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## YES, IT FEELS A REAL TRANSFORMATION!

**The cynics have been confounded and Edinburgh's City Centre Transformation strategy merits its name!**

Overcoming Edinburgh's innate conservatism is rarely easy, and the City Council deserves big praise for this. **The proof, of course, will be in the implementation**, especially given the Council's record of slow delivery on cycling, walking and 'place' projects. However the new *Open Streets* Old Town road closures, on the first Sunday of each month [p2], are a welcome sign of serious intent.

The Transformation Strategy message on bike facilities: **"Segregated, safe cycle routes to provide a seamless, connected network enabling those of all ages to bike confidently round the city centre for work and leisure."**  
[Transport Committee report, 16.5.19, para 2.5.3]



Lothian Road, now and post-Transformation Artist impression

## BIKES UP, CARS DOWN

In our May traffic count bikes formed 17.6% of all vehicles at our 4 count points, up from 16.9% last May. There was a 28% record at Forrest Rd city-bound.

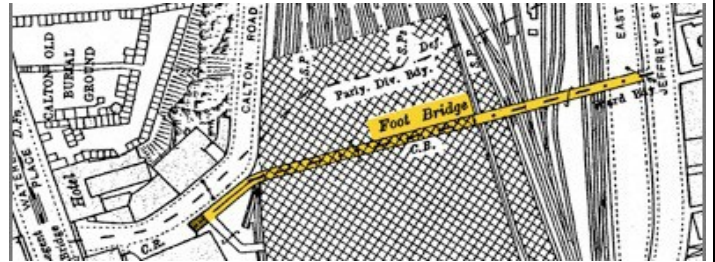
This resumed the long-term inner city peak period trend of more bikes and fewer cars, though not quite back to the

There is an overview of the Transformation Strategy in the centre page pull-out supplement of this Bulletin and an article, with document links, at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [11.5.19].

## SPOKES CAMPAIGNS VINDICATED

Several specifics on which Spokes has campaigned are in the Strategy. These include [& see our website article] ..

- ♦ **Lothian Road** seg lanes and Festival Sq raised crossing
- ♦ **Walk/cycle bridge** Old Town link for St James & Leith



The long-demolished bridge from Jeffrey St to Calton Rd will re-appear. Calton Rd may also close at Leith St junction.

- ♦ **Forrest Road** seg route &/or traffic-free [Spokes 119]
- ♦ **West End junction** to be redesigned "as a priority" for safety reasons. This is where Zhi Min Soh was killed in a tramline-related crash [Spokes 130].

The Strategy covers 10-years. Proposed *starting* dates for strategy projects include [more in our website article] ...

- ♦ 2020 Jan West-East bike route; reduced onstreet parking
- ♦ 2021 Jan Old Town permanent traffic-free streets
- ♦ 2021 Aug Meadows-George St cycle/walk route
- ♦ 2022 George St, including cycleroute; Waverley Bridge closes to traffic; First public transport (+bike) interchange
- ♦ 2023 Lothian Road, with seg cycleroutes; new bike/walk bridge Old Town to Calton Rd; free city centre hopper bus.

The **Transformation Strategy** also recommends that the wider **City Mobility Plan** includes segregated lanes on radial routes leading to the centre. All these plans, and a **Low Emission Zone**, will be consulted on soon.

## UNCERTAINTIES

- ♦ Despite the headline promise on segregated cycleroutes [see box in col 1] some of the detailed text and drawings are ambiguous – notably Morrison Street and Leith Street.
- ♦ Cycling provision on Princes Street is far from clear
- ♦ The area of totally car-free streets could be larger
- ♦ Although the Transformation recommends segregation for radial routes, will this be in the wider Mobility Plan?
- ♦ According to FOE, the LEZ proposals are very timid.

2017 record. May 2018 had seen fewer bikes and more cars, probably due to the Leith Street year-long bike-only roadworks route diverting bikes from our count points.

Data: [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk): documents: spokes projects: traffic counts.

The **Roseburn support group** did a count at the same time on the A8 and parallel park route. Bikes were 15% of all vehicles, adding to the case for A8 segregated routes.

**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!**



# SPOKES 2019 COMPETITION

## '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?**



Older ...



Younger ... anyone can get started!

Perhaps a friend inspired you, or you hated the hassles and unhealthy sedentariness of car commuting, you saw a new cycle route, were persuaded by your kids, maybe your

parents showed you from an early age that this is the best way to get around; or perhaps something from Spokes!

One restriction is that *if* your entry refers to a *place*, it must be in Edinburgh or the Lothians. If Copenhagen inspired you, great! - but it won't count in our competition.

**Top entries will win one of the brilliant prizes below.** First prize-winner chooses first and so on.

- ◆ **Thanks to a kind anonymous donor: £500 voucher** towards a cargo-bike! Conditions apply for this prize: see entry form.
- ◆ **ScotRail:** Return between any 2 Scottish stns, 2 adults & 4 kids
- ◆ **Edinburgh Bicycle Coop:** £50 voucher
- ◆ **Sustrans:** Choice of 5 Sustrans Pocket Maps
- ◆ **Harts Cyclery:** 1 week e-bike hire. **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2
- ◆ **Laidback Bikes:** Recumbent tour for one or two people
- ◆ **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket [2]
- ◆ **Ed Festival of Cycling:** Day hire of Urban Arrow cargo-bike
- ◆ **Kalpna:** Indian Veggie Restaurant, £20 lunch-for-2 voucher
- ◆ **Cafe Milk (Sculpture Workshop):** Lunch voucher for 2
- ◆ **Boardwalk Cramond Foreshore cafe:** £25 voucher
- ◆ **Lanterne Rouge cafe (Gifford):** £10 voucher

**Important:** Spokes may use your entry in our Bulletin, website, or other ways. By entering, you agree to this.

**Closing date 31 August. Download entry form/rules at..** [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : downloads : odds&ends : competitions.

## SUMMER EVENTS

For more events, see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), events column

**June 6-16: EDFOC.ORG.UK**

Spokes is again a 'Gold Supporter' of the great **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** – and we're also putting on 3 events as below. **Fuller details** in events column at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

**June 9: Family Bike Picnic Ride 11am-2pm**

Enquiries & booking: [michaela@ooky.co.uk](mailto:michaela@ooky.co.uk)

**June 11: Spokes Bike Breakfast 7.45-9.30 #SpokesBB**

Edinburgh City Chambers Quad – free breakfast, big range of stalls, police bike security marking, Edinburgh Bicycle £50 voucher prize draw, speakers (8.30ish) **Cllr Lesley Macinnes** and **Andy Wightman MSP**.



**June 14: PUBLIC MTG, City Centre Transformation, 7.30-9.30**

The Transformation plans are genuinely that, though many uncertainties remain [p1]. Give your views at our meeting! See also [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [blogs May 2 & 11]. *Speakers...*

- ◆ **Daisy Narayanan** - Leader of City Centre Transformation
- ◆ **Cllr Chas Booth** – Political response
- ◆ **Chris Paton** – Initial Spokes reactions
- ◆ Followed by a 1-hour QA and Panel discussion chaired by **Dr Caroline Brown**, Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt Univ.

## SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew for 2019 if not yet done. If you can't remember if you've renewed, please don't ask – you'll get an autumn reminder, and you won't miss anything.

## OPEN STREETS

Edinburgh is now closing High St, Victoria St and Cockburn St to motor traffic on the first Sunday of each month, as part of the worldwide Open Streets scheme. The area closed will expand as the event grows. We hope to have a cargo-bike-based Spokes stall most times! Come and say hello, or volunteer to help.

*Spokes member Cllr Scott Arthur volunteers at our Open Streets stall*



Car-free Victoria Street

Alex Leutchford

## LEISURE BIKE 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](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) [stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuart@snowcycle.co.uk) 445.7073.

**Other Edinburgh rides** - [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://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.**

☺ **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! Go to [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : membership.**



# CARGOBIKES EDINBURGH

Use of cargo-bikes for local transport of everything from parcels to goods to children is common in Europe and growing rapidly in Britain. Edinburgh looks set to join!

To carry significant weight e-cargobikes are essential so this article largely assumes such machines.

Already pioneering families, businesses and community groups can be seen using cargo bikes on Edinburgh streets.



Dad and child with the EdFoC cargo bike



The smaller of two cargo bikes used by Union of Genius award-winning soup cafe, Forrest Road



The Food Sharing Hub community group at 2 Bread Street uses an Urban Arrow to collect surplus supermarket food

We hope also soon to see wider corporate use of cargo bikes in the city. **Edinburgh Council** is to develop a pilot for some Council deliveries [Transport Cttee 7.12.17] and to help local business during tram extension works.

Meanwhile the Cambridge and Glasgow cargo-bike delivery company [zedify.co.uk](http://zedify.co.uk) is opening in Edinburgh and is also working with SEStran and Napier Transport Research Institute on a pilot scheme to promote and market central-area commercial cargo bike opportunities.

## CITY CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

Also on the horizon, the **City Centre Transformation Strategy** document [p32] promises "where possible" to "consolidate deliveries outside the city centre, using cargo bikes and other low emission vehicles for 'last mile' deliveries." Castle Terrace multi-storey car park is also mentioned [p37] as a possible 'micro-consolidation' centre.

## WIDER UK CARGOBIKE DEVELOPMENTS

An article on UK e-cargobike initiatives by **European Cycle Logistics Federation** director, Richard Armitage, is linked at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents: projects: cargobikes. Richard is due to speak at our autumn public meeting.

## SPOKES CARGOBIKE CASH GRANTS

Thanks to a kind anonymous donor, Spokes now offers grants up to **£1500** or 50% of the cost [whichever is least] for community groups in Edinburgh or Lothian needing a cargo bike. Grants at our discretion; conditions apply.

For information sheet and application form go to [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : cargobikes.

Much larger grants/loans are available to a range of organisations, for cargo-bike and ebike fleets, from [energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans/ebike-grant-fund](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans/ebike-grant-fund).

## TRYING/HIRING/BUYING A CARGO BIKE [CB]

- ♦ CBs can be *hired* from **Harts Cyclery** [see advert] and from **Festival of Cycling**, [edfoc.org.uk/cargo-bike-hire](http://edfoc.org.uk/cargo-bike-hire).
- ♦ CBs can be *purchased* from **Harts**, **Laidback** and **Edinburgh Bicycle Coop** [see adverts for contacts].
- ♦ *Businesses* can borrow CBs free for a trial period from **Sustrans Scotland**, [sustrans.org.uk/thebikelibrary](http://sustrans.org.uk/thebikelibrary).

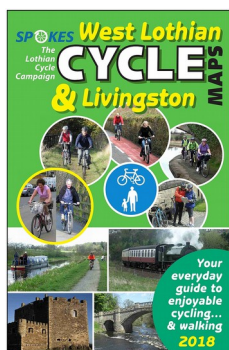
## £500 VOUCHER COMPETITION PRIZE

If you want help buying a CB, see our competition! [p2]

## SPOKES MAPS

With the retiral of **Tim Smith**, our superb designer of the Lothians maps, Spokes maps enter a new phase.

**Katharine Taylor**, who worked for Sustrans Scotland, kindly volunteered to coordinate our maps group. First task is a new Midlothian edition, for which we intend a similar approach to last year's West Lothian, with local members surveying the area.



## 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](http://spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps)

## How to be a Cycling Flat-Dweller

Bike storage solutions for individuals & communities

## SPOKES FACTSHEET

Our 8-page factsheet covers everything from in-flat storage to working with your

neighbours, or looking beyond your tenement or flats. The factsheet has been sent to all members and a pdf will be online at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : tenements.

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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# SELECTED LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your councillors. See p8 or [edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors)

## EDINBURGH 20MPH

Giving evidence to the Scottish Parliament [6.3.19], the leader of Edinburgh University's evaluation of the 20mph scheme reported a first year 1.6mph *average* fall in speed on all roads across the city - very significant, given that a 1mph speed reduction cuts casualties by 6% [ROSPA]. Furthermore, the worst offenders cut their speed most.

Also, opposition to 20mph fell from an already low 25% to just 20% after a year's experience. The first year evaluation is due to be published in full in late summer.

**These data should give Transport Minister Michael Matheson pause for thought in his dislike of Mark Ruskell MSP's 20mph Parliamentary Bill** [p7].

## TRAM NEWS

Spokes 133 [p6] had an article on the proposed Newhaven tram extension and on the long delays implementing the vital phase 3 and 4 safety measures for the existing lines. A final decision to build the extension has now been taken, but otherwise most points in that article remain valid. **However, phase 3 safety measures have been delayed yet again** – despite continuing injuries at South St Andrew Street and at Haymarket junction.

With the tram extension approved, the Council is urgently to **resurface** roads expecting extra traffic when Leith Walk closes for 18 months. The resurfacing will include new bike facilities but, as happens too often, the urgency means that major changes such as adding segregated provision (needing Traffic Orders) and removing Broughton St roundabout will not be included.

On **Leith Walk**, it has still not been confirmed that two-way cycling will be maintained during the closure, though the Council promises to aim for this in talks with the contractor.

**To comment on tram extension issues:** Email your councillors or use *Contact* at [edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven)

## SCHOOL STREETS

Motor traffic (with a few exceptions) is banned in nearby streets at the start and end of the school day at 9 Edinburgh Primary Schools. £50 penalties apply for breaking the rules. The scheme expands soon to **Gilmerton, Leith & St Mary's** primaries. Any Edinburgh school can apply. More info at [streetsaheadedinburgh.org.uk](http://streetsaheadedinburgh.org.uk): young people: school travel



## LOW COST IMPROVEMENTS



This Holyrood Park access won top prize in our 2017 *Low Cost Improvements* competition. The council is now discussing solutions with Park managers Historic Scotland.

## BIG CONSULTATIONS

*We hope you aren't too busy in June!!*

Ending 11 June – **West-East route, phase 2 Orders**

Ending 28 June – **City Centre Transformation**

Ending 7 July – **Meadows to George Street**

**Details** should be at: [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk)

## SHERIFFHALL ROUNDABOUT

The saga continues [Spokes 129/132/133]! The government is to fund quality bike facilities in the Sheriffhall project, via the City/Region Deal, but sticks to their usual 'silo' policy to fund nothing beyond the scheme boundaries, saying that councils must find the cash. Thus 'A' roads to the roundabout from Midlothian, the Infirmary and elsewhere are due to remain scary and dangerous.

Spokes, with Midlothian member Laura Cockram, met Council Leader **Cllr Adam McVey**, **Transport Scotland** and **Midlothian** representatives. Cllr McVey promised to speak to the City Deal Committee but Transport Scotland remains adamant that government cash will not be used for links to the roundabout. Yet the *National Roads Fund* for 'major road improvements' in England is used "to improve pedestrian/cycle facilities in the area bypassed."



Laura presents a 750-signature petition to Cllr McVey and Midlothian and Transport Scotland representatives

The rigid Scottish policy has had appalling previous results, for example when stations on the new Bathgate/Airdrie railway were linked to nearby towns by roads but no bike or walk routes. **It seems Transport Scotland is happy with similar at Sheriffhall.** The Minister will drive out to open fantastic bike facilities - *which don't have safe links to surrounding towns and other destinations.*

## HGV DRIVER AWARENESS

Great to see **East Lothian Council** joining **Edinburgh, Lothian Buses** and many other fleet operators who give real-life bike awareness training to their HGV drivers.



Training is available from Cycling Scotland. Some courses give drivers useful qualifications and some are free. See [www.cycling.scot](http://www.cycling.scot) : what we do : training.



# AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

The Scottish Government has declared a **Climate Emergency** and committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2045.

The government “will place climate change at the heart of everything we do. It will be at the core of our next Programme for Government and Spending Review.” [Climate Change Secretary speech, 14 May 2019].

**So how must transport change, particularly with transport now our top emissions source, and rising?**

Introducing the 2018 Programme for Government, First Minister **Nicola Sturgeon** announced a list of new road projects and continued commitment to a £300m aviation boost, but not one new rail opening, no new bus investment and static walking and cycling cash. Clearly the next Programme requires a root-and-branch review, and the Climate Change Secretary must ensure that!

Send **your** suggestions to your MSPs and ask them to speak to the Climate and Transport ministers!

## THE CHANGE BEGINS ... AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAX [ADT]

The government has scrapped its long-cherished plans to abolish ADT, which would have been an annual £300m gift from the taxpayer to the air industry and was opposed by Labour, Green and LibDem. Despite this, the government predicts passenger growth from 25m a year to 30m by 2027 [Spokes 133] so further measures are vital.

Green policies include a **frequent flyer levy** (also being considered by Labour) under which anyone flying more than once a year would pay increasing levies for each additional trip. Flying is very unequal currently - 10% of the population make 60% of flights. Indeed, over 50% of people in the UK don't fly at all in any one year.

Aviation currently gets many tax breaks: VAT-free tickets, duty-free retail at airports and, unlike countries such as USA and even Saudi Arabia, no duty on jet fuel. [search for *tax break* at [transportenvironment.org](http://transportenvironment.org)]

## WORKPLACE PARKING LEVY [WPL]

Albeit it was a deal with the Greens to get the budget through, but the Scottish Government is amending the Transport Bill to give Councils powers to charge businesses for the number of staff parking places.

This is merely catch-up with England, where such powers are ancient news. Indeed WPL has already funded tram, cycle and walk provision in Nottingham.

However the plan unleashed shocking populist distortions by opposition parties. Labour is specially interesting, with WPL support in its Edinburgh and Glasgow manifestos, yet fierce opposition by some MSPs. Labour climate representative **Claudia Beamish** MSP risked

party wrath by telling our Climate public meeting that she (and Labour environment body SERA) support WPL.

In our view, and that of many transport experts, the plans should go further, with a *Premises Parking Levy*, also applying to *customer* spaces, thus helping **town centres** against out-of-town car-based superstores.

[Find more & Spokes views at twitter [#WorkplaceParkingLevy](https://twitter.com/WorkplaceParkingLevy)]

## BOTTLE DEPOSIT/RETURN

The government has faced up to many vested interests and is setting up a Scotland-wide deposit/ return scheme (DRS) for glass, plastic and metal bottles/containers. Hopefully this will reduce glass on roads and paths.

## ... BUT MILLION MILES TO GO

A revolution in all transport policies is needed, but here we will only cover, briefly, some cycling-relevant issues, including relatively simple almost cost-free issues where the government seems only to drag its feet.

**See top section of next page...**



#schoolstrike4climate #climatestrike #fridaysforfuture

Holyrood magazine



## THE SCOTTISH BUDGET

Two years ago the then Transport Minister **Humza Yousaf** doubled bike/walk investment to £80m a year. A huge step then [Spokes 129] but Sustrans and many councils are now geared up to use more – and the climate crisis demands it!

## BILL FOR DEFAULT URBAN 20MPH

**Humza Yousaf's** independent *Active Travel Task Force* called for *mandatory* 20mph in residential & school areas, but new Transport Minister **Michael Matheson** looks set to reject **Mark Ruskell MSP's** Bill for default 20mph – even though it will allow councils discretion to permit higher speeds on selected roads, even near schools!

## GARDEN SHEDS PLANNING PERMISSIONS

The government's 2016 'Key Priority Action' to consider allowing small containers/sheds in front gardens without a £200 planning application remains in limbo [Spokes 133p8].

## FLYING AND US

Flying already contributes 15% of all Scottish transport emissions and is the fastest growing source. **One** return flight to the US creates similar emissions to the average **yearly** domestic heating bill. Along with going veggie, reducing or eliminating flights is the best act we can take to cut our personal contribution to the climate crisis.

**"If we don't take action the collapse of our civilisations is on the horizon"**

**Sir David Attenborough, 3 December 2018**

## TRUNK ROAD CYCLE SCHEMES

Whilst Transport Scotland builds bike facilities in some trunk road projects, they refuse to fund links beyond the project boundary, leaving this up to Councils if and when they can find the cash. Latest example – Sheriffhall [p5].

## TRAFFIC ORDERS / BUREAUCRACY DELAYS

Many of the frequent and lengthy holdups in cycle/walk schemes could be prevented by simple changes in the Transport Bill – but submissions to the Parliament from Edinburgh Council and ourselves are not being acted on.

Growing awareness is now causing many people to rethink travel habits. In Sweden, inspired by school-strike icon **Greta Thunberg**, who travels long-distance by rail only, air travel is falling in 2019 despite a growing economy. Social media hashtags like #stayontheground, #flygskam and #flightfree2020 are commonplace. At last we are catching up with this 2003 Guardian Biff cartoon!

**BIFF** [www.biffonline.co.uk](http://www.biffonline.co.uk)

from Spokes 84, year 2003 -  
and even more valid today!

Reproduced by kind permission  
**Chris Garratt & Mick Kidd**



## LOCAL CAMPAIGNING

**Pedal on Parliament 2019** instead of a mass ride featured some 30 events around Scotland, several in Edinburgh and Lothian, an opportunity for more people to get involved in local campaigning. Many actions pressed the case for main road segregated bike lanes and several school groups ran 'bike buses' to highlight roads too dodgy for kids to cycle alone. [www.pedalonparliament.org](http://www.pedalonparliament.org).



Davidsons Mains primary, PoP Up PoP bike bus Niall Anderson

**Spokes Porty** has had its first success – albeit minor! – by lobbying local councillors over a roadworks barrier.



Brunstane Road, before and after

There is absolutely no reason why this type of road closure should exclude bikes! Spokes has now written to the Council seeking a policy that bike access is fully considered in all temporary road closures.



Spokes Porty is also preparing a map showing local 'asks,' running a family bike ride and organising a public meeting with Paul Gasson from London Waltham Forest 'Mini-Holland' – we will inform members of the date and time.

PoP is over for 2019, but there's no time like the present to contact your councillors/MSPs! Contacts on p8.



# PAINT CONTROVERSY

**Spokes argues strongly that main road cycle provision should be segregated. The top value and purpose is to attract people of all ages and confidences to use bikes.**

We are delighted that the draft *Transformation Strategy* promises segregated routes for city centre main roads and suggests them for radial roads in the *City Mobility Plan*.

Edinburgh's painted lanes, introduced extensively in the 1990s, raised cycling levels significantly, whilst injuries fell, but they still felt too scary for many people. Physical segregation can take the process much further.

The higher number of cyclists, plus climate and public health concerns, are creating the political will to allow roadspace re-allocation, the key to enabling segregation, though it is often still a tough fight, as Roseburn shows.

But what of the painted lanes? Certainly they should be gradually replaced – but, with limited council staff and cash, other infrastructure priorities are more immediate...

- ♦ fighting for segregation where it is likely to attract most people *whether or not there is a painted lane at present*
- ♦ ditto for opportunities like scheduled road resurfacing which allows time for roadspace reallocation Orders
- ♦ tackling genuine danger blackspots such as the *ongoing cyclist injuries* at Haymarket Yards (which has a dreadful 'cycle lane') and at South St Andrew St (which has none).

Some people even call for removal of all or most painted lanes *before segregation happens*, arguing they

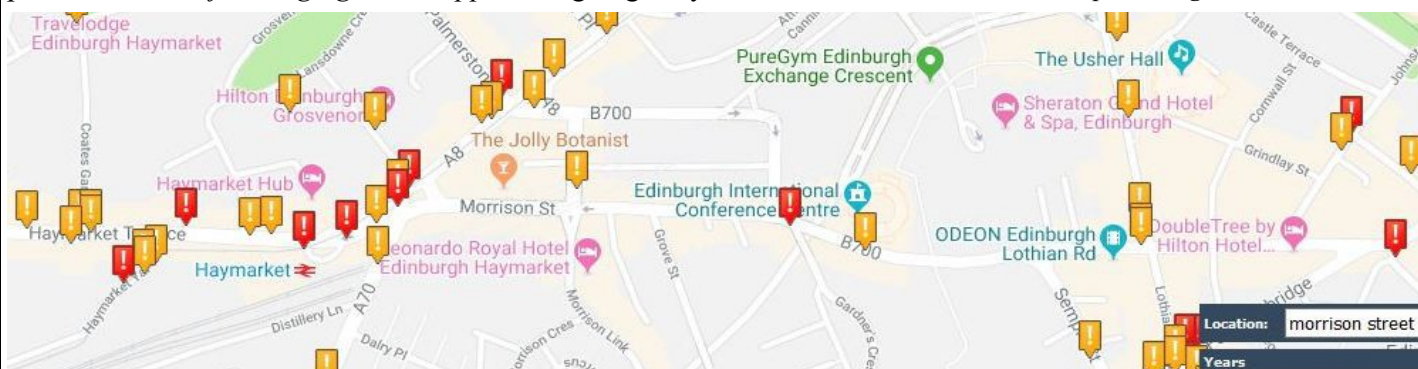
are dangerous. There *is* strong evidence that some motorists drive closer where there is a white line – but there is *no* objective evidence of more crashes. Indeed crashes fell when the bulk of Edinburgh's painted lanes were installed, despite growing bike use. It seems probable that whilst some motorists move over less when there is a line, they also tend not to *cross* a line.

**Objective data is vital.** For example, Morrison Street's central lane *looks* dangerous and there have been calls to remove it. Yet in the last *10 years*, despite considerable bike use on this commuter route, there has not been one reported injury crash, whilst there have been many on surrounding roads with no cycle lane – see map below.

Of course, we are the first to say Morrison Street needs a segregated redesign. Indeed this Bulletin [p1] expresses concern that the Transformation draft strategy is unclear on this. However until that happens the existing lane should remain, and there would be outrage if it went.

Equally, where a road is resurfaced for an urgent reason and there is no time for the Orders needed to reallocate roadspace, we prefer painted lanes to nothing at all.

It is worth remembering that in the early 2000s the Council planning dept (against transport dept wishes) *did* try to remove all city centre painted lanes - and indeed a few did go. This was purely for visual reasons (!) due to a short-lived fashion among some senior councillors and staff for streets to be 'bare.' There was a *massive* reaction to this policy. It is instructive to read some of the comments – see Bulletin 93 at [spokes.org.uk/bulletin](http://spokes.org.uk/bulletin).



*crashmap.co.uk* showing reported injury bike crashes over the ten year period 2009-2018, centred on Morrison Street. There are none on the bike-lane section of Morrison Street, despite considerable bike use, but plenty on Haymarket Terrace (both beside and beyond the tramlines), Shandwick Place and Lothian Road. Where should campaigning effort be concentrated?

## HOW TO CONTACT POLITICIANS

1. Simplest - find them *all* at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Or...
  2. MSPs – you have one constituency MSP and several Regional MSPs. Find them at [scottish.parliament.uk/msps](http://scottish.parliament.uk/msps)
  3. Councillors web+phone below Who runs the council?
- |  |               |                    |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| <a href="http://edinburgh.gov.uk">edinburgh.gov.uk</a>     | 0131.529.3186 | SNP/Lab (minority) |
| <a href="http://eastlothian.gov.uk">eastlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01620.827827  | Lab (minority)     |
| <a href="http://midlothian.gov.uk">midlothian.gov.uk</a>   | 0131.270.7500 | Lab (minority)     |
| <a href="http://westlothian.gov.uk">westlothian.gov.uk</a> | 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](mailto:activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
**Adult cycle training:** 668.1996 [info@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto:info@thebikestation.org.uk)  
**Bikes on rail, bus and ferry:** [www.travelinescotland.com](http://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](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence). Or [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk).  
**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]** Rapid Response 0808 100 3366  
**Taxi issues:** [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) [try taxi firm first]  
**Lothian Buses:** [mail@lothianbuses.com](mailto:mail@lothianbuses.com) 554 4494.  
**Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://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](http://www.spokes.org.uk)**