

Spokes Action-Update 01.05.24

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0. Finding your councillors

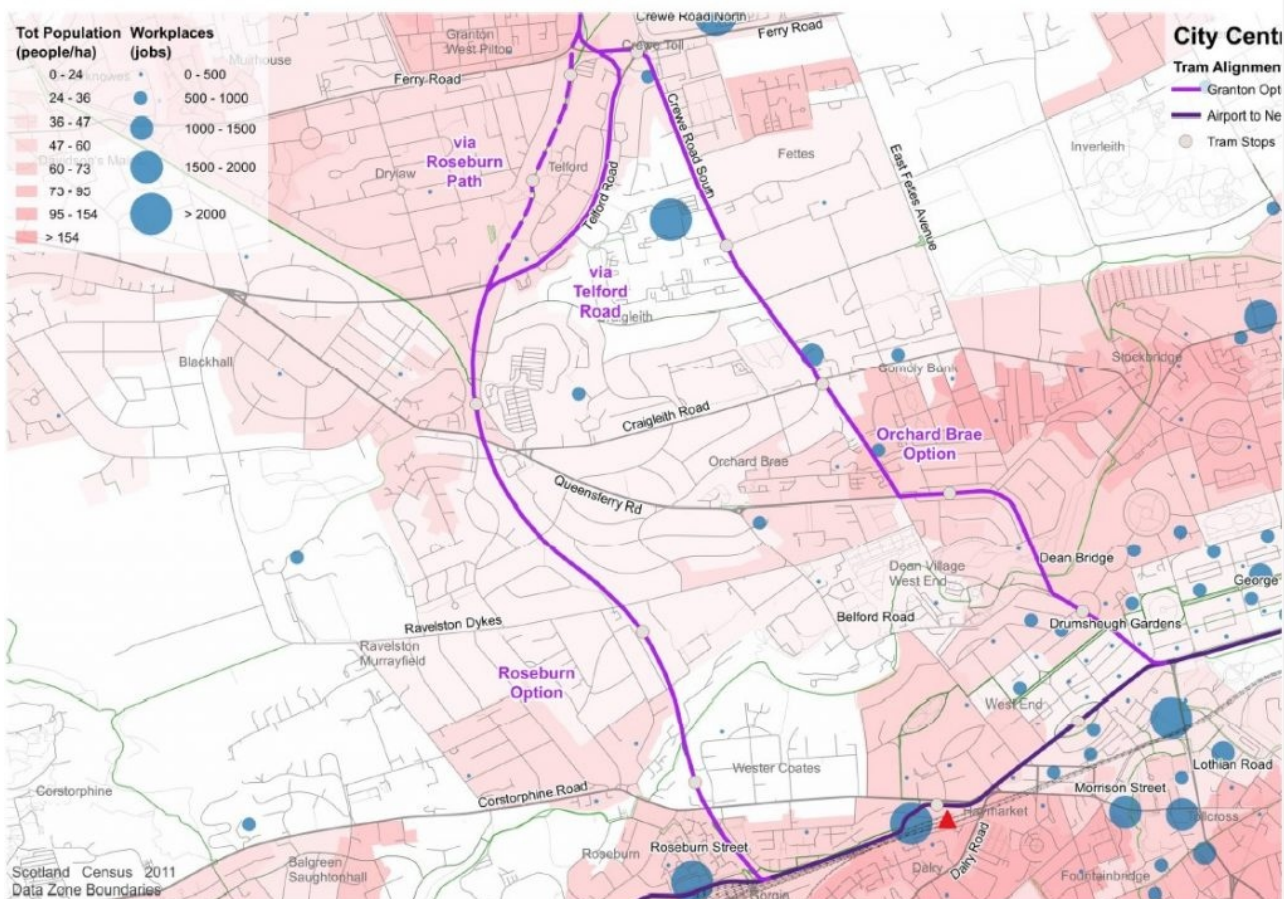
In Edinburgh, find your ward & councillors by typing your postcode on [this page](#) [or edinburgh.gov.uk : Council & Committees : Find your Councillor]. Everyone has either 3 or 4 councillors, usually from assorted parties. For any Council, and to find MSPs, you can use writetothem.com.

1. Spokes Public Meeting, Weds 5 June – for your diary

The Granton Tramline: Roseburn offroad or Orchard Brae onroad

- The case for tram using Roseburn path and not using the road route
[Lesley Hinds](#) Former Transport Convenor & North Edinburgh resident.
- The case for tram using the road route and not using Roseburn path
[Euan Baxter](#), [Save Roseburn Path](#)
- Cycling aspects – pros and cons of each option
[Alex Robb](#) Spokes Planning Group
- Population health – pros and cons of each option
[Adrian Davis](#) Professor of Transport and Health, [Edinburgh Napier University](#)
- then our always-excellent **one-hour panel QA**, your chance to question/challenge the speakers chaired by [Johanna Boyd](#) Scottish solicitor specialised in planning and local government law, CEO of [Planning Aid Scotland](#), and former leader of Stirling Council.

Figure 3.2: City Centre to Crewe Toll



Continued on p2

Arrangements

- **Where** [Augustine United Church](#) 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL
- **Date** Wednesday 5 June
- **Time** Starts 7.30pm, Ends 9.30. Doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls and chat, including a special stall to join Spokes or renew your membership
- **Questions** Questions for the panel, can be emailed (at least a day in advance) 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 soon after
- **Social media** If tweeting/posting about the meeting, use hashtag #SpokesMtg
- **More info** If you have any queries about the meeting, email spokes@spokes.org.uk or phone Emma, 07982278936.

Background [full article at www.spokes.org.uk/2024/04/spokesmtg-the-granton-tramline]

Spokes has always supported cycling “as part of an environmentally sustainable transport and access strategy,” not purely cycling for its own sake. We are very supportive of public transport, walking, wheeling, reduced car use, and reducing the climate-crisis impacts of transport. It is therefore important to consider all aspects of both tramline options, although cycling issues will of course weigh significantly in our discussions.

Very briefly *and purely from the cycling perspective*, **onroad tram** means some very difficult cycling conditions (notably, tramlines on the already narrow Dean Bridge), whilst **offroad tram** reduces the ambience and ecology of the nature-filled Roseburn path and might need path restrictions such as pinch-points at some bridges.

The Council consultation is expected to begin later this Spring. At this stage Spokes has not taken a position for or against either option, and indeed we may not do so. We have members with strong views on either side, and in any case Spokes is unlikely to have much influence on the Council’s eventual big binary decision. **However**, we do have a vital role in trying to ensure that, whichever option the Council chooses, conditions for cycling, wheeling and walking are as good as possible – both offroad and onroad.



Cycling implication: If tram uses Roseburn, an adjacent cycle/walk route will be included, but there may be pinch points or other problems at some bridges, and the ambience and ecology will undoubtedly suffer



Cycling implication: If tram uses the Orchard Brae route, onroad cycling conditions will suffer, with the likelihood of more tramline injuries. Dean Bridge will be particularly problematic given its narrowness.

3. Dates for your diary

- Events marked * will have a **Spokes stall** – please volunteer to help! Or come and say hello anyway!
- Also, there are many **current consultations**, each with their own **closing date** – see sections 5 & 6 below.

Apr 27 – Sep 22 [Cycling in Edinburgh exhibition](#) at Museum of Edinburgh, Royal Mile

Spokes has participated in designing the exhibition, along with [Critical Mass](#), [Infrasisters](#) and [Bike Buses](#). [Spokes maps](#) and [buffs](#) will, hopefully, be on sale in the museum shop, and our [summer bulletin](#) available to pick up.

Pedal Power: Cycling and Activism in Edinburgh





This exhibition has been created by groups in Edinburgh who are campaigning to make our city a safe place for cycling.

You'll hear about group rides for fun and friendship that also carry a serious message about the importance of safe cycle routes. You'll learn about the positive environmental impact cycling can have and how it can help both individual and community wellbeing. You'll find out about activism in Edinburgh and around the world and learn about the rich history of cycling in Scotland's capital city.

The exhibition has been created in collaboration with Critical Mass, InfraSisters, Spokes and Bike Buses.

Information

 Sat 27 Apr to Sun 22 Sep

 Museum of Edinburgh

Prices:

Free entry

May 11 [North Ed Community Festival](#) – with Spokes stall [*get in touch if you can help!*]

May 25 [Edinburgh Critical Mass](#)

May 31 – June 9 [Edinburgh Festival of Cycling 2024](#) – great to see it returning!! *EdFoC includes...*

June 5 [Spokes Public Meeting](#) – see pp 1&2 above – with membership & map-sales stalls

June 5 [Sustainability & bikes](#) – 2pm talk

June 8 [Bike campaigning in Ed](#) – 2pm talk

4. Snippets

4.1 Tramlines, beware!!

All members will be aware of the dangers of skidding on tramlines and/or getting wheels trapped, the cause of many injuries, and a probable major contributor to [a death](#), in Edinburgh. Spokes receives [reports](#) from many victims, but two recent cases are worth bearing in mind to be aware of two particular risks.

- Some people cycle **between the tramlines** as this area is often relatively traffic-free. There is the obvious danger of crossing the tramlines at a poor angle to enter and leave, although this is normally done under controlled conditions. However in a recent crash a pedestrian walked between the tramlines without looking, and the cyclist took evasive action which resulted in hitting the tramlines in an unpredictable and uncontrolled way, resulting in wheel trapping, a crash, and injuries
- Cycling conditions at **Haymarket** have recently been improved significantly in various respects. However, for a short distance outside Ryrie's the new red cycle lane is *immediately adjacent* to the tramline, separated only by a dashed white line on the red surfacing. A cyclist was distracted briefly by traffic (not difficult with the Haymarket taxi entry just ahead) and veered slightly right-wards, getting caught in the tramlines at a dreadful angle, resulting in serious bruising and bike damage.

Please report all tramline crashes to the authorities and to Spokes. See our [reporting page](#) for how.

4.2 Transport Committee (TEC)

You may be aware that all Transport Committee papers can be found here...

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=136>

Spokes now has [this web page](#) with links to the papers, Spokes notes, and tweet threads for most meetings.

4.3 Scottish Government: climate targets retreat

There are increasing reports of major climate-related floodings, deaths, and crop failures around the world – indeed they are now becoming so commonplace that many now go largely unnoticed in much of the media. In this context, there is widespread concern over the [reductions in Scotland's climate targets](#) – and particularly the fact that inadequate action so far has led to the legally-binding 2030 target being now unreachable according to the official [UK Climate Committee](#), whilst the 2045 target is becoming increasingly hard to meet.

[Transform Scotland](#), Scotland's Sustainable Transport pressure group, of which Spokes is a member, released [this statement](#) on transport aspects...

*"It is dishonest of Scottish Ministers to blame Westminster for its own failure to meet the climate targets that the Scottish Government itself set. While the Scottish Parliament may lack certain powers, the **Scottish Ministers have ample powers and budgets to tackle emissions from transport**, the largest source of climate emissions.*

*"**The Scottish Government needs to be judged on where it is spending**, not on vapid policy commitments.*

"The Scottish Ministers could decide to switch funds from new road-building into public transport.

*"However, in December last year, these same **Scottish Ministers decided to accelerate spending on the A9 dualling while at the same time cancelling the Bus Partnership Fund**. They also **failed to meet their commitment to devote 10% of transport spending to active travel**, and **made multiple other cuts to investment in sustainable transport** in the Scottish Budget.*

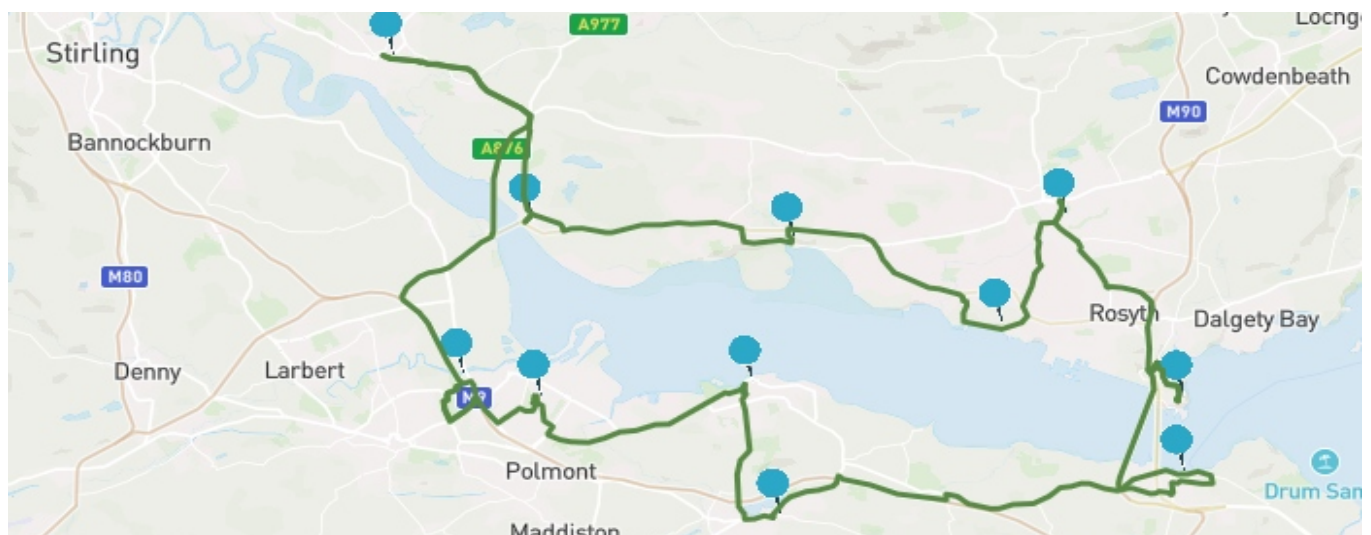
*"Today sees **a recommitment to the 20% 2030 traffic reduction target** and the traffic demand management measures that are imperative to restraining the growth in car use.*

*"But the traffic reduction **commitment** has been around for over three years, yet there's **still no plan in place**, let alone reorientation of investment to match this. And the Scottish Government has passed the buck to local authorities to take forward demand management without providing any financial incentives."*

4.4 Portobello Climate Cafe

There's a weekly Climate Café every Sunday on Portobello beach front, from 3pm each week, near Towerbank & Beach Lane. Just drop by at any time - *"it's a great opportunity to sit down and have a blether about our climate and what's going wrong."* www.facebook.com/groups/1151036858806619

4.5 Inner Forth Bike Bus for weekend cycles



A bike-bus (minibus with special trailer) is running Sundays 21 April to 27 October on the route shown in the map, with 4 services each day (2 in either direction), allowing you and your bike to reach anywhere around the Inner Forth. Non-standard bikes are very welcome too.

The service is experimental for 2024 and as such is FREE! Booking (at least 24 hours in advance) is highly recommended. Email to book, or for queries ... info@pvttransfer.com.

More info, and timetables... www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/climate-forth/inner-forth-bike-bus

4.6 Skelf Bike Park, JustGiving appeal

"Since 2017 the Skelf has provided an awesome wee space in the middle of Edinburgh (below St Leonards Hill) for people to get together and ride bikes. From the beginning, we've been committed to keeping the bike park open access, free to use, & 100% community/volunteer run (although this means operating on a shoe-string)."

However, there are costs – for example very high insurance costs, hence the need for this crowdfunder.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/skelf

Whilst Spokes's primary concern is utility cycling, Skelf also has an important community purpose in one of the less affluent parts of the city, and introduces many young people to bikes, who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

4.7 For Sale - #Bakfiets #Riksja electric #cargobike/#rickshaw

One of our members is selling this rickshaw, which was used for transporting his partner, but is no longer required. It is said to be in "Great condition."

Details & contact-->

gumtree.com/p/for-sale/bakfiets



4.8 Charlotte Square

The Council has a series of plans for connecting CCWEL to George Street via Charlotte Square. Protected cycle lanes are expected to be introduced in summer 2025, subject to completion of the necessary Traffic Orders and obtaining the funding (presumably from bids to Sustrans or Scot Govt). In the longer term a high quality public realm scheme is intended for the entire square, incorporating the cycle connection, but this is likely to take 2 or 3 years of design, public consultation, traffic orders and fund raising.

However, the present temporary arrangements are very poor. The Council is experimenting with reduced traffic lanes, but has left no obvious or safe way to get from CCWEL to George Street. We are told that a connection will be provided "as soon as possible" once new traffic signals are in place. Officers have agreed to meet Spokes shortly to discuss the immediate and the long-term intentions.

If the present setup concerns you, please contact your councillor, to help keep up the pressure for an early temporary solution.

4.9 West Lothian Bike Library, Livingston

The Bike Library now offers e-bike and cargo-bike hire, in partnership with Go-Ebike, an initiative of the Regional Transport Partnership SEStran, which also operates in Portobello, Buckhaven (Fife) and Walkerburn (Borders).

Other services at West Lothian Bike Library include..

- Cycle training (riding and/or maintenance)
- Bike riding for people with disabilities
- Bike recycling (donate your old bike or buy refurbished)
- Running Dr Bike sessions for other organisations

Contacts...

www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk 07724 667321 info@wlbikelibrary.co.uk

Crofthead Farm, Templar Rise, Livingston EH54 6DG



5. Edinburgh Consultations (including by developers)

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

5.1 Meadows to George Street [TRO/21/32](#) & [RSO/21/08](#) – ends 17 May 2024

We are now at the much-delayed final legal stage before work can begin on this major scheme linking the City Centre to south Edinburgh with high-quality cycling and pedestrian conditions. Initial consultation was in [2017!](#)

You can comment, support or object to the two legal Orders until 17 May by emailing TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk as explained [here](#).

There are also drop-in sessions, as below. You can pass on comments at the drop-ins, but *if you wish to make a formal submission, which will be included in the report to councillors, you must use the method above.*

Drop In Session 1	Drop In Session 2
2 nd May 2024	9 th May 2024
Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL	Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL
2pm-7pm	2pm-9pm

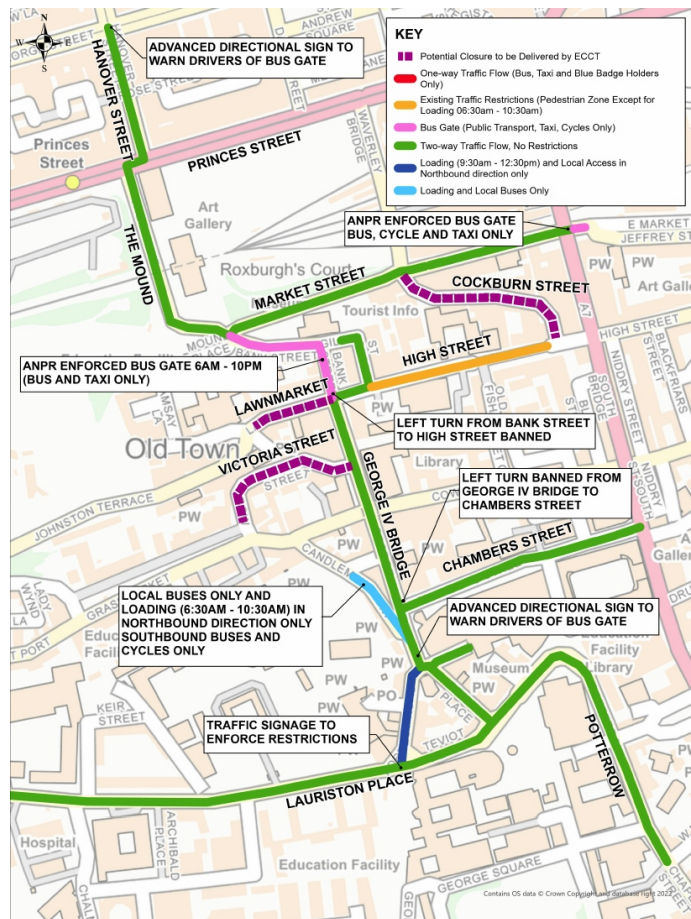
More background.. [Project website](#) / [Council news release](#) /

Spokes comment

We strongly support the proposals. However, we have all along (e.g. our [2019 submission](#)) been concerned about the bidirectional route down the Mound, which seems to risk collisions of downhill and uphill cyclists at the main corner on the Mound. There is now no possibility of this changing (and to do so would delay the whole project by a year minimum, probably more) and the designers have taken steps to minimise any risk as far as possible.

Undoubtedly some downhill cyclists will continue to use the road, rather than the new cycleroute. This is of course legal, but may antagonise some motorists. We therefore suggest the Council makes it patently clear to drivers that cyclists are both allowed and expected, for example by painting bike logos on the downhill section of road. You may wish to make similar comments in your submission.

Of course, it is worth remembering that Mound traffic should anyway be hugely reduced, because the project includes a bus gate on Bank Street – a crucial and brave (in the Edinburgh context!) element of the whole scheme design.



5.2 Climate-Ready Edinburgh – ends 6 May 2024

Edinburgh is consulting on a draft plan for adapting the city to the growing impacts of climate change.

“We are likely to see increasing extreme weather, heavier winter rainfall and reduced summer rainfall, higher average temperatures, with more frequent and extreme heatwaves, sea level rise and coastal erosion, and increased likelihood of flooding.”

See the draft plan, and complete the survey (expects to take about 20 mins) here...

consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/climate-ready-edinburgh

5.3 Dalry – Living Well Locally – ends 26 June 2024

The Council is planning a huge rethink for Dalry area, with a bus & taxi gate at the Haymarket end of Dalry Road, which would enable much improved conditions for walking, segregated cycle provision for most of the street, and a ‘Cyclops’ junction at Ardmillan. The overall aim is a quieter, less polluted area with trees, planting and much safer and easier access to local shops, schools and other services.

Design costs were won from Sustrans. Construction costs will come partly from the road resurfacing budget – the Living Well Locally project has been incorporated into a planned resurfacing – and also an application for government active travel funding support.

The plan is one of the first in the Council’s new ‘[Future Streets](#)’ approach and part of the [20-minute neighbourhoods strategy](#).

The **consultation website**, with further details and an online survey, is [here](#). There’s also a [project page here](#).

The email address for more detailed comments and for queries is dalrytowncentre@edinburgh.gov.uk.

5.4 Corstorphine Connections ETRO/21/21 – ends 7 July 2024

The Corstorphine Connections experimental quiet area project (particularly around the primary schools) had some relatively minor alterations at the end of its 6-month consultation period, as a result of which the ETRO has had to be revised, with a new closing date of 7 July.

Most people who wish to comment will probably have already done so, but, if you have not, you now have this extended opportunity. Send your comments to TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk, quoting “ETRO/21/21, Corstorphine Connections” and copy to Edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk.

Spokes comments are [here](#).

For more info about the scheme, the project page is [here](#).

5.5 Spaces For People bike lanes – City Centre ETRO/21/26A ends 18.8.24

The Spaces for People bike lanes and traffic restrictions are still legally valid under temporary Orders. In order to make them legally permanent (with any changes) the Council is introducing Experimental Traffic Orders, which include powers to deem them permanent (with or without changes) after a consultation period.

Unfortunately the [first attempt](#) (via consultants) to do this, in Jan 2023, failed because of a series of errors which meant that the draft Orders had to be withdrawn. Council officers are now drafting [the Orders](#) themselves. This is apparently quite complex, and time-consuming. They are due to be published successively this Spring, probably numbered as shown, and in the following order:

- City Centre [ETRO/21/26A](#) – now published for comment, ends 18.8.24.
- East [ETRO/21/28A](#) – now published for comment, ends 28.10.24.
- West [ETRO/21/30A](#)
- North [ETRO/21/27A](#)
- South [ETRO/21/29A](#)

You’ll be able to find the other draft Orders above, when published, [here](#).

Comments should be sent, by closing dates, to: TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk

If you comment, please copy Spokes so we can consider including your points in the Spokes submission. We have not yet drawn up draft responses, but you can see our comments when the schemes were being installed [here](#) – they were done scheme by scheme, and only subsequently did the Council group them into 5 groups as above.

5.6 Gilmerton Station Road, new Primary School – ends 8 April 2024

The proposed new school is intended to support community use and be “*more than just a building for school activity.*” Obviously we’d hope for good bike facilities, both for storage and for linking to the surrounding area.

More info, and online survey here... consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/newgilmertonps.

5.7 Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh – ends 26 June 2024

“Our vision is to create an Edinburgh where everyone enjoys the benefits of an active life. Because we know that the more active we are, the healthier we become both physically and mentally, the stronger our communities and the more inclusive our city.”

We recall in Spokes’s earlier days, the City’s physical activity strategy was focussed solely on sport, and Spokes spent a great deal of effort trying getting it widened to start incorporating everyday physical activity such as travel to work or school. It is great to see the latest [draft version](#) taking a far more holistic view.

Spokes may or may not have a volunteer with the time to draft a response, but please do send in your own response if this topic concerns you.

More info, the draft strategy, and feedback form here...

consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/physicalactivityandsportstrategy



6. Lothians Councils Consultations

6.1 Midlothian – Local Transport Strategy, Problems and Objectives – ends 10 June 2024

There are various steps for a Council is preparing its LTS. Midlothian has undertaken early consultation, and is now consulting on the **problems** identified and on the **objectives** for the LTS.

One of the draft **objectives**, for example, is “Our towns have more space allocated to travel by sustainable modes and to the public realm, reducing the need to make journeys by car.”

There are tables of **problems** for each transport mode, including the cycling table below.

For more info, and to respond to the consultation, see [here](#).

A volunteer to prepare a draft response for/with our Planning Group would be most welcome!

Problem Theme	Transport Problem
Awareness of travel options (i.e. information on walking / wheeling routes prior to the journey)	I do not know where there are safe cycling routes near me e.g. because of a lack of / poor quality information on cycling routes
Cost of travel	I cannot afford to own / maintain a bike suitable for me
Environmental concerns	No problems identified
Fuel / power issues	I cannot charge my ebike away from my home because of a lack of e-bike charging facilities
Integration with other onward travel options	Cycling links to my local bus station / railway station / park and ride are poor
	I cannot use my bike to take the bus
	I cannot always take my bike on the train
	It does not feel safe leaving my bike at the bus station / railway station / park and ride
Journey information during the journey	I do not feel confident using cycling routes that I am unfamiliar with e.g. because there is a lack of signage on the route
Journey quality	I don't think my local environment is suitable for cycling because of e.g. lack of traffic free routes, lack of segregated routes, on road advisory cycle lanes not fit for purpose, roads poorly maintained (potholes), traffic intimidation, quality of dedicated cycle routes poor, cycle routes poorly maintained, routes too hilly etc
	There is nowhere for me to securely park my bike at my destination because of e.g. a lack of secure bike parking facilities
	There are no changing facilities / showers at my destination / workplace
Journey times	Journey times are too long by bike because of e.g. indirect cycling routes required to avoid busy roads etc
Personal accessibility	Cycling is not a realistic option for me because of a disability due to e.g. cost of buying / maintaining a bespoke bike / cycle routes not suitable for disabled users etc
Personal security / fear of crime	I sometimes do not feel secure when cycling because of e.g. lack of well lit, welcoming routes, absence of other cyclists, fear of crime / antisocial behaviour etc
Reliability of journey times	No problems identified
Transport related safety concerns	I sometimes do not feel safe when cycling due to e.g. traffic intimidation, lack of traffic free routes, lack of segregated routes, on road advisory cycle lanes not fit for purpose, roads poorly maintained (potholes) etc

6.2 Midlothian, Active Travel Strategy 2024-2034 – *ends 22 July 2024*

“The draft active travel strategy, which includes measurable and achievable targets, focuses on making Midlothian a place where getting around in a way that makes you physically active, such as walking and wheeling, will be an easy, convenient, cheap and realistic option for all.”

For more info, the draft Strategy, and to respond to the consultation, see [here](#).

A volunteer to prepare a draft response for our Planning Group would be most welcome!

6.3 West Lothian Council - enquiries re new road & path developments – *no closing date*

The Council has a [webpage](#) for enquiries and comments about new roads, footpaths, and cycle routes; and also [a page](#) of current projects and completed consultations.

7. Spokes volunteers needed!!

7.1 West Lothian Map surveying

Spokes Maps Group is planning a new, fully revised edition of our West Lothian map. It will entail a great deal of cartography and design work, plus on-the-ground surveys to be done over the summer months. We are aiming for publication towards the end of the year or early 2025.

The whole area will need to be surveyed in detail. The previous map was published in 2018 and there have been many developments in the area since then. Also, the new map covers areas which were not included in previous Spokes maps and therefore have never been surveyed by us before!

The draft map is getting near the point where we need to get volunteers to check out things on the ground.

We need most surveys to be done between June and mid-August, although it will be possible for a small amount of surveying to carry on into the autumn. More details of the various needs are below...

Volunteer Surveyors

People to go out and check what's on the ground and correct the draft map. You will be given full instructions on how to record the information, plus an extract of the draft new map and a copy of the existing map. We need people who are happy to take on parts of the rural areas - this could involve quite a bit of cycling. The size of the area you will be allocated will depend to some extent on the number of volunteer surveyors we get. We also need folk (who could be the same people) to look at the main towns.

People who have carried out surveys for previous maps have found it to be interesting and good fun – it +adds a new purpose to your outings and you can discover places you never knew existed!

Volunteer Coordinators

We need two coordinators: one to coordinate the surveyors in the Falkirk area and the other in the north of West Lothian, taking in Bo'ness. It's not complex, but does require organisation and attention to detail. You will be given maps and instructions to distribute to the surveyors, you'll keep in touch with the surveyors, then check over their material to ensure it is clear and understandable, before passing it to Andy, our cartographer. This means that he does not have to deal with possibly 15 or so individual surveyors. As a coordinator you could, of course, also survey an area if you wished, but the coordinating would be your primary task. If you feel unsure about taking on the coordination on your own, you can take on the role with a partner or friend.

Anne and Bob Douglas, who did this task for our recent Edinburgh and Midlothian maps will be on hand to guide you through what is needed. They will coordinate surveyors in the eastern section of the map, ie A70, Kirknewton, north to the South Queensferry area. Eric Ingram, who was also a coordinator for the 2018 West Lothian map, will coordinate surveyors in the West. (All areas to be defined and agreed).

West Lothian Council contact

Finally, is there anyone out there who would like to be our contact with West Lothian Council and check out plans for future developments, which can be anything from new cycle infrastructure and roads, to new housing and industrial developments?

If you are interested and able to help, please contact Katharine katharinetaylor@yahoo.co.uk, our Maps Group coordinator, indicating what role(s) you are interested in and what area(s) you would be most interested in surveying.

7.2 Planning & Resources Groups

Most Spokes activity happens through working groups which meet roughly monthly online. The two most central groups, **Planning** and **Resources**, have both lost a couple of regular members during the last year or so. This has a clear detrimental effect on Spokes activity: most importantly we can't respond to all relevant council and other consultations; but also, for example, fewer volunteers to help at stalls and more strain on other group members.

Please do get in touch if you'd like to try joining Planning or Resources. Both have well-used email lists to keep in touch with ongoing issues between meetings. At meetings, don't be shy to butt in with your thoughts or asking anything that is unclear; groups are friendly and everyone starts by not really knowing what is going on!

Don't feel you don't know enough – it is by doing that you learn - and you would normally share with other members of the group. For example, on responding to a consultation in Planning Group, someone might draw up initial ideas, others could then comment and perhaps add useful references, leading to a final complete response.

There will be more about **Planning Group** in our next member circular, but more about **Resources** below...

Spokes Resources Group ... *We meet online every month or so, and most people take on or share in one or two tasks between meetings. Taking part can teach you new skills and new areas of knowledge. The group:*

- organises public meetings;
- runs stalls at events;
- posts on social media (Facebook and Twitter) and updates the website;
- carries out administration – dealing with membership; renewals; correspondence;
- organises internal events – e.g. thank-you events for volunteers such as the map surveyors.

Help is often needed with some of the above activities, and we would also like to expand the following:-

- our communications – we have a press officer who responds to media requests, but we would additionally like someone, ideally from a media background, to be pro- active about promoting Spokes's work e.g. producing press releases, short videos, etc. and using other social media like Instagram
- projects – any practical or research ideas, large or small, which group members can decide. For example we usually run a major annual competition, and in the past we have even undertaken outside-funded projects such as researching and producing information on bike storage in tenements.

8. More & future consultations – *Check council, government, and other sites*

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh 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

9. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our **website** every so often **www.spokes.org.uk**
- ★ We are active on **Twitter** [@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](#)
- ★ 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.