

Bike Station - Spokes X TBS Short Term Funding Proposal November 2025

Funding request: £1500

Activity: Mapping Exercise - Cargo Bike Projects across Edinburgh & Lothians.

Detail: Popularity of cargo bikes is steadily increasing. As a solution for everyday short journeys it is a credible alternative to second car use. Increasingly popular with families with young children, often juggling professional and homelife logistics, cargo bikes provide options to enable sustainable and active journeys within the local community. Cargo bikes are also increasingly attractive to businesses operating within cities, especially where reallocation of road space and through centre traffic continues to be (and however will continue to be!) discouraged, offering flexible green solutions for last mile delivery.

However, the initial costs of cargo bikes (along with storage, insurance and maintenance costs) create barriers for first time purchase and use.

To respond to these barriers over the last three years we have seen a slow and steady increase in free to access cargo bike schemes across Edinburgh and the Lothians. Often established by enthusiasts within the community, local active travel delivery organisations or local authorities, and with a variety of different funding and delivery models, these opportunities can often operate in silos.

The Bike Station has a vision, supported by local active travel delivery hubs in Edinburgh, to produce a city wide impact report for cargo bike use in December 2026. This report would identify the range of the delivery models across the region, the impact of cargo bike use both for domestic and business use as well as cost benefit information and articulation of barriers for cargo bike use and recommendations for future funding.

As part of achieving this piece of work we would like to begin by scoping the current use, scope, models, range, funding and delivery model of cargo bike schemes across Edinburgh and the Lothians .

This desk based research would present a clear picture of current delivery and form the foundation for developing and cascading a monitoring evaluation framework for use by local projects to enable a region wide picture.

For stage one of this work we reach out to Spokes for £1500 to fund staff costs to complete this work.

We are submitting funding requests to Sustran for 2025/26 funding for stage 2 of this model and would potentially like to return to Spokes to explore match funding to better enable local groups, organisations and services to better capture evaluation data.

We would like our Impact and Data Officer to complete this piece of work. They have been working with The Bike Station over the last 5 years (initially as a mechanic, then laterally as a COMMUNITY Outreach Officer and finally as IDO developing our Theory of Change and Evaluation Frameworks. This work is recognised and supported by our funders.

The next steps following the successful completion of Stage 1 is to submit a full proposal to Sustran for funding the evaluation programme with a decision date anticipate in February 2026.