

Agenda/notes of Spokes Planning Group meeting

29th January 2024 - 19:30

Topic: January PG meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: (new link)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89997949199?pwd=wJ4Amm1NX2NCjNEDUH9nL2svatmyYs.1>

Attendees:

Apologies:

TEC items [Notes on the TEC agenda](#)

TEC agenda: <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=6736>

1. 6.1 [Business Bulletin](#)
 - a. Contains CEC response to the Historic Environment Scotland consultation on restricting traffic through Holyrood Park. Council “welcomes” this vision.
 - b.
2. 7.1 [City Mobility Plan](#)
3. 7.2 [Our Future Streets – a circulation plan for Edinburgh](#)
 - a. Ask for hi-res version of Figure 3.11(a)
 - b. AR to respond
4. 7.3 [Tram from Granton to BioQuarter and Beyond](#)
 - a. Preferred route has been published - follows the existing Roseburn path.
 - b. New Roseburn path would be ~3m wide, but cycling would be “discouraged”.
 - c. Alternative, on-street cycling infrastructure would instead be built.
 - d. Is the proposed new cycling infrastructure a sufficient improvement for the loss of the Roseburn Path?
 - e. How would cycling be “discouraged”?
 - f. Is the Scottish Government even likely to fund the project?
 - g. What will happen during construction?
 - h. OLD PLANNING APP - 07/05197/PA | Alterations to access bridge and footbridge for the Edinburgh Tram Network | Caledonian Cycle Track Edinburgh
<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=JSZFWHEWW1000>

TRAMLINE VERBAL DEPUTATION FOR TEC [Written deputation here.](#)

Spokes welcomes high quality public transport in Edinburgh and does not fundamentally object to providing that on the Roseburn Path. We were, however, deeply disappointed to see the proposed removal of all cycling on the Roseburn Path within the project's extent. The Roseburn Path is currently a key element of the city's cycle network and, in Our Future Streets, is identified as part of the city's secondary cycle network, i.e. catering for both utility and recreational trips.

The inclusion of vague active travel provision on loosely parallel streets is welcome, if not the minimum that should be committed to in this situation. However, that provision is not a realistic alternative to what is lost if cycling is effectively removed from the Roseburn Path.

That alternative provision will follow a separate route, reducing existing off-road connections - notably to the CEC QuietRoutes network. That loss is of course particularly unfortunate given the £12.5m investment in the Roseburn to Canal project, and the future Meadows - Canal project. Notably, timescales for delivering quality main-road cycle provision in Edinburgh stretch towards a decade. Leith Connections was proposed as an alternative to cycling being banned on Constitution Street. Nearly six months after trams started running, the project is yet to be constructed. Alternative provision must be completed before tram construction begins.

The current proposal is less inclusive to cycling than the initial project proposed many years ago, as well as in the 'Do Minimum' approach studied in ESSTS2 in 2021. The Do Minimum approach was rejected by consultants in 2021 as not complying with current policy and guidelines. Those guidelines and policy documents have not changed.

There is the opportunity to follow a 'Do Medium' approach where cycling, for both utility and leisure, can continue to be accommodated by maximising available path widths with the concession of pinch points at structures on the route.

Finally, our full written deputation covers many other issues, including legal, policy and practical. Perhaps most important, it is not a question of 'Tram or Bike' - it is a question of design to allow the best possible combination of tram, walk, wheel and cycle.

5. 7.4 [West Edinburgh Transport Improvements Programme](#)
 - a. Business case published.
 - b. Doesn't seem to have any update to plans.
 - c. Detailed design tasks and procurement to follow.
 - d. TRO in Oct '25; construction in 2026.
6. 7.5 [Procurement of the Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Contract](#)
 - a. New contract needed from October 2024; report outlines possible options. Don't think this is of much interest to Spokes .
7. 9.1 Motion by Councillor McKenzie - T7 Longstone Link
 - a. Follows a Spokes/Longstone CC deputation at a previous Development Management subcommittee to ask for bridge to be included. Bridge costed at £560k, developer to pay up to 30%.

Updates/ongoing

1. Canal/Meadows - <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/meadows-to-canal-cycling-and-walking-improvements/>
 - a. Most recent delay due to trees. Uncertainty in funding for Kings Theatre unlikely to be helping.
2. CCWEL
 - a. Full route should be opened and usable in (late) February.
3. George St/Meadows
 - a. [TRO/21/32 Meadows to Geo St \(MGS\), stage 1 consultn](#) - does AR know what's going on?
 - i. Still no firm details.
 - b. [George Street cross-streets consultation](#) - Closes 8 Feb 2024 - draft response by Richard & Ewan for comment - on the website ([in para 2311](#)).
4. [Parking Levy](#) - John Robson to draft. February Deadline. in case useful, Spokes responses to the earlier national consultations 1. [Regulations consultn](#) 2. [In advance of the law](#).

5. Greenbank-Meadows - Send separate email to Cllr Arthur and ward councillors. **DF to draft email.** To include new mention from Future Streets document.
6. "Urban traffic management and control" - **DF to draft email. Also separately traffic signals.**
7. Leith Connections to start in March 24 to June 24 start
 - a. Permanent route due to start construction Spring/Summer. Likely to take one year.

Other Transport

1. Tram Route Options
 - a. Preferred route via Roseburn Path and Western General

Planning Apps

1. 24/00149/PAN mixed use dev't, incl. care home, commercial on ground floor, 191 St John's Rd (corner of Manse Rd). Events: 31 Jan., 2-7pm, and 28 Feb., 2-7pm, at Corstorphine Community Centre; www.northcare-manse.co.uk
2. 23/07312/PAN - Caley Brewery

AOB

- TRO/23/16 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/15623/proposed-introduction-and-amendments-to-waiting-restrictions-and-loading-prohibitions-various-roads-tro2316>

Our Future Streets (Circulation Plan) – Technical Summary Report

3.7.5 Relocating Modal Priorities

Page 421 (p57)

A cycle network of the safe standard sought requires protection from busy traffic. On primary and secondary general traffic networks this generally means that segregation is needed to deliver the desired level of service. But unlike walking/wheeling, for which there is an essentially complete if imperfect network in existence, most sections of the proposed cycle network that follow the primary or secondary general traffic network are not currently segregated. This means that delivery of the cycle network is significantly more challenging than other modal networks in terms of the re-allocation of space needed.

With all the above in mind, the SAF makes a number of adjustments to the initial desired cycle network. The revised cycle network map is set out in Appendix A and includes the following proposed relocations and deletions of the primary cycle network:

- A90 Queensferry Road route – Blackhall westwards - relocated to NCN1, using off road paths and quiet streets to the north
- Inverleith Row route relocated to the Canonmills to Trinity off-road path
- Deletions from Bonnington Road and Easter Road
- Deletion from Lasswade Road
- Deletion from Craigmillar Park and the Bridges, with alternative parallel routes
- A70 Lanark Road / Slateford Road – relocation of parallel streets connecting to Gorgie Road
- **A702 - Primary cycle route relocated to local streets between the Meadows and Greenbank**
- Deletion from Gilmour Place, parallel by Dundee Street
- Deletion from Drum Brae
- Deletion of a number of shorter lengths of street where precedence has been given to bus priority or where width precludes an effective safe solution, including Crewe Road North, Newhaven Road, Pilrig Street, Captains Road, Greenbank Road, Gillespie Road

Next Meeting?

Monday 4th March.