

CEC Transport & Environment Committee 13.11.25

7.4 Bus Lanes and Bus Gates - Consideration of Permitting Access to Private Hire Vehicles

Spokes deputation - 13 November 2025

Summary

Further to our deputation for TEC [on 15.08.2024](#) regarding this issue, Spokes would like to reiterate our strong opposition to the use of bus lanes and bus gates by private hire vehicles.

Introducing more vehicles into bus lanes, making them less safe for cyclists and busier for buses, is the exact opposite of the intended actions of this project, as well as various council policies.

Private hire vehicles are not allowed to use bus lanes in London, and private hire firms have lost legal action against this (Case C-518/13 - European Court of Justice). Edinburgh should continue to follow suit.

The Council's 7-7-7 bus lane project and plans for Bus Infrastructure Fund investments have already progressed vastly slower than comparable measures in other cities.

Cities in the UK and Europe have made these changes in a matter of months, not years. The priority should now be to implement bus priority measures as soon as possible, rather than looking to allow further vehicles into bus lanes or through bus gates.

We therefore urge councillors to reject this motion and for the council to prioritise investment in officer time and money be reallocated towards implementing agreed council policies that have already been debated but are yet to be actioned.