest source of climate emissions, and despite the public health disaster of sedentary lifestyles, the Scottish Government predicts that by 2037, under its present policies ...

- ♦ car trips will rise 25%, from 1.8bn to 2.3bn
- ♦ goods trips will rise 44%
- ♦ miles driven will rise 37%, from 20bn to 28bn
- ♦ congestion (time wasted per mile) will rise 37%, with the biggest impact in our area, South East Scotland. Even in Aberdeen, congestion will be worse in 2037 than before the new £1bn 'peripheral road' was built.
- ♦ bus passenger miles will fall 5%
- ♦ rail use will rise - the only sustainable mode shift.

These are 'central' forecasts but even the 'low scenario' shows very significant worsening compared to now.

The report* adds, "traffic growth in the first years is strongly influenced by major road schemes opening." And... the calculations may underestimate later increases as they seem to exclude future major schemes such as the £3bn A9 & £3bn A96 dualling. **Transport Forecasts 2018*

EVs will cut exhaust emissions – but there remain big EV/battery manufacture emissions, congestion, tyre wear particulates and sedentariness. The target for all new cars to be low emission is not till 2032. *Climate Change Plan RPP3*

Air travel is to grow* from 25m terminal-passengers a year to some 30m in 2027, yet the Scottish Government, with Conservative support, plans to raise this further by scrapping Air Departure Tax. **Air Departure Tax in Scotland*

CYCLING AND WALKING

We cannot find government cycle or walk forecasts, only the 2020 'vision' of 10% of all trips being by bike – truly a 'vision' given the 2017 actual level of just 1.5%!

Former Transport Minister Humza Yousaf did initiate some bold active travel policies [*Spokes 132*], notably doubling investment to £80m a year. However, it's a cycling 'bubble' outside of which the government continues to facilitate traffic growth as if it didn't impact on active travel. [but see p1 of centre supplement]

CLIMATE & CYCLING - IRELAND GETS IT!

A 100-person randomly-selected Citizens' Assembly debating climate [citizensassembly.ie] voted by over 90% that bus and cycle investment should get 'much greater priority' over that for private car. Subsequently the Dáil (Parliament) voted for 10% of the transport budget to be allocated to cycling [Scotland's figure is 3.1%].

GOOD IN EDINBURGH



A quick rest on his Edinburgh Bike Hire journey!



We were pleased to donate £500 towards an Urban Arrow e-cargo bike for the new Food Sharing Hub, 22 Bread St. More info: www.spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes



THERE IS A CLIMATE/TRANSPORT SOLUTION

The Scottish Government must listen to its own mantra of walk/bike first, single-occupant cars last, and bring transport into line with climate goals. For example...

- ♦ Give Councils strong 'demand management' powers - e.g. non-residential parking levies, not just workplace
- ♦ Dual mainline railways before main roads
- ♦ Adopt a frequent-flyers sliding-scale charge
- ♦ Roll out quality active travel provision much faster.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ♦ Ask your MSPs to act on transport and climate
- ♦ Come to our public meeting [hashtag #SpokesMtg]

SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING Weds 20 March CLIMATE, TRANSPORT & CYCLING

including top speakers from the University of Edinburgh and Scottish Parliament ... see centre page supplement

Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by contacting your MSPs, MP, councillors and the press periodically. See back page for contacts. Ask them to raise your point with the relevant Minister / Convener. Send us the results!

FOR YOUR DIARY

Big Events ... See www.spokes.org.uk [events column]

Regular rides ...

Spokes Sunday Rides - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!' First Sunday each month, 30-40 miles. Meet 10am, Usher Hall. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy. Your bike *must* be in good order. If under 14 you *must* come with an adult. www.snowcycle.co.uk stuart@snowcycle.co.uk 445.7073.

Other Edinburgh rides - www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk includes 'very easy' rides, regular rides, weekend rides.

On all rides ... Please ride considerately and carefully. You are entirely responsible for your own safety.

Mar 1-31 Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge Log your sustainable mode work journeys – prizes, kudos and glory for individuals and workplaces! [see box below]



Join the Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge!

Win great prizes as you challenge your colleagues to make active and sustainable journeys to, from and for work.

1 - 31 March

scotland.getmeactive.org.uk **sustrans** JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Feb-May Shrub Coop, Bicycle Matters – imaginative series of events using abandoned bikes & bike bits (e.g. make a purse or coffee table from old bike bits!) plus bike films. www.shrubcoop.org/welcome-to-bicycle-matters

Mar 20 Climate, Transport & Cycling – Spokes public meeting. See centre supplement or spokes.org.uk.

Apr 27-28 Pop-up Pedal on Parliament – see p7

June 6-16 Edin Festival of Cycling 2019 edfoc.org.uk

- ♦ June 12 [provisional] **Spokes Bike Breakfast**
- ♦ June 13 **Spokes Public Mtg Edinb Transformation**

BUYING YOUR SPOKES MAPS

- ♦ **Edinburgh; East Lothian; West Lothian/Livingston** on water-resistant, tear-resistant paper. £6.95 in shops.
- ♦ **Midlothian** £5.95 in shops
- ♦ **Special price** for orders *by post* to Spokes: Ed,EL,WL £5 each; ML £4; **Plus** £1 p&p **per order**. Cheques to 'Spokes.'
- ♦ **Free with orders by post:** one copy *per order* (not per map) of *Favourite Cycle Rides* or *Favourite Cycling Recipes*. Please say which, or none will be sent.
- ♦ **Users say...** a joy to use, wonderful, superb, among the finest, We have one on our office wall – it's often used.
- ♦ **More details** at spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members who are due to renew for 2019 will be notified in their mailing. If so, do it now! - see instructions in mailing.

😊 THANK YOU 😊

Spokes is funded by donations from our 1000+ members and sales of our unmissable maps. Thus we can speak out without fear or favour, not worried about losing funds.

Join Spokes! Download or phone for application form.

SPOKES COMPETITION 2019

'My Cycling Inspiration'

Last year's competition asked what had *improved* your cycling life. The results were so impressive [Spokes 132] that we've chosen a related topic for this year's comp ... **what inspired you to *begin* getting around by bike; or how did you inspire someone else to start using a bike?**

It might be thanks to a friend, or due to the hassles or the unhealthy sedentariness of driving to work, or seeing a new cycle route, persuasion by your children, or maybe your parents showed you from the earliest age that this is the best way to get around; perhaps even it was something you saw or heard from Spokes!

Don't send entries yet – the competition will be launched in our Summer Bulletin, but start thinking now. **We'll publicise winning entries, to inspire other people!**

SPOKES FACTSHEETS

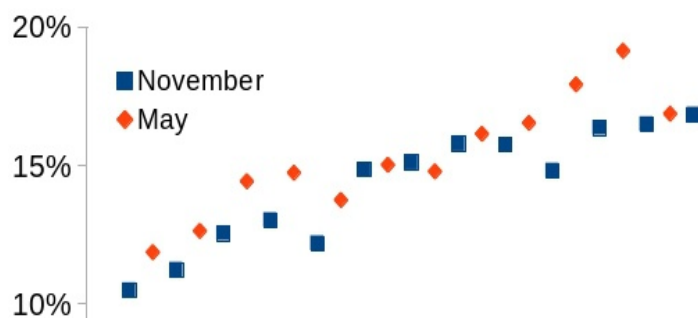
We have factsheets on many topics, including those below. Paper and pdf copies of most are available...

- ♦ **E-bikes** – Why ebike? / cash help / local services
- ♦ **Workplace Cycling** – make your work bike-friendly
- ♦ **Bike parking at shops** – advice for shop managers
- ♦ **Be Bike Alert** – advice to motorists
- ♦ **Considerate path use** – for cyclists and walkers
- ♦ **Bike helmets** – understanding the pros *and* cons
- ♦ **Family cycling** – especially young children
- ♦ **Bike storage in flats/tenements** [to be updated]
- ♦ For these factsheets and other topics see the relevant headings at... spokes.org.uk : [documents](#) : [advice](#).

SPOKES TRAFFIC COUNTS

For over 10 years Spokes has counted rush-hour traffic on Lothian Rd and Forrest Rd, in and out of the city centre.

Counting *all* traffic, not just bikes, is very useful as it has revealed a substantial decline in inner-city rush-hour traffic. Over those years, November bikes are up 41%, cars down 27% and commercial traffic largely unchanged. As a result bikes have risen from around 10% of all vehicles to a **record for November counts, 16.8%**.



Bikes as % of all vehicles, 8-9am, 2006-2018 David French

A big **winter drop-off** seems an urban myth - almost as many people commute by bike in November as in May.

Also interesting is that 75% of cars are single-occupant, a shocking waste of roadscape compared to walk/bike/bus.

Full data at: spokes.org.uk : [documents](#) : [projects](#) : [counts](#).

SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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SPOKES CARGOBIKE SUPPORT

Interest in cargo-bikes for local delivery is well established in Europe and growing rapidly in Britain.

Spokes is keen to encourage use and awareness locally, and it's great to see some already in use [photos, p1 & p6].

Thanks to kind donations from our many members, Spokes offers top-up grants (max £500) for community groups needing a cargo bike – look for our logo on them!

Grants Info: Spokes.org.uk:documents:advice:cargobikes

FOODSHARING EDINBURGH www.shrubcoop.org

This volunteer-led group collects surplus food which would otherwise be wasted, and distributes it to charities and to the public through the Shrub recycling shop at 22 Bread Street. See photo of their new e-cargobike [p1].

ABANDONED BIKES

Abandoned bikes are a big problem in Edinburgh. In a university town with large numbers of people moving in and out each year the problems can be especially acute.



East End, Old Post Office *photo: DdF*

In places where bike racks are already too few, such as Haymarket Station, it is galling to see abandoned bikes occupying precious space. Dead bikes on Edinburgh's stainless steel Sheffield racks become unsightly, with rusty chains and missing components. And they can be particularly annoying in tenement stairwells.

It's also tragic that these bikes could be refurbished and brought back to use by bodies like the **Bike Station** or **Bikes for Refugees**, but legalities prevent them doing so.

We are pleased to see that shrubcoop.org is planning to research these issues. *If you have ideas* or for more info, email them at MaterialMatters@shrubcoop.org. See also this great site: www.shrubcoop.org/welcome-to-bicycle-matters

REPORTING ABANDONED BIKES

You can help by reporting abandoned bikes, though we don't know how the bodies below dispose of them. Be *very precise* with the location, and *try to include a photo*.

- ♦ **On Council public bike racks** – contact the relevant Council Locality Office. To find the Localities and get contact info, google [Edinburgh Find Your Locality](#).
- ♦ **On Edinburgh University property** – google [Edinburgh University Abandoned Bikes](#)
- ♦ **Waverley Station** – checked nightly and note attached if not moved for 7 days. Second note 2 weeks later, then removed by British Transport Police, checked against a theft list, stored for 6 months, then donated to a charity. Contact – ScotRail reception [opp plat 2] or 07771 831144.

HEARTY SQUIRREL heartysquirreledinburgh.weebly.com

A long established Edinburgh University voluntary food coop, Hearty Squirrel sells local organic and Fairtrade food, with stalls on campus and elsewhere.

FORTHCOMING

We're also expecting to support other grant applications including bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk & bikesforrefugees.scot.

OTHER CARGOBIKE DEVELOPMENTS

A useful article on UK e-cargobike initiatives by **European Cycle Logistics Federation** director, Richard Armitage, is at spokes.org.uk:documents:projects:cargobikes.

Edinburgh Council is to develop a cargo bike pilot for some Council deliveries [Transport Cttee 7.12.17] – a report is due in February. Cargo bikes are also being considered for tram extension works and to help local businesses.

- ♦ **Other staffed rail stations** – speak to the station staff.
- ♦ **Other private property** – contact the property owner
- ♦ **Edinburgh Bike Hire** – sadly, even the lovely Just Eat bikes are sometimes abandoned, but EBH are excellent at retrieving them when reported. Tweet [@cyclehire_ed](#) or email support@edinburghcyclehire.com with photo.

PUNCTURED?

Is this what happens to your old punctured inner tubes?

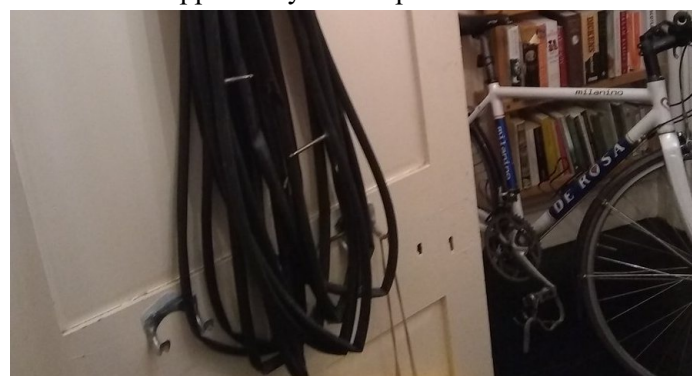


photo: Oliver Brookes

Instead - donate them to **Cycle Of Good**, a charity which converts old tubes into purses, bags and other products, whilst providing jobs and training in Malawi. Scotland has several collection points, including **The Bike Station** and **Edinburgh Bike Coop**. For other drop-off points, products on sale and more info, see cycleofgood.com.

TIRED TYRES AND BIKE BITS

Does your house/garage/flat accumulate old bike bits – even whole bikes – which will probably never be used again? **The Bike Station** takes old bikes and parts in any condition for repair, re-use or scrap metal recycling, as does **Shrub Coop** on a smaller scale. The biggest problem is bulk recycling of worn-out tyres ... this is now being researched by **CRNS**, Scotland's reuse, repair and recycling charity, who would welcome ideas.

Contacts: thebikestation.org.uk shrubcoop.org crns.org.uk

PREVENT PUNCTURES

Google has lots of advice, but best of all is to reduce the sharp materials on roads and paths! Spokes supports haveyogothebottle.org.uk, the campaign for a deposit-return system, and we are cooperating with them on a short video. The Scottish Government *is* taking this seriously, but could act faster – and there is a risk of only including plastic, not glass. **You** can help - ask your MSP for rapid action, and to include glass, not just plastic.



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TOXIC TRAFFIC POLLUTION

Traffic pollution takes two forms, though they are linked: **climate emissions**, which add to global warming, and **toxic emissions**, which directly impact on human health and cause over 20,000 premature deaths a year UK-wide.

A particularly insidious feature is that traffic emissions are invisible, so any qualms that people may have are generally at the back of their mind. In contrast, people are very conscious of visible pollution - e.g. not dropping litter - even if it's far less harmful than traffic emissions.

All road users breathe toxic emissions - however people in *cars* suffer the highest levels, whilst *cyclists* are least affected.

Not all toxic emissions are from the tailpipe: tyre and brake wear are also major sources of minute 'particulates' which are very injurious to health.

Shifting from fossil vehicles to EVs cuts climate emissions if the electricity is renewable - but many other emissions remain, car and battery manufacture emissions are high - and traffic congestion and sedentary lifestyles are not helped.

The death of **Ella Kissi-Debrah**, age 9, highlighted the severity of toxic pollution - an expert's report linked her hospital admissions with pollution spikes. The Attorney General has now agreed a High Court inquest to consider if pollution should be recorded as a cause of death.

Edinburgh intends to introduce **Low Emission Zones** (LEZs), starting 2020, where the most polluting vehicles will be banned - probably enforced by number plate cameras. The details will be important. Initial ideas are expected at the February Transport Committee [p6].

Evidence: articles, with links to research papers ...

Guardian 13.12.18 Google [cyclists exposed to less air pollution](#)

Guardian 12.06.17 Google [air pollution more harmful to children](#)

Guardian 11.01.19 Google [girl's death linked to air pollution](#)



Expert report linked Ella's death to air pollution spikes

EDINBURGH RESEARCH

An Edinburgh University MSc project assessed cyclist exposure to UFPs (ultra-fine particles), one form of toxic pollution, on three routes between Bristo Square and Kings Buildings: the A701 (Minto St etc), Causewayside, and residential streets via the Meadows. A research paper has been accepted by the journal *Atmospheric Pollution Research*. [[spokes.org.uk : documents : technical : local](#)]

In choosing a route you need to balance many factors, including convenience and traffic. However, to minimise UFP exposure, the research suggests offroad paths and residential streets are best, cycle lanes next (painted or, better, separated) and bus lanes worst [*but see Bus below*], whilst advance stop boxes at junctions help greatly.

These conclusions tie in well with research from Leeds [reported in the Guardian 13.12.18 article above].

#BUS2020



A great Lothian Buses initiative showing how one bus can carry 100 car users - cutting congestion and pollution and freeing space for better cycle and foot paths

Lothian Buses 2020 strategy commits to all its vehicles meeting Euro 5 pollution standards (climate and toxic emissions) by end 2020. [[lothianbuses.com/sustainability](#)]

ROUND ABOUT SHERIFFHALL

[+see Spokes 129/132 & [spokes.org.uk : docs: local: Edin: south](#)]

Thanks to tireless work by *Gorebridge Community Trust* and *Spokes*, including speaking at the Scottish Parliament, the Sheriffhall plans now include exemplary cycle/walk provision at the roundabout itself. However, these facilities need connected by quality routes to major destinations such as **Dalkeith**, **Shawfair**, the **Infirmery** and **BioQuarter**, rather than mixing it on the 'A' roads!

Spokes, and many individuals, have written asking the Transport Minister and the Council leaders of Edinburgh and Midlothian to include this in the government-funded City Deal project which is building the roundabout, rather than leaving it until the Councils find other cash.

Cllr Adam McVey, Edinburgh Leader, replied very positively, offering to meet Spokes along with Transport Scotland and Midlothian Leader **Cllr Derek Milligan**.

If you cycle here please ask your MSPs to support this being funded as part of the Sheriffhall project.

SCOTTISH BUDGET 19/20

The draft Scottish budget continues last year's £80m doubled level of active travel cash (just 3.1% of the £2600m transport total). By next year, Councils should be sufficiently geared up to be able to use a substantial further rise, and doubtless we will be arguing for that!

NON-RESIDENTIAL PARKING LEVY

The minority SNP government needs support from one other party to pass its budget. The Greens agreed, and one condition was to give Councils powers to raise a Parking Levy on businesses, based on car space numbers.

English law already allows this but only for employee spaces. **Scotland could take a lead** and include customer spaces, thus giving a competitive advantage to struggling town centres against out-of-town car-based facilities. This is supported by **Glasgow** and **Edinburgh** Councils and by **transport experts** but the government is nervous.

Please ask your MSPs to support a full parking levy - not solely a workplace levy on employee spaces only.

EDINBURGH DEVELOPMENTS

If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your councillors. See p8 or edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors

TRANSFORMATION

Consultation results on the **City Centre Transformation** [spokes.org.uk, 24.6.18] go to the Transport Committee just after we go to press, but we understand it was one of the biggest ever council online survey responses, with over 50% supporting the principle of *transformational change* and only some 10% for *business as usual*. With the principle established the Committee is expected to agree possible approaches to implementation, and after further public debate there should be concrete plans in May.

The consultation also covered Edinburgh's plans for **Low Emission Zones**. It is rumoured the February Committee report will propose wide-area zones rather than solely concentrated in immediate 'hot spots.'

As we said at New Year [spokes.org.uk 31.12.18] **2019 is set to be either the most momentous – or the most disappointing – of recent years. We'll soon know!!**

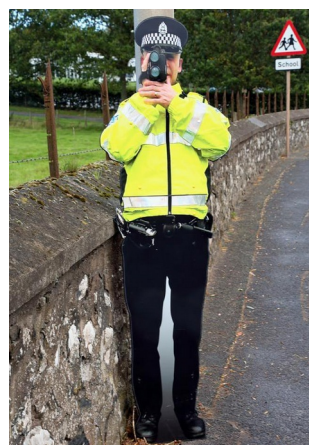
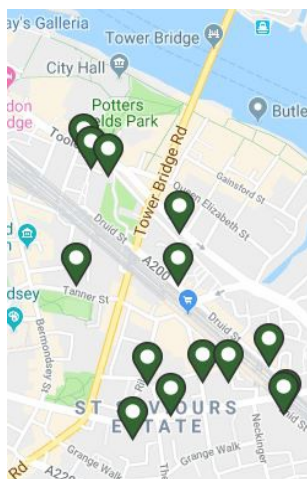
ONSTREET BIKE STORAGE

At last the contractor to install and manage secure onstreet storage lockers is appointed!

The long delay has allowed a bigger scheme - 180 lockers, each holding 5/6 bikes, spread across 90 streets based on requests already received.

We are pleased to see that the contractor is cyclehoop.rentals who run a big London scheme, have considerable experience and an excellent website to book a space or suggest new locker locations.

Each location needs assessment, but Cyclehoop will be keen to progress and should begin operation this year.



Pop-Up Bob

We heard of pop-up Bob from someone who'd been driving slightly too fast in Kirkliston, and got a scare and a reminder.

Groups and individuals in areas with speeding problems can have Bob's help free for a fortnight. We understand from councillors that he is very popular and has a waiting list!

Of course, Bob does not replace enforcement, but he's a great reminder to drivers and to everyone who sees him.

Book him at edinburgh.gov.uk/20mphtoolkit : activities.

MEADOWS-CANAL

Significant changes have been made to the plan, and so a revised consultation is imminent. It is an improvement - but the years of delay to this project are intolerable.

TRAM MISCELLANY

To comment: Use Contact at edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven
TRAMLINE EXTENSION

A final decision is due in March, and go-ahead seems likely. Contractor bids are in, so appointment could be rapid.

After the original disastrous Leith Walk plan [Spokes 131] it is great to see the latest artist impression, with car lanes cut from 4 to 2, segregated cycle routes and wide footways. **If you replied to the Council consultation – thank you!** Some tweaks are still needed, notably the cycleways grade-separated from footways, and both prioritised at side roads.



This will enable safe cycling from Roseburn to Leith! - but beyond Foot of the Walk is less clear. A Council working party has been set up, but safe alternatives are vital before tramlines are laid, to avoid another spate of cyclist injuries.

TRAMLINE CONSTRUCTION

Plans for the **1.5 years Leith Walk construction period** have complete closure northbound, one all-traffic lane southbound and no bike route. **A temporary bike route is vital** as was done for Leith Street works. The Council has agreed to discuss this with the contractor, but **more pressure is needed.**



Great to see Edinburgh businesses using modern cargobikes! This is the smaller of two used by **Union of Genius**, Forrest Rd cafe and award-winning soup supplier. [More cargobike on p3]

E-cargobikes may be used to help transport shop supplies as part of Council local business support during the works. **BIKE CARRIAGE ON TRAMS**

Following a trial requested by Spokes, it was agreed that the Festival bike carriage ban would go, with carriage to be at the attendant's discretion. To our delight, Edinburgh Trams spontaneously agreed the same for *all* busy periods including rush hour! The new wording at tram stops and the trams website is however confusing and is being re-considered.

EXISTING TRAMLINE SAFETY

Crashes and injuries continue relentlessly, albeit at a lesser rate. We are therefore particularly disappointed that Phase 3 tramline safety measures are behind schedule [see p8].

LOCAL CAMPAIGNING

It is great to see local campaigning growing across the city – usually with Spokes members involved, but not necessarily as Spokes. [Contacts below are mainly twitter]

South Edinburgh group [@Cyclesouthedin](#) covers from south of Grange to the Bypass. They have devised this map of desirable routes and are discussing with Sustrans support for a key section, and with the Council SW Locality some smaller changes.

stellathomson @blueyonder.co.uk

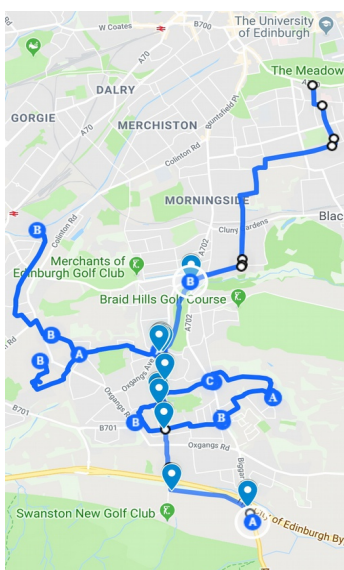
Portobello 'Spokes cell' Meetings are announced at twitter [#SpokesPorty](#). They are in contact with the NE Locality to fund dropped kerbs for Prom accesses.

RoseburnCycleRoute

[@RoseburnCycle](#) was created to support (and improve) the Council's segregated bike route plans, when controversy peaked [[Spokes.org.uk, 16.12.2016](#)]. It continues to do so.

West Edinburgh Whilst there isn't a group as such here there are hugely impressive efforts by two individuals [@harts_cyclery](#) and [@hank_chief](#). West Edinburgh is seeing a great deal of development and it is vital that it is built with Active Travel principles at its core.

Holyrood Park The Scottish Government [who control park traffic, via Historic Environment Scotland] have for years promised improved walking/cycling conditions and to reduce car dominance - but nothing has happened and official replies are exceptionally disappointing, with continual promises but never action. As one example,



local Community Councils and others have highlighted **Duddingston Low Road** where traffic goes dangerously fast round blind corners – but nothing has been done.

If this concerns you, please ask your MSPs to take it up and not be fobbed off with undelivered promises.

Blackford Safe Routes [@blackfordsafer1](#) A new group aiming to ensure safe routes to four local schools, including James Gillespie's primary and secondary. First event is a **March 22 Bike Breakfast**; then a weekly 'bike bus' to school in the summer. [blackfordsaferoutes.co.uk](#).

Sciennes School [@SciennesPS](#) Sciennes has a well-deserved reputation as the city's leading cycling innovator school [google *sciennes school cycling*, then click *images*]. The parent council is campaigning to extend the playground by closing Sciennes road. They have a hugely impressive summer 'bike bus,' with around 100 people joining along the main road from Kings Buildings to the school.



Sciennes Bike Bus [for video, google *Sciennes keith dunlop*]

LOCAL LOBBYING - GET INVOLVED

Edinburgh Council has devolved many decision-making powers and staff, including aspects of transport and some funding, to four **Localities** – NE, NW, SE, SW. Each Locality comprises several Council wards and is run by a Committee of all councillors from those wards.

If you have ideas for smallish local improvements such as new accesses or dropped kerbs contact your Locality [google [Edinburgh find your Locality](#)]. If that doesn't work, try your local councillor [[edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors](#)].

PoP-Up PoP

Pedal on Parliament is this year organising an action weekend on April 27-28. Instead of a mass ride on Parliament there will be a series of 'pop-up Pops' visiting sites which are problematic for those who want to cycle.



If you can help, or know a particular barrier to cycling you'd like to highlight, keep an eye on the POP website [www.pedalonparliament.org](#) or email [hello@pedalonparliament.org](#).

62 – 38 for 20

Thanks if you completed the Scottish Parliament survey on **Mark Ruskell** MSP's Bill to make 20mph the default speed limit in urban areas. 62% of the 6585 respondents said yes. [The Bill](#) is now being scrutinised in Committee.

ACTIVE NATION COMMISSIONER

Following the scrapping by two Councils of early segregated bike routes and projects, former Transport Minister **Humza Yousaf** [Spokes 132] commissioned a Task Force report and created the Commissioner post to progress its recommendations [google *active travel task force*].

We welcome the recently-appointed Commissioner, 'bike adventurer' **Lee Craigie** [[@leecraigie](#)]. Lee's experience means she is a great choice to inspire individuals, local groups, and possibly even Councillors, to take cycling seriously as a healthy, convenient and congestion-busting way to travel.

Pushing the Scottish government is tougher, for while it has some good initiatives to support cycling and walking, it is also expanding road travel [p1], with inevitable negative active travel consequences [centre supplement, p1]. The Task Force recommendations are useful but don't recognise this basic issue. We hope Lee will be a strong advocate, as in Chris Boardman's Manchester example!



THE (HUMAN) COSTS OF DELAY

TRAMLINES CLAIM MORE VICTIMS

From the earliest days, in 2008, we pointed out that the tramline design was poor for cycling safety – and it has meant many more crashes than need have been the case.

Following **Zhi Min Soh's** death in 2017, the Council approved a 4-stage amelioration plan along the route and at blackspots [Spokes 130]. The easy stages (1 & 2) are in place and stage 3, needing Traffic Orders, physical works and some complex agreements, is at last imminent.

Meanwhile we know of four recent crashes, some with painful injuries, at **South St Andrew St** and **Dalry Road junctions**, which phase 3 might well have prevented.

The worst remaining danger point, West End junction, is phase 4, for which planning has been delayed pending decisions on the City Centre Transformation.

SCOTTISH GOVT STYMIES BIKE STORAGE

A **Scottish Government 2016 'Key Priority Action'** is still on the shelf [Spokes 130] - and now an Edinburgh resident has had to abandon his plan for a garden bike storage box and return to the tenement stairwell where his previous bike was stolen. He is surely not alone.

At present to install a bike box or small shed in a front garden needs planning permission, meaning a £200 fee and perhaps that again for architect's drawings. This additional £400+, on top of the cost of the bike container, forced our correspondent to abandon his plan.

The government's 2016 *Independent Planning Review* recommended that 'permitted development' status should be considered for such cases, avoiding the need for planning permission. The government in July 2016 made it a **Key Priority Action** to consider this, but despite many subsequent twists and turns we seem no closer to action.

More: spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : bike storage gardens

MEDICAL PROFESSOR HOSPITALISED

In 2016 East Dunbartonshire Council, in a fierce party-political clash, voted 12-11 not to build phase 2 of the **Bears Way** A81 (Milngavie Road) segregated cycle route, Labour & Tories for the route, SNP & Lib Dems against.



Consultation plans for Bears Way phase 2

In 2018 Glasgow University medical researcher Craig Melville was badly injured (fortunately now recovered) by a hit-and-run driver, where Phase 2 had been planned.

There is an active local campaign [@FriendsOfBearsWay](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfBearsWay/) pressurising the Council to rethink.

NCN CYCLE NETWORK

The 16,500-mile Sustrans **National Cycle Network** is a remarkable achievement by a voluntary organisation - a task which governments have failed to undertake despite being a vital element of national transport infrastructure.

It does however have serious flaws - notably, as traffic and speeds have grown, many of the onroad sections. This is recognised in a new report, with a 20-year plan to drastically upgrade the entire network, so all onroad sections are low speed, and offroad paths are barrier-free, signed and surfaced. [google: *Sustrans paths for everyone*]

Early Scottish demonstration projects will include a traffic-free route avoiding **Manor Powis roundabout** on the Round-Forth NR76 NCN route; and a high quality surface for **Haddington-Londniddry** commuter route.

Sustrans has also created a map-based website for **you** to leave comments on NCN problems and improvements.



Find it here.. nationalcyclenetwork.commonplace.is/about

HOW TO CONTACT POLITICIANS

1. Simplest - find them **all** at www.writetothem.com. Or...

2. **MSPs** – you have one constituency MSP and several Regional MSPs. Find them at scottish.parliament.uk/msps

3. **Councillors** web+phone below **Who runs the council?**

edinburgh.gov.uk 0131.529.3186 SNP/Lab (minority)

eastlothian.gov.uk 01620.827827 Lab (minority)

midlothian.gov.uk 0131.270.7500 Lab (minority)

westlothian.gov.uk 01506.280000 Lab (minority)

A PERSONAL VISIT??

Many people email their MSP/councillor, but why not visit their surgery for a chat on issues that concerns you: it could make an even bigger impact! Ask them for time/place.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Suggest bike parking sites: activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk

Adult cycle training: 668.1996 info@thebikestation.org.uk

Bikes on rail, bus and ferry: www.travelinescotland.com:

Potholes, glass on paths, broken lights, in Edinb/Lothian:

[Use lamp-post numbers to report location]. 0800.232323 www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence. Or www.fillthathole.org.uk.

Bad glass/dumping [Ed only] Rapid Response 0808 100 3366

Taxi issues: licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk [try taxi firm first]

Lothian Buses: mail@lothianbuses.com 554 4494.

Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime: see www.spokes.org.uk : links : reporting

Emotional/practical victim support: RoadPeace 0208964102

Help Spokes, other cyclists and yourself by joining us!
Download a membership form at www.spokes.org.uk