

Our main communication with Spokes members is now the electronic-only **Action-Update** which 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, on paper as well as online. It is usually produced only for occasions when paper is useful – for example at public meetings or the increasingly rare paper mailouts (e.g. at annual renewal time). Action-Updates and Spokesworkers both also appear on our website under the Spokesworker tab. **Thus to keep in touch with events, developments & opportunities... be a Spokes member and make sure we have your email address.**

SCOT GOV ACTIVE TRAVEL - FACING UP TO COP26

NB - For a much fuller version of this article see spokes.org.uk [Oct 20]

In recognition of COP26, we ask what is the **best thing** we've seen recently for active travel (AT) from the Scottish Government – and what is the **biggest challenge** they face in the coming year?

Best Action: ACTIVE TRAVEL INVESTMENT

The recent [deal between the Scottish Greens and SNP](#) is truly momentous as regards cash for active travel. **10% of the Transport Budget (or a minimum of £320m) will be allocated by 24/25 – compared to £115m in the current year, 21/22.** Currently [Scotland and Wales](#) are at just over £20 per person per year, way ahead of England and not far from investment levels in bike-friendly European countries.

However, by 24/25 it will be some **£60 per person** – possibly the highest of any European country if not worldwide.

We don't know how the increase will be phased between now and 2024. The ideal (and sensible) approach would be annual rises of around £70m, meaning initially a rise from £115m in 21/22 to £185m in the 22/23 budget, which is expected in December.



Much more cash for projects like this

To leave most of the rise to 24/25 would not just be disappointing but would also be very difficult for Councils to manage in terms of building up skills and experience amongst officers and councillors.

Biggest Challenge: TRAFFIC REDUCTION POLICIES

In December 2020, as part of its [Climate Change Plan Update](#) the Scottish Government adopted a target to cut car-km 20% by 2030. Given that motor traffic is rising, this is exceptionally ambitious – it therefore requires exceptionally ambitious policies for success. Unfortunately, there seems little sign that the necessary steps will be taken. Why do we think this?



- ◆ The 2020 bike-use target was comprehensively missed, due to unwillingness to adopt policies that might annoy some motorists
- ◆ A 'routemap' of actions to achieve the traffic reduction target was promised, but not till pandemic car travel had settled down. Thus no attempt was made to capture the benefits of covid travel patterns – and with many former bus/rail users now driving instead, car levels are in places already higher than pre-pandemic.
- ◆ There is now talk that the 'routemap' may be delayed till 2022, and yet already a year has been lost since the target was set.
- ◆ There are hints that the government intends to reach its target purely through 'carrots' such as the AT cash boost. Yet Chris Stark, official climate adviser to the Scottish & UK governments, says the target is only feasible with "a combination of carrots and sticks."
- ◆ The government intends to continue expanding road capacity, for example the A9 dualling and [Sheriffhall roundabout](#) – thus increasing traffic between and into towns and encouraging further dispersion of housing away from services and jobs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you are pleased and/or concerned by aspects of the above, please tell your MSPs and ask them to raise with Ministers the points that concern you. Send us any useful replies.

Find your MSPs at parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps
Points you might raise...

- ◆ The big AT cash boost is great, but will it be phased in, starting with a substantial rise in the next budget (financial year 2022/23)?
- ◆ The traffic reduction target is great, but why is government doing little to restrain traffic growth, let alone reduce it? 'Carrots' such as more AT cash are important but are far from sufficient.

COP26 EVENTS

Pedal on COP, Nov 6

Organised by PedalOnParliament.org & CyclingUK.org/scotland with feeder rides from many parts of Scotland. Then joining the cycling bloc of the COP26 **Global Day of Action** march [\[cop26coalition.org\]](http://cop26coalition.org). The Edinburgh feeder departs 8am: see edinburghcriticalmass.wordpress.com [click Pedal on Cop tab].

If you can't make Glasgow, see UK Local Hubs at cop26coalition.org.



PEDAL ON COP GLASGOW 6TH NOVEMBER 2021

JOIN US AT THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AT COP26

www.pedalonparliament.org #PedalOnCOP26

REMINDE THE UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE THAT
THIS MACHINE FIGHTS CLIMATE CHANGE

Other COP26 events [many are online]

- ◆ Nov 7-10 **Peoples' Summit**, talks & workshops, including several on transport issues cop26coalition.org/peoples-summit
- ◆ Nov 2-12 **Climate Action Fringe** climatefringe.org A multitude of events by many organisations; Climate Fringe TV; Arts; etc. You can search the events by theme (including transport).
- ◆ Nov 2-12 **Edinburgh Social Enterprise's Climate Action Fringe** edinburghsocialenterprise.co.uk in Edinburgh, including...
- ◆ Nov 10 **The Change Cycle** 11am-12.00. Online and Greyfriars Centre, 138 Pleasance Talks & try-out on transporting goods in Edinburgh by cargobike /bike. edinburghsocialenterprise.co.uk
- ◆ Oct 31-Nov 12 **Official COP26 site** ukcop26.org
- ◆ **Edinburgh Climate Change Institute** edinburghcentre.org/events
- ◆ **Ed Uni Dept of Social Responsibility** ed.ac.uk/sustainability
- ◆ **Ed Uni COP26 resources/news** ed.ac.uk/sustainability/cop26

EDINBURGH GOOD & POOR

- ◆ *Edinburgh Council Transport Committee papers available at edinburgh.gov.uk: council: agendas: meetings: Transport: date*
- ◆ *To comment on any of these matters, find your councillors at edinburgh.gov.uk: council : find your councillor*

With COP26 in mind the Council here describes its climate-related actions & investment www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news [Oct 28]

Active Travel Investment Programme - The Council has approved a £118m 5-year programme of new and delayed projects large and small, including CCWEL, Meadows to George St, Canal-Meadows, one-way street exemptions, Corstorphine Low Traffic Neighbourhood, Portobello-Musselburgh, and much more. We hope this is more realistic than in the past: funding is all in place (much being government Sustrans money) and staffing improved. Indeed, it is likely that further cash will become available following the government increases reported overleaf. Incidentally, work on CCWEL is due at last to begin in January. *The relevant Committee Papers are at the address above [14 Oct, 7.3].*

Low Emission Zone - Very unusually, the Council's proposals were voted down at the 26 Oct Transport Committee, in favour of a Green amendment. This asked for the scheme to include greenhouse gas emissions, to re-think the proposed city-centre-only boundary and the grace period before enforcement begins. Officers will now have to come up with a new scheme – a complex task, which could well take us beyond the May council elections. *The relevant Committee Papers are at the address above [26 Oct].*

Spaces for People - now called **Travelling Safely**
Documents including Spokes responses are at spokes.org.uk [use the quick link [Covid Sfp projects](#) under the 'Vital Links' heading]

- ◆ **Main road protected cycle routes** – most are to be retained under 'experimental' Traffic Regulation Orders, albeit with a few changes. Consultation on the draft ETROs is expected soon. This should lead to schemes becoming 'permanent' – hopefully then to be redesigned as proper segregated routes rather than bollards.
- ◆ **Comiston Rd/ Braid Rd** – the Council decided on further consultation, following local complaints. We are concerned about what may result, possibly allowing motor traffic two-way in Braid Road, and removing a section of Comiston Road defenders with nothing realistic to prevent it being replaced by parked cars.
- ◆ **'Town Centres'** - the Council decided to remove virtually all these schemes - mainly wider footways - although saying that in the future such shopping streets may be redesigned under the "20-minute neighbourhood" proposals. Tragically the hugely valuable **Morningside Road uphill cycle lane** came under 'town centres' rather than main road, and has been removed – causing huge outcry on social media., with [over 500 'likes'](#) on one tweet. Officers claim the road is too narrow, but parked cars (legal or not) will narrow it even more than did the protected bike lane.

Leith Walk - The unidirectional Leith Walk segregated cycle lanes are now being constructed, as part of the tram works. Whilst delighted to have these routes, we are very concerned at some of the detail, on which we were not consulted before work began. This includes very little height difference (just 25mm in places) from footway or carriageway - making it easier for errant cyclists to hop onto the footway, and for vehicles to park on the cycleway. Secondly it appears that the lanes are being laid by workers with rakes rather than machines, which may well cause a badly bumpy surface – like Buccleuch Street, but much longer.

We are also extremely unhappy with the new temporary **Picardy Place** arrangements where cycling provision is forgotten.

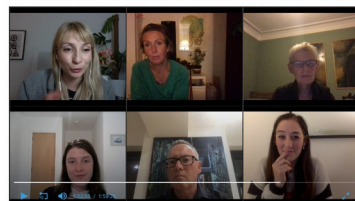
These Leith Walk problems may be in part because construction is by the tram team, with insufficient Active Travel team input.

SPOKES NEWS

◆ The much-anticipated new **Spokes Edinburgh map** is at the printer and should be in the shops at £6.95 by late November. There'll also be an introductory special offer for orders direct to Spokes, £6 post-free or £27 for 6 copies. There should also be a new **Edinburgh map buff** featuring an extract. Our huge thanks to the Spokes volunteers who surveyed the entire city, and of course our maps group, notably voluntary expert cartographer Andy. Full details & costs will be on our website at the time.

◆ Our **Spaces for People challenge** is open till end December, so please enter if you haven't yet. See spokes.org.uk, 24 Sept article.

◆ Our public meeting on **Local Bike Campaigning** was hugely inspiring. QA presenter Alix Davies said it had given us “an insight into a world that can be different.” See report & video at spokes.org.uk, 25 Sept article.



MORE EVENTS

- ◆ See overleaf for a multitude of COP-related events.
- ◆ Nov 4 **Cycling Scotland annual conference** 10am-4pm online. *Speakers include: Patrick Harvie*, Green MSP and now Minister responsible for Active Travel; *Adrien Sartre*, Paris Cycling Adviser; *Lee Craigie*, Scotland Active Nation Commissioner. There is a £25 fee, but contact us if you are an active Spokes member for whom the fee is a problem. cycling.scot/cycling-scotland-conference
- ◆ Nov 10 **The Change Cycle** 11am-12.00 Greyfriars Centre, 138 Pleasance & online. Goods transport in Edinburgh by bike & cargobike - talks & try-outs. edinburghsocialenterprise.co.uk



BALERNO-KIRKNEWTON

Spokes member Neil Gwynne, who is on Kirknewton Community Council, is working with them and West Lothian Council for a Balerno/ Kirknewton/ East Calderycleroute. As well as local benefits it would give safer travel to Edinburgh, avoiding the Long Dalmahoy Road rat-run, and would link to Lanark Road bike lanes. Outline plans are prepared and Sustrans is considering funding. For more info, or to get involved, email neilgwynne@yahoo.co.uk

CONSULTATIONS

- ◆ *Check the websites below for current (and past) consultations. Please 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
- ◆ **Edinburgh** edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders currently includes..
 - parking zone consultations for **Leith area & Gorgie/Shandon**
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk includes..
 - future of Spaces for People **20mph** projects [closes 26 Nov]
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk [Have Your Say]
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot currently includes...
 - Building Regulations (Energy standards) – we are suggesting this should include **national minimum standards for bike storage** in new buildings – the consultation is suggesting EV facilities but no mention of bikes/cargobikes. [closes 26 Nov]
 - **Aviation strategy** [closes 21 Jan 2022]
- ◆ **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 above websites.