

Transport & Environment Committee 10.09.2026

Spokes Lothian Planning Group Deputation - 08.09.2026

9.1 Motion by Councillor Cuthbert - Lothianburn Junction Traffic Trial – A702/A720

Spokes Planning Group notes with concern that Councillor Cuthbert's Motion omits any mention of safety for people cycling through the A702/A720 Lothianburn Junction. Spokes members regularly cycle this route between Midlothian and the Pentland Hills Regional Park and have raised serious safety concerns regarding the trial measures installed by BEAR South East Scotland.

Following our outreach to BEAR on 4th August regarding the complete lack of provision for active travel, BEAR confirmed they would create a gap in the cones as an "escape route" for trapped southbound cyclists. Alongside this temporary modification, BEAR committed to consulting Spokes Lothian on future measures. We look forward to BEAR Scotland liaising with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and Spokes to inform permanent proposals, ensuring future infrastructure upgrades across all three jurisdictions are fully aligned.

However, BEAR also informed us they consider segregated cycle facilities "will not be possible within the existing infrastructure constraints at Lothianburn." This lack of ambition is deeply disappointing. Delivering safe, attractive alternatives to driving between local authority boundaries is essential to tackling the very congestion and bus reliability issues this trial seeks to resolve.

Cycling journeys will increase only if safe, connected links exist across the City Bypass. Implementing this trial without prior notification or consultation from BEAR, CEC, or Midlothian Council demonstrates that vulnerable road users are still being overlooked at critical, high-risk junctions. This oversight directly contradicts recent regional investments, such as the cycle early-release signals at the A703 junction to the south and CEC's segregated cycle infrastructure at Fairmilehead to the north. This missing link must be addressed urgently.

We call for proactive collaboration between CEC, Midlothian Council, and SEStran to jointly engage BEAR and guarantee the delivery of a safe, high-quality cycle connection at Lothianburn.



Extract of Crashmap.co.uk data of cycle casualty data along the A702 Biggar Road (Fairmilehead to Seafield Moor Road) with an image of relatively new cycle early release signals by BEAR and Fairmilehead to Greenbank segregated cycleways by CEC.