

from: Euan Renton <the.rentons@outlook.com>  
to: "grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk" <grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk>  
"spokes@spokes.org.uk" <spokes@spokes.org.uk>,  
cc: Andy Nichol <Andy.Nichol@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
David Hanna <David.Hanna@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
Ian Johnson <Ian.Johnson2@midlothian.gov.uk>  
date: 1 Apr 2019, 19:35  
subject: City Deal Transport Spend and Active Travel

Dear Dr Vickers

Spokes is pleased to see the City Regional Transport Appraisal Board coming into being and we look forward to the development and delivery of the active travel aspects of City Deal expenditure.

We have been involved in discussions with Transport Scotland about the changes to the Sheriffhall Roundabout and feel engaged and well appraised of these plans. We understand that the other major area of City Deal travel expenditure is in West Edinburgh and we hope that there too, we can have a role before final decisions about road, path and other infrastructure design are concluded.

If City Deal transport spending is to line up with Scottish Planning policy and encourage new development where car dependency is minimised from the outset, we hope you'd agree that cycling and walking should be vital considerations both for resource allocation and detailed infrastructure design as funding is made available. We would draw your attention to relevant targets for cycling set at local and national level: Edinburgh has a 15% target for all commuting journeys, to be achieved by 2020. The equivalent Scottish Government figure is a more modest 10% . We think these targets provide an indicator of how spending should be allocated though we'd hope it is recognised that with green field development, which so much of West Edinburgh will be, the aim needs to be considerably higher than target given the opportunity to establish new travel choices and habits. As such, we hope to see an appropriate share of City Deal transport funding for West Edinburgh allocated to active travel projects of the type identified in the West Edinburgh Transport Appraisal.

It is also important that active travel is given full consideration in any transport spend where walking and cycling will be impacted (for example, the Gogar roundabout junction with the proposed Airport relief road) as well as in specific active travel projects.

In general terms we envisage that the appropriate local Council will undertake detailed design and implementation work rather than the Transport Appraisal Board, which is more about deciding priorities and allocating funding, but we'd be grateful if you can confirm this.

Further, could you advise us of how decisions will be made by the Board as to which projects will be progressed in West Edinburgh, and their timescales. We would welcome an early opportunity to discuss these matters with yourself or relevant senior officers.

We wish you and the Transport Appraisal Board success as your work progresses. We hope to welcome projects from City Deal expenditure which deliver attractive cycling infrastructure and contribute effectively to the Council and Government policies and targets on cycle use.

Yours sincerely  
Euan Renton for Spokes Planning Group