

Spokes email to Graeme Dey MSP, Transport Minister 15.9.21

date: 15 Sept 2021, 12:06

subject: Napier TRI EV conference, 13 October

Attention: Graeme Dey, Transport Minister

Dear Minister

I am emailing from Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign.

We understand that you are giving the keynote address at the annual Napier TRI conference on EV road transport, on 13 October.

<https://blogs.napier.ac.uk/tri/2021/09/15/registration-is-now-open-for-the-7th-annual-electric-vehicle-event-13th-14th-october/>

Spokes supports transition from fossil vehicles to electric, which is already receiving a great deal of government publicity.

However we are also greatly concerned, for climate and public health reasons, that equal or greater attention is paid to the government target, repeated in the Programme for Government, for a 20% reduction in vehicle-km by 2030. This is a vital, welcome, but exceptionally tough target.

You will also be aware that due to the far lower operating costs of EVs, there is a strong likelihood of rising motor traffic, rising urban congestion, and calls for additional road capacity, as the transition to EV gathers pace - developments inimical to government policies.

We therefore urge that your keynote speech includes reference to the traffic-reduction target and the methods of achieving it alongside and fully integrated with the move to EV. For example...

- **Distribution** must be changed such that long-distance moves more to rail, whilst local distribution is moved to a combination of e-cargobikes and small electric vans etc.
- **Publicity to households and small businesses about EVs** should include highlighting the option of using cargo bikes and car clubs where appropriate, rather than giving the implicit message that one's only option is to swap a fossil car/van for an electric one. At present most government publicity for cargo bikes is carried out separately from EV publicity. This silo mentality needs to end.

We hope our suggestions are useful - and doubtless there are also many further options - and we look forward to your response

Yours

Dave du Feu
for Spokes