

Spokes Action-Update 07.05.23

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0. Finding your councillors

Find your ward & councillors by typing your postcode on [this page](#) [or edinburgh.gov.uk : Council & Committees : Find your Councillor]. Note that everyone has either 3 or 4 councillors, usually from assorted parties.

1. Spokes Public Meeting (in person) Wed 24 May

“A City where you Don’t Need a Car” and a new “Active Travel Action Plan”

Edinburgh City is consulting on a new [Active Travel Action Plan \(ATAP\)](#) and other ‘Delivery Plans’ (links below), aimed to support the [City Mobility Plan](#), [Edinburgh NetZero 2030](#), and a [30% reduction in car-km](#) by 2030. Our public meeting will hear from the Council, followed by an expert critique, and then there’s a full hour panel discussion – your opportunity to challenge the speakers.

Speakers

- [Cllr Scott Arthur](#), Edinburgh City Transport Convener – the Council’s intentions
- **Phil Noble**, Strategy Manager for Active Travel and Streetspace – more detail on the policy delivery documents, particularly ATAP
- [Adrian Davis](#), Professor of Transport & Health at [Napier Transport Research Unit](#) – he will critique the policies – are they sufficiently ambitious? will they work?
- Then our **one-hour panel QA** – *your chance to interrogate and challenge the speakers*
- [Dr Caroline Brown](#) will chair the meeting: Spokes member, Transform policy adviser, transport academic

Arrangements

- **Where** [Augustine United Church](#) 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL
- **Date** Weds 24 May
- **Time** Starts 7.30, Ends 9.30. Doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls and chat
- **Queries & Questions** Queries, or questions for the speakers, can be emailed to spokes@spokes.org.uk. However, questions in person from audience members are likely to have greatest priority on the night
- **Online** We hope to live broadcast on our [youtube channel](#) and make the recording available a few days later – details on our website nearer the time
- **Membership** There’ll be a stall to join Spokes, or renew your membership, at the meeting
- **Apologies** for our lack of gender-balance; a council speaker was swapped after the meeting was fixed. However, Caroline, chairing the meeting, will doubtless ensure comprehensive coverage of all issues.

Video Help Needed

- Are you experienced with video equipment? We need a volunteer to help with the video livestream at the meeting. If you may be able to help, please contact Martin McDonnell 07884 265071 or email spokes@spokes.org.uk.

The Active Travel Action Plan

A top cycling takeaway from the draft ATAP is the new focus on main road segregated routes. It says [chapter 5], *“The (off road) traffic-free routes will continue to play a vital role, and we will seek to improve their comfort, safety and security. However, we now plan to develop a joined-up network of routes that **feel safe to everyone at all times of day**. This network will need to use **segregated cycle tracks on main roads**, as well as **unsegregated on-street routes that have low volumes of motor traffic**.”*

The three highlighted phrases above [our emphases] neatly summarise important major developments, which we strongly welcome, in the Council’s approach to cycling policy, and we urge determined implementation.

But what is missing in the plan? And what could be better? Let us and the speakers know at the meeting!

The Delivery Plans

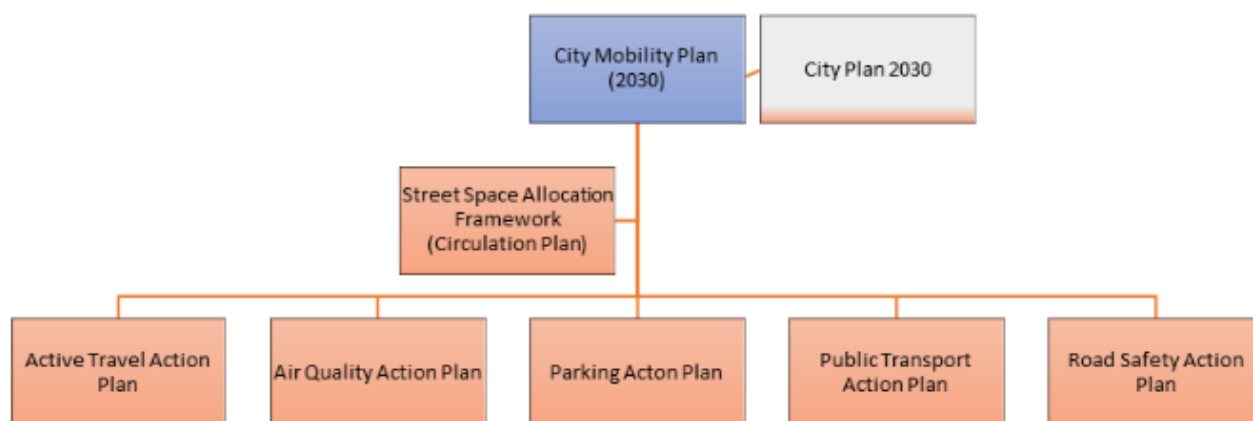
Do the [delivery plans](#) live up to the Council's ambition to cut car-km 30% by 2030, with much more travel by foot, bike and public transport? Will they let more people live car-free? Will they be rapidly implemented?

The ambition "to create a city where you don't need to own a car to get around," mentioned in several of the documents (e.g. Parking Action Plan, p8) is very welcome, for reasons of climate, public health, congestion and equalities. It is also essential if the Council is to achieve its ultra-tough target to reduce car-km 30% by 2030.

The full set of policy documents is listed and linked here...

- [Active Travel Action Plan 2023](#) ATAP
- [Public Transport Action Plan 2023](#) PTAP
- [Parking Action Plan](#)
- [Road Safety Action Plan](#)
- [Air Quality Action Plan](#) AQAP
- [Circulation Plan](#) [under development – 2210 below] [Feb 2023 update](#)

You can see Spokes initial thoughts on the policy documents, particularly the Active Travel Action Plan, in this [Spokes submission to the Feb 2 Transport Committee](#). [Also [tweeted](#), please retweet].



Consultation on the delivery plans – ***closing date 9 July***

- ◆ There is a *very summary* online consultation on the delivery plans [here](#). **Please do respond.**
- ◆ However, if you have specific comments on any of the delivery plans, email spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk and copy your email to spokes@spokes.org.uk
- ◆ For comments on the draft **Active Travel Action Plan**, also copy your comments to activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk

2. For your diary

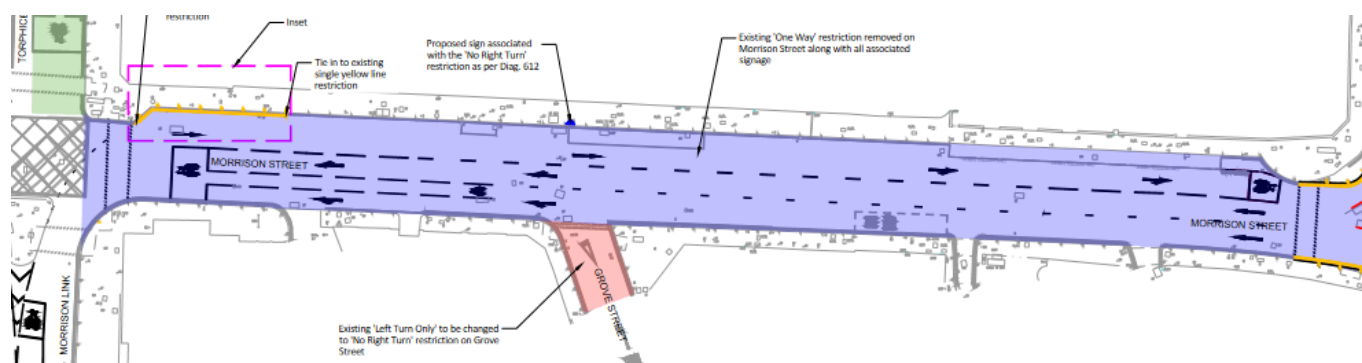
- ◆ May 24 (Wed) **Spokes public meeting** – see 1 above
- ◆ June 1 **Spokes East Lothian map launch** in Haddington – see 8 below
- ◆ June 5-11 [Bike Week](#)
- ◆ June 10-18 [Big Green Week UK](#)
- ◆ June 10-18 [Climate Fringe Festival](#)
- ◆ June 13 (Tue) 8-10am **Spokes Bike Breakfast** – save the date!!
- ◆ June 15 [Clean Air Day](#)

3. Morrison St – more motor traffic; no bike lane – **object by 15 May**

Morrison Street is designated in the [City Centre Transformation](#) policy as a 'main cycle route' – we expected this would mean that segregated bike lanes were very likely. Apparently the Council Active Travel team had started looking into the options for walking and cycling improvements, though were not yet at a stage to share details.

However all the cycling improvements have now been put "[on hold](#)" because it has been decided that Morrison Street area needs modified to take more traffic, as it lies just outside the City Centre [LEZ](#) (Low Emission Zone) and so polluting vehicles will divert there rather than entering the LEZ.

Traffic Orders have been prepared which make Morrison Street 2-way for motor traffic and introduce other ameliorations for motor traffic. The Orders do at least make improvements for pedestrians at the awful Gardners Crescent junction, but, despite comments from Spokes, cyclists will continue to mix with the (increased and more polluting) traffic – and, eastbound, will place you in an uphill traffic lane next to parked cars.



This is not just failing to provide the promised cycling improvements, but it is making conditions significantly worse, on this route used by many cyclists, and designated by the Council themselves as a 'main cycle route.'

In response to [Spokes concern](#) we have been told that at some unspecified date in the future the Council intends to restart considering what can be done on Morrison Street to encourage bike use (and to further improve walking conditions) – but they have admitted there is no guarantee of what type of facilities (if any) will be provided, or when this will happen.

Spokes will therefore be objecting formally to the Traffic Orders. Our draft objection is [here](#).

If you agree that this proposal needs a complete rethink, please lodge your own objection, as follows..

- ◆ Email to: TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk **by 15 May**
- ◆ Say you are *objecting* to the Orders RSO/23/03, TRO/23/04 and TRO/23/05
- ◆ Then give your reasons
- ◆ *If you are short of time*, a short objection is far better than none at all!
- ◆ *If you are not short of time*, also ask your councillors to take up your concerns
- ◆ Send Spokes a copy of your objection. spokes@spokes.org.uk

More information

If you have time and wish to look at the detail of the Orders, find them here...

- ◆ [TRO/23/04](#) is the changes in turnings, one-ways, etc
- ◆ [TRO/23/05](#) is the changes in waiting/ loading etc
- ◆ [RSO/23/03](#) is the redetermining of sections from footway to carriageway and vice-versa
- ◆ *Note:* We strongly suggest that your objection is to all 3 Orders, as they all depend on each other and, for example, road layouts might need to be different to allow for segregated bike lanes.

Apart from the main issue of Morrison Street itself, Spokes has other concerns, outlined in our [draft objection](#). For example, we would like to see consideration to a bike lane up Dewar Place, with advance traffic lights at the junction with Morrison Street. If you have time, check out our draft in case you wish to make any other points in your own objection.

4. Other consultations

Please respond as an individual to all that concern you. Also copy to Spokes for possible use in our responses.

Can you volunteer to help with Spokes consultation responses??

As you can see, there are many consultations below, not to mention the major consultations in section 1 above (and 3). Spokes Planning Group does not currently have the capacity to respond to all. Please, if this interests you, do get in touch and join the Planning Group. Even doing a draft response for just one occasional consultation would be great. There is also a need for people to comment on drafts prepared by others - it is dispiriting to spend time on a draft then receive no comments on it before it is submitted.

4.1 B7066 cycleroute, Whitburn area – **closing date not stated**

West Lothian Council is consulting on plans for a shared-use path, as part of their A89 Active Travel project, linking Whitburn, Bathgate, Livingston, Broxburn, Uphall, and related rail stations.

Comment on the B7066 plan (and any West Lothian cycling infrastructure issues) [HERE](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32502/New-Road-Footpath-and-Cyclepath-Developments)
[westlothian.gov.uk/article/32502/New-Road-Footpath-and-Cyclepath-Developments](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32502/New-Road-Footpath-and-Cyclepath-Developments)

4.2 Edinburgh Seafield regeneration area – **ends 8 June**

A masterplan is being prepared to regenerate the area, including housing, public transport and active travel routes. As a first stage the consultants are consulting the public on overall concepts and opportunities.

The online consultation is [here](#). For more info or to submit detailed comments, email seafield.regeneration@edinburgh.gov.uk



4.3 New Trinity Academy – **ends 9 June**

Consultation [here](#). This is an early-stage consultation, and provides an opportunity to comment on routes to the school, as well as bike storage and parking at the new school.

4.4 New Greendykes Primary – **ends 30 June**

Consultation [here](#). This is an early-stage consultation, including even the location of the school, and provides an opportunity to comment on routes to the school, as well as bike storage and parking at the new school.

4.5 Spaces For People bike lanes, ETROs – **consultation postponed**

The 6-month [formal consultation](#) [#6] for the *Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders* for the *Spaces-for-People/ Travelling-Safely* main road semi-segregated bike lanes was due to end on May 20th. However, errors have been found in the technicalities of the Orders, so they will have to be re-issued - which means another 6-month consultation period. Spokes is seeking to ensure that comments already submitted will still be taken into account.

4.6 Listed Buildings and Sustainability – ends 11 June

Edinburgh has many listed buildings, and many others in conservation areas. How can they be upgraded to be fit for and contribute to Edinburgh 2030-NetZero? Consultation is [here](#).

We need to be sure the report includes domestic bike storage – a particular issue in such areas, especially where tenemental. If this matters to you, or you have suggestions, or just want to emphasise the importance of bike storage, please reply to the consultation. As well as the online QA, there's an email address for more detail.

We have [tweeted](#) this consultation, and it has generated significant interest. More retweets welcome!

4.7 Midlothian Bus Corridors – ends 15 May

Midlothian Council wishes to prioritise buses along these 4 corridors...

- A6094 Whitecraig to A6094 Eskbank
- B6392 Eskbank to A772 Gilmerton Junction
- A7 Gorebridge to A7 Danderhall
- A6094 Eskbank to A701 Straiton

You may have comments on the bus priorities, but obviously there are also cycling implications and cycling opportunities. The consultation is [here](#) and the email address for more info or to send other comments is David.Mayne@aecom.com.

4.8 Local Living, Scottish Government consultation – ends 20 July

Seeking views and comments on the draft planning guidance for councils and others on local living and 20 minute neighbourhood planning guidance. [Consultation page](#).

4.9 City Mobility Plan, Delivery Plans including Active Travel Action Plan – ends 9 July

See the consultation paragraph in the public meeting article (1) above

5. Mound Defenders

As part of the Covid Spaces for People measures, defenders were introduced on the Mound uphill, and proved particularly valuable given the gradient and the tight bends. Then, when North Bridge closed for major long-term repairs the defenders were removed at critical junctions – we were told this was to cater for increased bus use.

However, now that North Bridge has re-opened there is no sign of the defenders returning. Whilst conditions should improve greatly under the Meadow to George Street project, construction is not even planned to begin until January 2025 – and we all know the delays that Edinburgh cycle schemes often experience.



with



without

If you'd like the defenders back for the interim (18 months at a minimum) please ask your councillors to take this up on your behalf – find your councillors in section 0 above.

5a. Stop Press – Braid Road note from Spokes South Edinburgh

Changes on Braidburn Terrace have been delayed to avoid permanently changing the Braidburn Ter/ Braid Road junction while discussions re ongoing about the best way to provide a safe entrance to the Greenbank to Meadows Quiet Route. The current layout removed a safe South entry point to the Quiet Route and is not suitable for all cyclists, especially with children. We must keep up pressure for a safe South entrance. **Please email** Spokes South if you can help: cyclesouthedin@gmail.com

6. Council project news

6.1 Midlothian speed limits

More than nine out of ten Midlothian streets which currently have 30mph speed limits would be reduced to 20mph under [plans set to go before councillors](#) on 9 May – Including town centres, residential areas and on main roads through some rural villages – although the latter would also need significant physical measures to try and ensure compliance.

Even assuming councillors approve the report, which does seem likely, the speed reductions will have to go through the traffic order process – which remains unnecessarily complex since the Scottish Government rejected Mark Ruskell's bill for a default 20mph in urban areas.

Links: [Committee Paper](#) [Full report on Midlothian's speed limit consultation](#). Info: kevin.anderson@midlothian.gov.uk

6.2 Kings Theatre area

Planned improvement works to National Cycle Network route 75 that will help to reduce the impact for people cycling caused by the long duration temporary traffic management required to facilitate the King's Theatre refurbishment works.

The planned works include the introduction of cycle contraflow measures on Leven Terrace, Valleyfield Street and Glengyle Terrace. The works are due to commence on Tuesday 9th May 2023 and it is anticipated that they will be completed on or before Friday 12th May 2023. It should be noted that the works involve adjustments to the road markings which rely on fair weather and if rain is encountered it may cause a slight delay the completion of the works. We have been working closely with the King's Theatre team and their contractor on the proposals and we are aiming to minimise any disruption caused during the delivery of the measures.

More info: Brendan.Forrester@edinburgh.gov.uk

Finally, Spokes understands that the Kings Theatre works will include the Tarvit Street section of the long-delayed Canal to Meadows project.

6.3 West Edinburgh

Planned walking, wheeling and cycling improvement works that the council's Road Safety and Active Travel teams will be delivering in the west of Edinburgh. A high-level summary of the forthcoming works, locations and timescales is as follows:

- QuietRoute 9 at [Pinkhill](#) and [adjacent path junction](#) (Ward 6)
 - Path network and accessibility improvements
 - Anticipated start date 20th April 2023 with an estimated 4 week programme
 - CEC project lead Stewart Inglis (Stewart.Inglis@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- [Drum Brae North/South at Drum Brae Drive](#) (Ward 3)
 - Installation of a new signal controlled junction and associated infrastructure
 - Anticipated start date w/c 15th May 2023 with an estimated 8 week programme
 - CEC project lead Brendan Forrester (Brendan.Forrester@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- [Davidson's Mains Park](#) (Wards 1 and 3)
 - New section of lit surfaced path between the existing Davidson's Mains Park path network (at the Queensferry Road / Clermiston Road North junction) to Barnton Park Avenue
 - Anticipated start date w/c 26th June 2023 with an estimated 12 week programme
 - CEC project lead Michael MacKenzie (Michael.MacKenzie@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- [Murrayburn Road at Hailesland Road](#) (Wards 2 and 7)
 - Installation of a new puffin crossing and associated infrastructure
 - Anticipated start date w/c 18th September 2023 with an estimated 4 week programme
 - CEC project lead Brendan Forrester (Brendan.Forrester@edinburgh.gov.uk).

7. Spokes news

7.1 Renewals for 2023

Thank you to all who have renewed following our mailout earlier this Spring. If you have not yet renewed, we hope you will do so. Here are two methods...

- ◆ Email membership@spokes.org.uk stating that you wish to renew for 2023, and including your address, postcode, and any changes of other details since last year. There is no fixed membership fee, but donations to support our work are greatly appreciated. See [website](#) for how to donate, and note that if you set up a standing order (and tell us) then you will be automatically renewed in future years.
- ◆ At our public meeting on May 24 (p1 above) there will be a membership desk – come along there to renew – and bring any friends who'd like to join! If you have a renewal form, bring it, though this is not essential. If you can't remember if you have renewed you can check at the membership desk.

7.2 Spokes Bulletin – can you distribute??

Due to covid, and the continuing move to electronic communication, we have now stopped producing the former 3-a-year 12-page Bulletin. However, there is still a need for a less frequent printed publication for bike leafleting and for people to pick up in bike shops and libraries. We therefore produced a [Spring bulletin no.137](#), with content which remains valid for a good many months. Could you take a pile to leaflet parked bikes in shopping or other areas near where you live/shop/work; or to leave 5-10 in local community centres, etc, etc. This is one way in which we get new members and spread knowledge. If you can help, email spokes@spokes.org.uk.

7.3 Spokes Competition 2023

Our annual competition this year will be on the theme 'domestic bike storage.' We want to hear all your ideas and experiences, successes and woes, even overnight thefts, or how onstreet secure storage has helped you, so others can learn from you and so we can lobby the council more effectively on this topic. More competition details later.

We had some lovely entries last year for our [Shopping by Bike](#) comp, and have now produced a great [factsheet](#) from the results. We hope we'll be able to do the same with domestic bike storage too! You can see more previous competition topics and reports [here](#).



7.4 CargoBike grants for organisations & Spokes member households

Spokes is keen to see more cargobikes in the city and the Lothians, and we currently run the following grant schemes to assist cargobike purchase...

Organisations

Thanks to dedicated financial support from the [Galashan Trust](#), Spokes now offers grants up to £2000 to local community organisations, or micro-businesses with a community purpose, towards the cost of a cargo bike.

A recent grant was to the Dower House Cafe in Corstorphine, who say "it has completely revolutionised the way we live and work."

Spokes member households

If you buy or publicise our excellent [Spokes Maps](#), thank you!! because..*

Thanks to a useful surplus on the Spokes maps account, we have re-instated our grant offer to Spokes member households towards the cost of a cargobike. There are a limited number of grants available, up to £1500 maximum each.

*Why not organise a bulk map order at your workplace? See what other Spokes members have done, [here](#).

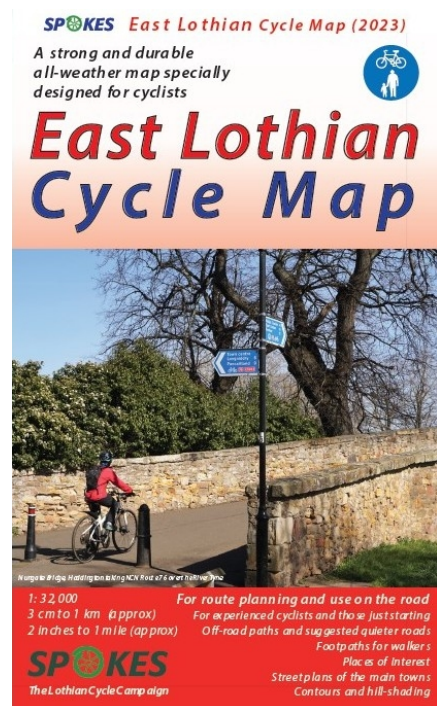
Applying for a cargobike grant

Organisations should use the information sheet and application form on our [cargobike website page](#). **Spokes member households**, please email Spokes explaining why you need a cargobike and how it will be used – generally grants will be first-come, first-served.

8. Spokes East Lothian map – launch & advance offer!

Our fully revised East Lothian map is now at the printer and expected to be available and in most bike shops at around the end of May. If you'd rather buy your copy by post..

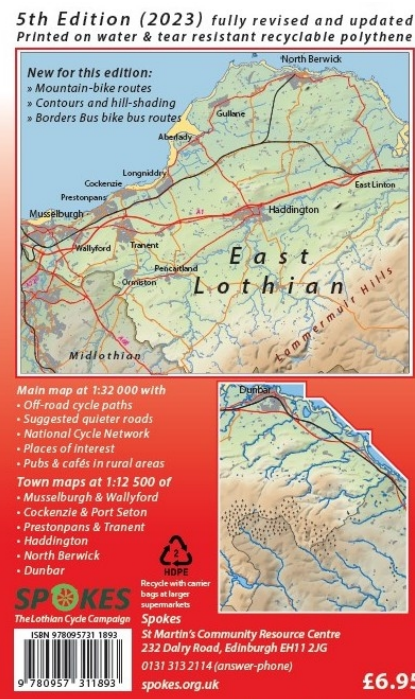
- ◆ email office@spokes.org.uk to order and pay by BACS, or
- ◆ send a cheque to Spokes, St Martin's Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG. **Make your cheque payable to: Spokes Lothian Cycle Campaign**, not just to Spokes.



There's a special offer price for orders to the office, **until the end of June**, just £6 including postage. Or share an order with friends and colleagues at £27 for 6 copies. The normal price in shops, and from Spokes, is £6.95.

As always, huge thanks to our maps group, the volunteers who surveyed every road and path in the area, and of course Andy Follis our expert volunteer cartographer.

There will be a map launch event in Haddington on June 1st, with local councillors. Spokes members attendance appreciated! And of course you can buy a map there! **If you can come along to the launch**, please email our maps group coordinator, katharinetaylor@yahoo.co.uk.



9. More & future consultations – *Check council, government, other consultations*

- ◆ Edinburgh consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ Edinburgh [Edinburgh traffic orders](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/traffic-orders)
- ◆ East Lothian www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- ◆ Midlothian <https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/directory/33/consultations>
- ◆ West Lothian www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ Scottish Government consult.gov.scot
- ◆ Transport Scotland www.transport.gov.scot/consultations
- ◆ Scottish Parliament consultations yourviews.parliament.scot/consultation_finder
- ◆ Scottish Parliament petitions petitions.parliament.scot
- ◆ Just in case... Transform Scotland keeps an updated page of current transport-related consultations... transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts Check it out in case there's anything important that doesn't appear in the website addresses above (there often is!)
- ◆ Spokes website We have a page of particularly relevant consultations www.spokes.org.uk/consultns

10. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk
- ★ We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian). Follow us and ReTweet tweets that you support. Recent tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ★ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/SpokesLothian)
- ★ To campaign effectively Spokes needs as many supporters as possible. If you are not already a member and you like what we do, go to www.spokes.org.uk/membership.