

We have 3 main communications. Our flagship **Spokes Bulletin** is 3 times a year – printed, and on our website under the Bulletin tab. Our electronic-only **Action-Update** goes to all emailable members “roughly monthly,” when there are enough important developments, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and road, traffic and planning matters. **Spokesworker** is now a very occasional document, basically a souped-up Action-Update, but on paper as well as online. It is usually produced for occasions when paper is useful – for example at public meetings. Action-Updates and Spokesworkers both also appear on our website under the Spokesworker tab.

To keep in touch with events, developments and opportunities, be a Spokes member and make sure we have your email address.

ACT NOW!!

City Centre Transformation .. by 28 June

Find the consultation at consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk

Please respond by 28 June. There is an online survey or email your comments or queries to EdinburghCCT@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Even a quick response, giving overall support, is very valuable, as there will be objections from people who don't like the plan.

Also - see overleaf for consultation displays and events.

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

See the May 11 article on our website, '[Yes, it's a Transformation](#).' See also the [Summer Spokes Bulletin #134](#) and its supplement.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

However if you have time to raise specific issues, think about the points below. These are all being considered for our official Spokes response – and can be discussed at our public meeting.

◆ **Overall – we are delighted, but...**

◆ **Timescale** – although some projects start soonish, 10 years is a long time for the complete Transformation programme.

◆ **Car-free streets** – is the proposed area extensive enough?

◆ **Wider policies** – will the Transformation be undermined by ever more car use outside the city centre, e.g. allowing more car-dependent housing. Will the *Mobility Plan*, which will cover the whole city, be tough enough to restrict motor traffic volumes and provide quality cycling conditions on arterial and suburban roads?

◆ **Morrison Street** – the overall map suggests a segregated cycle route, but the more detailed cycle map does not – and the artist's impression of Morrison Street does not.

◆ **Leith Street** – both maps suggest a segregated cycle route connecting the Bridges corridor to Leith Walk - but the Council had previously ruled that out because of the very tight junction at the top of Leith Street. How will the route be implemented?

◆ **Princes Street** – it is very unclear what is intended in this vital street as regards cycling, both in the short term and medium term. For many trips, George Street is not a suitable alternative.

◆ **North Bridge to George Street** – no cycle connection is shown.

◆ **West End Junction** – this is shown as a 'priority' ... will that really mean *early action*? It is where Zhi Min Soh was killed and has continuing injuries due to the combination of heavy traffic and tramlines. A bike crossing from Lothian Road and Rutland Square to Charlotte Square and Queensferry Road is also long overdue.

◆ **Pedestrian areas** – 'shared space' should be avoided wherever possible, and a cycling 'mini-carriageway' included, perhaps as in the Meadows-George St proposals for Forrest Road.

Low Emission Zone ... by 21 July

consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/edinburghlez Early thoughts...

◆ Older vehicles (the most polluting) won't be restricted till 2025

◆ City Centre LEZ boundary is very small – many drivers may change route rather than changing transport mode or destination.

Public Meeting, 14 June

City Centre Transformation

The City Centre Transformation proposals will have been published and approved for public consultation by Edinburgh City Council Transport and Environment Committee. What do you think of them? Find out more and express your views.

Daisy Narayanan Leader of City Centre Transformation	The Transformation Proposals
Cllr Chas Booth Green Party Transport speaker	Political response
Chris Paton Spokes Planning Group	Initial thoughts from Spokes
Dr Caroline Brown The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University and EdFoC co-Director	Chair for one-hour audience Q/A and panel discussion

STARTS 7.30PM

ENDS 9.30

DOORS OPEN 6.45

Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, EH1 1EL

☺ Come early ☺ coffee ☺ Spokes stall ☺ exhibition ☺ chat

SPOKES

For meeting tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg

Meadows - George St ... by 7 July

Find the consultation at meadowstogeorgestreet.info

Please respond by 7 July. There is an online survey or email your comments (and queries) to martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Also - see overleaf for consultation displays and events.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Even a quick response, giving overall support, is very valuable, as there will be objections from people who don't like the plan. However if you have time to raise specific issues, some points to consider are below. Please tell us if we've missed anything!

◆ **Overall – we are delighted, but...**

◆ **Timescale** – construction is not planned until 2022 (and it is not clear whether even that timescale allows for any objections which have to go to a government Inquiry, as is currently holding up phase 1 of the West-East route for about a year).

◆ **Type of cycle route** – a bidirectional (i.e. 2-way) cycle route is planned rather than unidirectional on each side of the road. There are arguments for and against. Generally we prefer unidirectional, but we have not yet decided in this particular project.

◆ **Cycle route width** – the planned 3m is less than the 4m proposed for George Street. Spokes traffic counts show many cyclists in the rush hour, and the flow is not entirely in one direction. A width of 4m is also much better for different types and ages of cyclists using the same route together, and for cargo bikes, trailers, etc.

◆ **Junctions** – the design must enable cyclists to turn in and out of other streets safely, particularly if the route is bidirectional. This includes Chambers St, Candlemaker Row, Market St, Hanover St, and the existing semi-invisible left turn at foot of the Mound.

◆ **Teviot Row** – a link to the university area should be included.

IF YOU ARE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING

If tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg; If you make notes or blog, send us a link

Join Spokes at the membership stall – or see spokes.org.uk/membership

CONSULTATIONS

- ◆ Check the websites below for current (and past) consultations. Please do respond to all consultations that concern you
- ◆ Send us a copy of your responses asap, so we can take them into account in the official Spokes response.
- ◆ Edinburgh consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk, includes... Powderhall site future – by 31 July. Also see below.
- ◆ Edinburgh Edinburgh traffic orders, includes... TRO/19/17, School Streets – by 28 June
- ◆ East Lothian www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk, includes... Climate Change strategy – by 22 July
- ◆ Midlothian www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- ◆ West Lothian www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ Scottish Govt consult.gov.scot
- ◆ Transport Scotland www.transport.gov.scot/consultations
- ◆ Just in case... transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts
Check the Transform link in case there's anything important that doesn't appear in the earlier website addresses (there often is!).

CONSULTN DROP-INS

City Centre Transformation

- ◆ June 15, 10-5, National Museum of Scotland, Chambers St.
 - ◆ June 26, 12-5, Grassmarket open-air consultation
- See article overleaf for background and early Spokes thoughts.

Meadows-George Street

- ◆ June 22, 10-4, open air consultation at The Mound (staffed)
 - ◆ June 25-27, Central Library (unstaffed)
 - ◆ June 7-14, National Museum of Scotland (unstaffed).
- See article overleaf for background and early Spokes thoughts.

Redford Barracks site

Public consultation drop-ins...

- ◆ June 13, 2-7, Canalside cafe, Boroughmuir Rugby Club
- ◆ June 18, 2-7, Oxbgangs Library

More details... spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk

Powderhall site

An ongoing series of events to discuss designs. For proposals so far, and more on the background and consultations, go to consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/powderhall. Dates include...

- ◆ June 26 and Aug 28, 2-6, Nelson Hall, McDonald Rd library
- ◆ June 27, 3-7, Broughton Primary school
- ◆ Aug 29, 4-7, Drummond High School
- ◆ More dates likely in later months.

Some of these are workshops, not drop-ins. Details on website.

June 26 MINI-HOLLAND MTG

Details: click [here](#) or search for Gasson at www.eventbrite.co.uk
Spokes Porty is putting on an exciting public meeting with Paul Gasson from Waltham Forest in London. This is the site of the inspirational Mini-Holland scheme which has been visited by several councillors and officers from Edinburgh and is likely to influence detailed design of the Transformation and other projects. Also a speaker from the Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' initiative.

HELP SPOKES!!

- ◆ We have plenty copies of new [Spokes Bulletin #134](#). Could you take some to leaflet bikes at your work, shops, etc? Either one-off for this bulletin or regularly (3 times a year). This is a vital means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, of what is happening in cycling policy, and how people can help.
- ◆ Like our [facebook](#) posts and RT our tweets [[@SpokesLothian](#)]. Check our twitter 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Very recent tweets also appear on our website in the RH col..
- ◆ Check out our [website](#) every so often www.spokes.org.uk.

SAFER STREETS AT RISK

The Bill for a default 20mph limit in urban areas in Scotland, to replace the present 30mph default, after 2 years work by Mark Ruskell MSP, is at serious risk. A parliamentary debate and vote is expected on June 13, and indications are that the SNP government, assisted by the Conservatives and possibly the Lib Dems, are likely to vote against, and thus scrap the Bill entirely.

Thank you if you have emailed your MSPs (and perhaps Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister) about this. If you have not done so, please make a last-minute effort now, before June 13. Find your MSPs at www.parliament.scot.

If you read this in time, there is also a [lunchtime demo](#) at the Parliament at 1pm on Tuesday 11 June.

Mark Ruskell MSP writes...

"The Safer Streets Bill makes one simple change. It switches the default speed limit in urban areas from 30mph to 20mph. Here's ten reasons why we should do it..."

1. ScotGov's target is for of 10% of journeys to be by walking and cycling by 2020, but we're currently at 1%
2. Wales has already committed to make the switch, and London is rolling twenty out too.
3. Bristol Council estimate their 20mph roll out saved 4 lives a year. Imagine if we rolled that out across the whole of Scotland.
4. Twenty has its biggest impact in deprived communities, where children are 3 times more likely to be killed or injured by cars.
5. When Fife Council rolled out twenty, casualties fell by 34% in poorer communities (20% in more affluent neighbourhoods).
6. An average of 7 children are killed a year on roads in Scotland.
7. Every 1 mph reduction in average speed reduces road traffic accidents by 4-6%.
8. In Edinburgh, where twenty has been rolled out, average speeds have fallen and support grown to 80%
9. 20mph limits have been shown to increase cycling by up to 12%
10. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Childhood Health believe this bill is essential in encouraging children and young people to feel safe to cycle, walk and play outdoors.

The Safer Streets Bill is backed by dozens of civil society bodies and opposed only by the motoring lobby. However, at the end of May a Committee of MSPs published a (non-unanimous) report stating that the Bill takes a "blanket approach" and would cost too much to implement (not counting the value of lives and injuries saved). The Twenty's Plenty campaign called the report "Illogical, innumerate and deeply flawed" and accused the Committee of "a shocking disregard for protecting lives".

Sadly, the report reflects a caving in of the SNP, LibDem and Tory MSPs on the Committee to the motoring industry. Unusually, however, three Committee members refused to back the report – John Finnie (Greens), Colin Smyth (Lab) and John Mason (SNP)."

Despite this report, Parliament is perfectly capable of passing the Bill – but the critical factor will be whether the SNP government asks its MSPs to vote for or against. **Every MSP matters, so please contact yours urgently if you have not yet done so.**

You can watch the June 13 debate in the Scottish Parliament visitors' gallery or on Parl't TV www.scottishparliament.tv. The debate is p.m. but exact time depends on earlier business.

June 16 CLIMATE RIDES

Extinction Rebellion Scotland is organising 3 rides on June 16, in the run-up to Parliament voting on the Climate Bill. Details at www.facebook.com/events/665121687245108. The 3 rides are...

- ◆ Starting 9.30a.m. Ride within Glasgow city centre
- ◆ Starting 9.30a.m. Glasgow-Edinburgh, 50 miles, approx 6 hours "mostly cycling routes and lanes so we can enjoy the ride. Train stations on the route so if you get too exhausted, you can hop on the train and meet the ride in Edinburgh! If you want to join the ride elsewhere, please sign up and we will communicate the detailed route and times."
- ◆ Approx 4.30, Edinburgh, once the Glasgow riders arrive. Route will be Meadows to Parliament, via city centre.

For detailed route info, sign up to the ride (see above website).