

# SHERIFFHALL ROUNDABOUT - ROAD ORDERS

17.12.19

To: Spokes members in Midlothian and South Edinburgh

[The Scottish Government has published the Orders to create a flyover junction \(with cycle/pedestrian crossings\) at Sheriffhall.](#)

## Where to see the plans

There will be staffed drop-ins to see the plans and leave comments...

- **Weds 18 Dec**, 12 noon – 7pm, St Nicholas Buccleuch Parish Church, 119 High Street, Dalkeith EH22 1AX
- **Thurs 19 Dec**, 12 noon – 7pm, Sheriffhall Park and Ride Terminal, Old Dalkeith Road, Dalkeith EH22 1FF

The plans can also be inspected during opening hours until 31 January at...

- Midlothian Council, 40-46 Buccleuch St, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN
- City of Edinburgh Council, Waverley Court, 4 East Market St, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG
- Dalkeith Library, 2 White Hart Street, Dalkeith EH22 1AE

You can also look online...

- Follow the links to the Draft Orders at [www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a720-sheriffhall-roundabout/a720-sheriffhall-roundabout](http://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a720-sheriffhall-roundabout/a720-sheriffhall-roundabout)
- There are masses of documents. One of the most useful is the [Environmental Impact Assessment Report, non-technical summary](#).

## How to comment/ support/ object

- Anyone wishing to comment (or if queries) can do so at the drop-ins and/or by email to [A720SheriffhallRoundabout@transport.gov.scot](mailto:A720SheriffhallRoundabout@transport.gov.scot)
- Emailed responses will be accepted **up to 31 January 2020**.
- Say that you are emailing about the *A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout Special Road Scheme and Side Roads Order*.
- If you wish to **object** to or **support** the plans, or parts of the plans, rather than just commenting, it is very important to say this at the beginning of your email.

## Background – cycling aspects

- There are environmental arguments against such big road projects (see below), but it is 99% likely that this project will go ahead. Therefore Spokes has put in a huge amount of effort in the last few years campaigning for good cycle facilities (including giving evidence at a [Scottish Parliament Committee](#)).
- The initial plans were really appalling for cycling, but thanks to the efforts of ourselves and others **they are now pretty good - we hope you will support them**, given that the whole project is 99% certain to go ahead.

- **A very big remaining problem is that connecting routes between the roundabout and Edinburgh/Midlothian destinations are either poor or terrible.** We have been campaigning on this, unsuccessfully so far, for the last couple of years. The Scottish Government talks about 'integrated transport' and 'holistic planning' but so far they are unwilling to consider the routes leading to and from the roundabout. It will be *an oasis of excellence in a desert of under-provision*. They say this is up to the local councils to fix. But the local councils have very limited cash, and many other priorities, so unless the government sees this as a holistic project the connecting routes are likely to stay poor for many years. The officials at the drop-ins will say it is an issue for the Councils – **don't let them get away with it!** Tell them it just doesn't make sense without an integrated project – and the cost of decent routes, for example to the Bioquarter or Dalkeith would be peanuts in such a massive project. **Please also make these points in any written comments, and if possible also email your MSPs.** It is typical government silo-thinking. For example they reopened the Bathgate-Airdrie railway some years ago, ensuring road connections to the new stations, but no cyclistoutes to nearby towns, saying this was up to the local councils (some cyclistoutes were eventually built years later by councils & Sustrans).
- If you're interested in the Sheriffhall history, see many of the relevant Spokes documents at.. [www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/edinburgh/south-edinburgh](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/edinburgh/south-edinburgh). See also these historical articles... [www.spokes.org.uk/2017/06/double-deputation](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2017/06/double-deputation) and [www.spokes.org.uk/2017/05/sheriffhall-scotgov-plans-worst-for-cycling](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2017/05/sheriffhall-scotgov-plans-worst-for-cycling)

## Background – environmental and funding

- There are increasing arguments against major road projects on environmental grounds, given the climate emergency. This project will ease congestion at Sheriffhall but is likely to increase traffic in the longer term, resulting in congestion elsewhere and more traffic entering the already congested city.
- The project is entirely funded by the Scottish Government, though the cash is coming via an arrangement called the Edinburgh City-Region Deal. Thus if the project did not happen, Edinburgh would not be able to spend this cash on anything else – it is government money, not council money. It would remain in the Scottish Government transport budget, and they would decide how to use it - probably on other trunk road projects but possibly on rail.

