

Our main communication with Spokes members is now the electronic-only **Action-Update** which goes to all emailable members "roughly monthly," when there are enough important developments, news of forthcoming events, relevant road, traffic and planning matters, etc. Occasionally we need the circular on paper too (e.g. to use at public meetings). We then produce **Spokesworker** in place of the online-only Action-Update. Both documents also appear on our website, under the [Spokesworker tab](#).

So, to keep in touch with events, developments & opportunities... be a Spokes member and make sure we have your email address.

The Granton Tramline

Spokes Public Meeting, Weds 5 June, 7.30-9.30

Augustine United, 41 George IV Bridge EH1 1EL

6.45 for coffee, stall, chat. See website for more.

Membership stall to join or renew

The meeting is part of [Edinburgh Festival of Cycling](#)

Speakers

The case for tram using Roseburn path and not road

[Lesley Hinds](#), Former Transport Convener & North Edinburgh resident

The case for tram using road and not the 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 & Health, Edinburgh Napier University](#)

Then our one-hour panel QA – your chance to interrogate and 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

Final summing up by speakers – what they learned tonight!

Controversy rages over whether the proposed tramline from Granton to the City Centre, the Bioquarter and West Edinburgh should use the Roseburn path or an onroad route (likely to be via Orchard Brae and Dean Bridge).

[Our meeting](#) enables you to start formulating your thoughts in advance of the public consultation – which we understand is now likely in late Summer, not Spring as previously expected.

Spokes has always supported cycling "as part of an environmentally sustainable transport and access strategy" not purely cycling for its own sake. We very much support 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 options, although cycling issues of course weigh significantly in our discussions.

Whichever route is chosen, there are major implications for *public transport* and for *cycling* (good and bad under both options) and Spokes has laid out the pros and cons as we currently see them in the [21.2.24 blog](#) at spokes.org.uk.

Very briefly, and purely from the cycling perspective, **onroad tram** would mean some very difficult cycling conditions (e.g. probably tramlines on the already very narrow Dean Bridge).

Offroad tram would include a walk/cycle route, but would reduce the ambience and ecology of this nature-filled path and would need restrictions such as pinch-points at some bridges.

The initial Council report recommended that the tram uses Roseburn, and said cycling would be "discouraged" (but not banned). However, following an intensive campaign by Spokes [\[blog 1.2.24\]](#) and others, the Transport Committee made clear that the consultation must consider both route options and must cater for cycling positively, certainly not 'discouraged.' **If you contacted your councillors in our campaign, thank you!**

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

With virtually all transport and cycling-related policy now Scottish rather than UK responsibility we aren't holding a hustings or asking candidates for statements. **However there's already an article on our website spokes.org.uk** with all sorts of useful info.

The article will be fleshed out as more becomes available – for example, manifestos and hustings. **Please tell us of hustings (Edinburgh or Lothians) or other relevant events/material.**



SPOKES TRAFFIC COUNT

As always, many thanks to the volunteers who undertake our biannual traffic counts, especially **Barbara Darcy**, the overall organiser. After many years, she is handing on to Guy Johnson, so we offer Barbara our grateful thanks and very best wishes.

Our May count found bikes forming 16.3% of 8-9am vehicles, exactly the same as May 2023. However, this masked a 10% drop in bike numbers and a 12% drop in cars, including a massive car reduction at Lothian Road. Was the imminent LEZ already affecting car numbers? But if so, why did bike numbers also fall, and why did cars not fall more at Forrest Road?

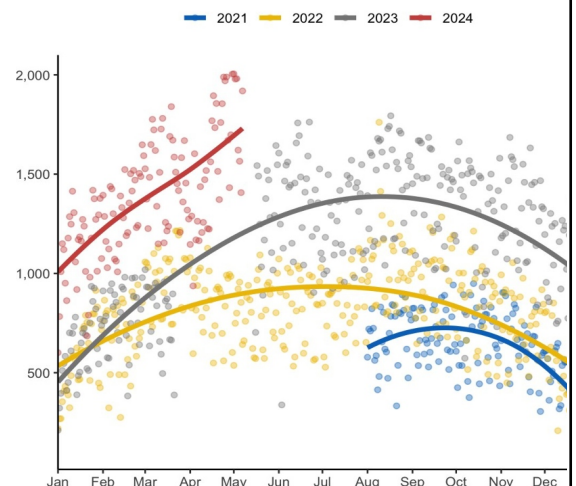
Interestingly, a count by Spokes Party (at the same times) found both bike and car numbers rising, with a slight increase in bikes as a % of all vehicles.

Also fascinating is to compare the automatic counter data from the Picardy Place Omni Centre segregated bike lane. Between May 2022 & 2024, bikes here doubled (i.e. up 100%), whilst only rising 21% at our onroad morning counts.

Thanks to [@edtiss](#) for graphing this data

Comparison with our one-day, one-hour snapshot counts can't be definitive but it is hard not to conclude that the fact of a separated bike route, with Leith Walk and York Place network links appearing, are partial reasons for such stark differences.

Cyclists per day, Omni Centre cycle lane
Data from Cycling Scotland, graph by @edtiss



OTHER EVENTS

For these & more links see the events column at [Spokes.org.uk](https://spokes.org.uk)

- ** **Spokes stall**, with maps & buffs at special stall prices
- ◆ May 31 – June 9 **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling 2024** – pick up a programme at our public meeting!! *EdFoC includes...*
 - June 5 **Sustainability & bikes** – 2pm talk by Sustainability specialist Dr Brendan Hill
 - June 8 **Bike campaigning in Edinburgh** – 2pm talks about Bike Buses & the CCWEL campaign
- ◆ **June 22 **Sea Rising Festival**, Portobello, 1-6pm. Music, stalls, food, much more crowdfunder.co.uk/p/sea-rising-festival-2024
- ◆ **June 29 **Climate Festival**, The Meadows, 12noon-7pm.
- ◆ June 29 **Critical Mass Ride**, start at Meadows 2pm
- ◆ July 13 **Cycling Craftism**, 2-4pm. Family drop-in workshop, Museum of Ed. edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/cycling-craftivism
- ◆ Until Sep 22 **Cycling & Activism in Edinburgh**, Exhibition at Museum of Scotland edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on Created by Critical Mass, Infrastesters, Spokes and Bike Buses

SPOKES BIKE BREAKFAST

Sadly, there is no 2024 Spokes Bike Breakfast. Previously it was funded by Scottish Government money for council active travel promotion, plus some Spokes cash. However, although AT cash *supposedly* rose in the Scottish budget [spokes.org.uk, [20.12.23 blog](https://spokes.org.uk/20.12.23-blog)] the ways in which it is distributed are changing drastically, and seem complex and obscure, with councils not hearing at the usual times what to expect for promotion (or for infrastructure). As a result, Edinburgh could not support the breakfast, and it's too costly for Spokes alone.

More generally, we are increasingly concerned about future government AT funds, with rumours of a budget rejig and of higher A9 dualling priority under the new Scottish Ministers.

CONSULTATIONS & closing dates

For details, see the links at spokes.org.uk/consultns

Please respond to any that concern you. Also, join our Planning Group if you can help draft Spokes responses.

June 6: W. Lothian Active Travel Action Plan '24-'29

In addition to the main draft document, there are network maps for each ward of the Council. Unfortunately we've not had a volunteer to draft a Spokes response.

June 26: Dalry, Living Well Locally

The Council is aiming for a quieter, less polluted area with trees, planting and safer access to local shops, schools and other services. A bus/taxi gate at the Haymarket end of Dalry Road, will enable improved walking conditions, segregated cycle lanes and a 'Cyclops' Ardmillan junction.

June 26: Edinburgh Physical Activity & Sport Strategy

"Our vision: an Edinburgh where everyone enjoys an active life. The more active we are, the healthier we become both physically & mentally, and the stronger our communities."

July 7: Corstorphine Connections ETRO/21/21

Final chance to comment on Corstorphine Connections experimental quiet area (particularly primary schools)

July 22: Midlothian, Active Travel Strategy '24-'34

A 10-year active travel strategy

July 28: Edinburgh Council budget consultation

consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cg/budget-engagement-2024

WHAT YOU CAN DO

To follow up any Edinburgh issues from this SpokesWorker, contact your councillors. Go to edinburgh.gov.uk then *Council & Committees*, then *Find Your Councillor*. For other councils, and MSPs, use writetothem.com.

SNIPPETS

The Wee Spoke Hub shrubcoop.org/wee-spoke-hub

- Bike repair; bike-DIY sessions; skills training; regular courses including "you've bought a bike: what next?"
- Volunteers welcomed to join the team
- A project of [ShrubCoop.org](https://shrubcoop.org), seeking a world without waste.

Museum of Scotland, Future Bike Exhibition, Survey

The National Museum of Scotland are developing a bicycle-themed exhibition. The theme might be something like this.. *new perspective on social history of the bicycle, from its origins in the 19th-century industrial revolution, to its role as an agent of social change & liberation, and its current potential to combat climate change.*

Provide your input via this questionnaire ...

survey.euro.confermit.com/wix/p330493148175.aspx?loc=4. You'll also get a chance to win a £50 voucher.

CargoBikeMovement www.cargobikemovement.com

- Volunteer to collect and deliver surplus food, evenings
- Get trained up to use a cargobike
- Meet other volunteers – great people!

Local Intelligence Hub www.localintelligencehub.com

.. climate and nature: what do your MP & local people think?

SPOKES COMPETITION 2024

◆ Our annual competition this year will be on the theme of **Cycling and Sustainance** – anything linking cycling with food and/or drink. For example...

- favourite recipe/food to take on a recreational ride
- transporting food for a food bank
- returning with produce &/or tools from your allotment
- favourite takeaway for a coffee on your way to work

The usual amazing range of prizes:

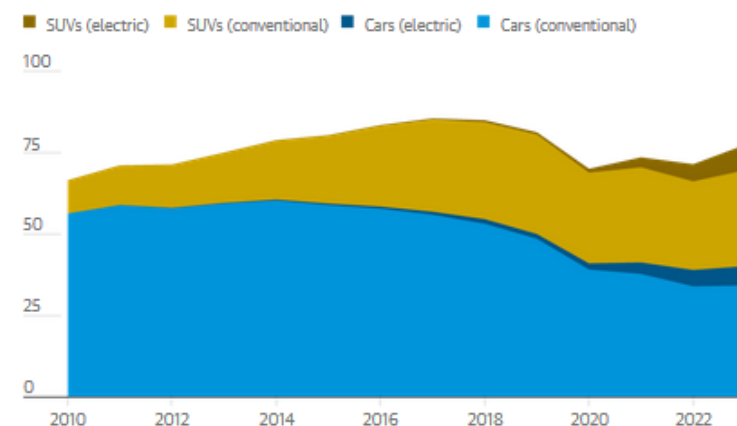
- £1000 cargobike voucher
- £200 ebike voucher
- ScotRail family ticket
- and many more: cafe, cinema,

Details will be on our website, and in a member circular, later in June, but get your mental taste buds working now!

SUVS: Paris Votes To Triple Parking Charges

SUVs now form [50% of all cars sold globally](https://www.energen.com/news/suv-sales-2023). They caused 20% of the 2023 global rise in CO2 emissions, cause greater injury to vulnerable road users, and occupy more space in towns and cities, all according to the International Energy Agency.

New car sales, millions



In a February Paris referendum, 54.5% voted to raise parking rates for SUVs. Mayor **Anne Hidalgo** argued that SUVs are both dangerous and bad for the environment. Charges will now rise to 20 euro an hour in central Paris (with certain exemptions). forbes.com/sites/carltonreid/2024/02/04/paris-votes-to-triple-parking-charges-for-suvs