

To: Members of the 2026 Scottish Parliament

June 2026

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament

First, congratulations on your success in the May Holyrood elections.

[Spokes](#) is a campaign organisation founded in 1977, now with over 1000 members, primarily in Edinburgh and the Lothians, seeking better conditions for cycling, within an overall sustainable transport context.

We are pleased to send you a copy of the [Spokes 2026 annual Bulletin](#), headlining the success of Edinburgh's protected bike lanes, now attracting almost 10% of vehicle and pedestrian journeys, and with [reduced injuries](#) to both pedestrians and cyclists. Hugely impressive bike use growth is also seen in [Glasgow's bike lanes](#).

Cycling, and active travel more generally, are simple everyday ways in which people can make their personal contribution to a **healthier, greener and friendlier** Scotland, whilst boosting their own health, encouraging their children into healthy habits, and saving money all at the same time.

[Cost-benefit analyses](#) for cycling infrastructure are far more positive than for road expansion – indeed the A9 dualling CBA was negative until a unique new '[driver frustration](#)' factor (greater even than the collision-reduction factor!) was added. In contrast are the many genuine local [economic benefits](#) of increased bike use. Despite this, active travel funding has [declined](#) recently, both in real terms and as a % of the total transport budget. **We urge the Government to re-instate its [former commitment](#) to 10% of the transport budget going to active travel.**

We also take this opportunity to cast light on a few **myths** you may hear...

- **Traffic Reduction** – Having scrapped its (very ambitious) targets to reduce car-km 20% by 2030, the government is speaking of developing a new 'traffic reduction' target. In fact, it appears that it will be a **target which enables traffic growth**, albeit at a rate lower than 'predicted' [see page 10 of the [Bulletin](#)]
- **Active Travel Funding** – The government has trumpeted a rise in the *Active and Sustainable* budget for 26/27. In fact, this disguises a [reduction in active travel funding](#), as the entire increase is to the Sustainable element, not Active. There used to be a separate *active travel* budget line, but as from 25/26, the Bus Infrastructure Fund was included, and the line renamed *active and sustainable*, bringing scope for confusion and misinformation. Indeed, the proportion of the transport budget going specifically to active travel falls from 4.3% in 25/26 to a probable 3.9% in 26/27, given also the large total rise in transport.
- **Tram** – Edinburgh's tram future became a story in the election, with suggestions that people who cycle were opposed, and specifically to the Roseburn section. In fact [Spokes supports](#) the principle of the tram and we have not taken a position for or against the Roseburn option, as we believe that the pros and cons of both alternatives need carefully considered and compared in full context. We do however have serious concern over bike/tramline crash/injury danger in the [Bridges section](#), given the tramline 1 experience.

Spokes is happy to provide any further information and we look forward to working with the new Parliament.

Yours Sincerely
Dave du Feu
for Spokes