

Item 2.1 - Note of meeting

Active Travel Forum

10.00am, Thursday, 3 March 2016

Membership

Councillor Hinds (Convener), Councillor McVey

Organisation Representatives

Peter Hawkins (CTC), Dave De Feu (Spokes), Isobel Leckie (Causey Development Trust), Stuart Hay (Living Streets), Henry Whaley (Bicycle User Group), John Bratton (Ramblers), Janice Fenny (Sustrans Scotland), Emma Crowther (Universities Consortium), Ann Meoni (Standard Life), Martin Higgins, (NHS Lothian), Eva Sturm (Sandemans New Europe), Kim Harding (Festival of Cycling), Chris Hill (CityCyclingEdinburgh), Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland), Lisa Freeman (SesTRAN), Alex Robertson (Pedal on Parliament), Zoe Niven (Paths for All), Alan Gray (Health Walking Groups Consortium)

Public Members

Jimmy Milhench, Charlotte Gibson, Guillaume Evrard , Caroline Barr, Paul Reape, Jane Walker, June Jansen, Jimmy Milhench, Ewan Swaffield, Silvia Smith, David Butcher, Richard Pearson, Samantha Rhynas, Najama Merchant

City of Edinburgh Council Officers

Gavin Sheriff, Phil Noble, Chris Brace, Judith Cowie, Sean Gilchrist

1. Introduction

Councillor Hinds welcomed members of the Active Travel Forum and explained the format of the meeting.

2. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of 27 November 2015, subject to the following amendments:

- 1) To note the Convener would raise the issue of the total ban of bike carriages on trams during the Festival and other large events and suggest the carriage could run at the discretion of the guard.

- 2) To note the widened footways at Warriston Crematorium would be discussed at the Inverleith Active Travel Group on 24 June 2016.

3. Business from Previous Forums

Phil Noble from Transport provided an update on business from previous forums. The following main points were raised:

- The Active Travel Action Plan review was approved by the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2016 with a revised actions list, timescales and reference to segregation of cycling routes.
- The Bus Lane Review would be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in Autumn 2016 and make recommendations based on the analysis of the post-trial survey.
- The Trade Waste Policy agreed at the Transport and Environment Committee in October 2014 withdrew the Council from the commercial Trade Waste collection service. The statutory obligation to arrange a waste service for businesses still stands and the Council have introduced one hour timeslots for individual business to put their bins out for collection.
- The first phase of the dropped kerbs inventory was nearing completion in the tenements areas of the City, Westerhailes, Craigmillar etc. This work would also help provide information for the future programme of priority improvements. It was raised that dropped kerbs were not suitable for all pedestrians and presented a particular challenge to those with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). It was suggested that an MS organisation should be involved in the Access Forum and consulted for the programme of future improvements.
- The Community Links Bids projects both for construction and design in 2016/17 were programmed in and awaiting confirmation of funding to commence.
- Existing cycle related white lines were under review, the information gathered from this exercise would be used to identify other areas of work.
- Caroline Barr met with Lothian Buses to discuss space for mobility scooters on buses.

Decision

- 1) Officers to invite Multiple Sclerosis organisations to the Access Forum and to take part in the consultation on dropped kerbs.
- 2) Officers to keep access to public transport for mobility scooters as an agenda item for future meetings of the Active Travel Forum.
- 3) Convener to raise the visibility issue for cars at the bridge near Warriston at the Inverleith Active Travel group to see if this can be addressed when bridge strengthening works are underway.

4. Smarter Choices, Smarter Places

Judith Cowie from Transport delivered the presentation on the progress of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) programme for 2015/16 and the planning underway for the 2016/17 programme. The overall aim of the programme was to enable behaviour change which resulted in more people incorporating Active forms of travel into their everyday routines.

Progress Update – 2015/16 Programme

The programme was in the delivery phase with the evaluation data for this year would be collected in April and reported to Paths for All in June 2016. The progress of the various work packages was discussed in detail where the following main points were raised:

- Projects deliverable within one year are planned/selected to allow real results to be achieved with the available funding.
- The most resources have gone into work packages 1 (travel planning) and 3 (walking) as the largest projects which included areas such as workplace travel planning and dropped kerbs. City of Edinburgh employees have been encouraged to use active methods of travel through personalised Active Travel Plans and Workplace Travel Consultants have been on tour throughout the city offering their services in other organisations.
- The main priorities for this year have been promotion of the On Foot, By Bike brand, making Edinburgh more attractive for walking/cycling through place-making projects, promotion of sustainable travel to work as one of the main daily journeys and promotion of the 20mph network.
- One of the strengths of this years programme was the Walk Hack where transport professionals, university students and community groups got together to work on route planning etc.

Draft 2016/17 Programme

Planning is underway for 2016/17 projects to allow work to start immediately on confirmation of funding. All projects must meet the SCSP eligibility criteria and work towards the following aims outlined for the year by the Active Travel Action Plan Steering Group: to reduce carbon emissions from short car journeys, to target areas of health inequalities and low walking/bicycle use. Some projects from 2015/16 are planned for continuation i.e. installation of dropped kerbs. Following discussion of the proposed work packages, the following suggestions were made by the group for incorporation into the draft programme:

- Air quality could be included as a targeted aim for the year, separate from Carbon Emissions but linked to short car journeys.
- Evidence of the health inequalities in specific areas of the city to allow measurements of success at the end of the year.
- A change to more positive language throughout i.e. work package 5 re-worded to “Encouraging active travel in targeted areas” instead of “less affluent areas”
- A car-free day may alienate some groups who have mobility issues so marketing for this must be considered carefully,

- Collect information on where people actually walk as data from apps tends to be from users who are already active.
- Use of joined up working between groups (Living Streets and Sustrans) for map design and travel planning for way-finding apps.
- More focus on cycling for kids/teenagers with apps to allow tracking, comparison with friends and links to social media.

5. Cycle Project Updates

Phil Noble from Transport delivered the presentation on the cycle project updates from Roseburn to Leith Walk and to Union Canal.

Roseburn to Leith Walk

The project started in early 2014 with a feasibility study and was approved for public consultation by the Transport and Environment Committee in October 2015. To date, leaflets have been delivered to 10,000 addresses, there has been on street advertising, public drop-in sessions, etc. 2365 questionnaire responses were received so far and both supportive and opposing online petitions submitted. Responses highlighted both positive and negative issues including the suitability of the route for all cycling abilities and the impact on traffic congestion.

Following the review of consultation responses, proposals would be realigned inline with these before further engagement with stakeholders. The final design would be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in August 2016 with construction planned for Spring 2017.

Members of the Forum raised the following points:

- Floating bus-stops would be trailed in Leith Walk, in consultation with Sustrans to ensure access for vulnerable people was not affected.
- Use of inverted dimples used on pavements to alert blind people to kerbs.

Roseburn to Union Canal

The aim of the project was to fill in the missing links in the existing off road network and allow more access to greenspace. The consultation phase concluded in January with 700 responses received. Highlighted as a controversial issue in the responses was the future of the Telfer Subway as proposals involved reduction of road space.

The planning application for the project under draft and would be subject to further consultation before consideration at the Transport and Environment Committee before March 2017. If approved, construction would commence in Spring 2017 subject to confirmation of funding.

6. Future Forums

The dates of the next meetings are 2 June and 1 September 2016.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the Active Travel Forum will remain in a joint format.
- 2) Officer to circulate a survey monkey to allow suggestion/prioritisation of topics with a balance between walking and cycling.
- 3) Officers to circulate the today's presentation to all Forum members.