



Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) ***Please respond to the consultation***

The plan is now open for consultation and we would like as many readers as possible to respond. It starts with the bold statement by Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, that “**By 2020, 10% of all journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike**”. To set this in context, only 2% of people currently cycle to work. Unfortunately the vision is balanced by the sobering statement, “However, health experts and academics readily acknowledge that the current levels of investment will not increase levels of cycling.” Funding will be considered in the 2011 spending review. The plan contains a large number of specific actions under the four headings of Planning and Design for Cyclists, Day to Day Cycling, Encouragement and Incentives, and Legal Powers.

Details are on the web at <www.scotland.gov.uk/CyclingActionPlanforScotland>. ***Please respond by 20 August 2009.*** The plan is due to be launched in October.

Local news

Skyride Glasgow, Sunday 23 August 2009 – Streets in the city will be closed 1000–1400 for this mass participation ride along the riversides from Glasgow Green to SECC. Go Bike hopes to have a stand on Glasgow Green. Further details at <new.britishcycling.org.uk/skyride/glasgow>.

Cycle Training Schemes – Culture and Sport Glasgow is running courses over the summer on riding skills and maintenance, including some day rides. See the Go Bike web site for a brochure, visit <www.csghlasgow.org> or call 0141 287 4350.

Pedal for Scotland, Glasgow to Edinburgh, Sunday 13 September 2009 – Details and entry form at <www.pedalforscotland.org>.

East End Regeneration Route (EERR) – Glasgow City Council’s plans for this road, which includes 11 signalised crossings because the road cuts the routes to numerous schools, were sent to a Public Local Enquiry. Peter Hawkins proposed an alternative vision of a linear green corridor to promote walking and cycling, which would enhance local regeneration. Unfortunately the Reporter found in favour of the Council.

Local routes and facilities

Connect2 works – Glasgow City Council proposes to alter the one-way system in the Charing Cross area to implement the Connect2 cycle route between Anderston and Kelvingrove Park. Details of the extensive works are on the Go Bike web site. We have suggested a number of improvements to the plans.

This also introduces a contraflow cycle facility to the one-way section of Berkeley Street between Claremont Street and Brechin Street, which Go Bike members have requested for years. However, the reversal of the one-way direction in Elderslie Street would direct the main motor traffic flow from Bath Street further along Berkeley Street to Claremont Street, rather than El-

derslie Street, and create a possible rat-run from Sauchiehall Street and Park Circus to the motorway via Elderslie Street (bypassing Newton Street), which some members may not like.

Cycle route from Prince Edward Street to Victoria Road – Glasgow City Council proposes to move a bus stop on Victoria Road from north of Torrisdale Street to across the junction with Prince Edward Street. The new location completely blocks the cycle junction between Prince Edward Street and Victoria Road, which is an important route for cyclists coming from the west. See the Go Bike web site for further details. Objections must be lodged by 1 September 2009.

Tradeston–Broomielaw Foot/Cycle Bridge – The Squiggly Bridge over the River Clyde in Glasgow opened on 14 May 2009, although the promised connecting cycle route from Eglinton Toll via Salkeld Street and Tradeston Street has yet to be started. We've heard nothing about creating a route to the north, into the city centre. We suggest a contraflow cycle lane on Blythswood Street, between Cadogan Street and Holm Street, allowing cyclists to reach the bridge directly from the Bothwell Street area along reasonably pleasant streets. The right turn from Robertson Street onto Broomielaw, and thus towards the new bridge, is still shut off, despite this being a signed cycle link route from Central Station to NCN 75 (which now runs along the quayside).

Forth and Clyde Canal – Resurfacing of the Forth and Clyde Canal towpath between Balmore Road and Stockingfield Junction is nearly complete at the time of writing. The new path is made of aggregate, which should improve drainage, topped with tar and fine grit.

Netherlee Road – East Renfrewshire Council has promoted an order to create a contraflow cycle lane on Netherlee Road, between Cathcart and Netherlee. This road is presently one-way northbound, and allowing southbound cycling will allow cyclists to miss out a section of Clarkston Road and use this much quieter road instead.

Rutherglen Station Cycle Lockers – New free-to-use bike lockers have been installed outside the main Victoria Street entrance. Unlike lockers elsewhere, these can be used without booking or payment, and all that is needed is an ordinary padlock. However, notices on the lockers advise that they must not be used for overnight storage, so they can only be used for day trips.

Thornliebank – A newly surfaced path links Burnfield Cottages to Robslee Drive, between Mansewood and Woodfarm. Illegal dumping has been reduced and the area now has better drainage. This provides a flatter route between Thornliebank Road and Rouken Glen Park, avoiding the hill on Orchard Park Avenue and the narrow section of the busy Thornliebank Road at Thornliebank Station. Go Bike is looking for a cycle route between Shawbridge Street and the path to the rear of Harriet Place, linking the White Cart Cycle Route to the Thornliebank Road bus lanes and thus onwards to the new path to Woodfarm.

Sannox Gardens – A new dropped kerb has been installed, improving cycle access to Alexandra Park from the west. Go Bike has requested that a cycle route be created to the park along Townmill Road, Harcourt Drive and Coventry Drive.

Cycle lanes in Killermont Street and Royston Road – These were removed upon resurfacing and Go Bike was promised by Glasgow City Council that they would be reinstated within 28 days. We are still waiting...

Seaward Street – A new Toucan Crossing has been provided, although it is some distance to the north of the path it connects with to Kinning Park. A cycle lane has also been provided along the opposite side of Seaward Street, but stops short of the junction with Scotland Street.

Glasgow Green – We've received complaints in the past about the cycle route through Glasgow Green being shut for events. The council has looked at upgrading the path on the opposite side of the river but estimates for removing the section with steps and creating a level path were very high, because it involves rebuilding the river bank. Nonetheless, they are looking to see if it can be done another way, more cheaply, in which case it would have a better chance of happening.

NCN 75 Clyde Walkway/Cycleway – This will be shut for 5 years at Dalmarnock for the building of the Commonwealth Games village and for the games themselves. The route of the diversion is to be decided shortly.

Robroyston – The main east–west path across Robroyston Park has been tarred, replacing a flooded windust path. This links Barmulloch to Robroyston Asda.

National and international news

John Taylor – We are sorry to report that John died on 13 July 2009. He was one of Scotland's best-known cycle advocates for over 25 years. Among John's many achievements were setting up and running the Kirkpatrick Macmillan (KM) rally and representing cycling on the National Access Forum, where he helped to make 'paths' undifferentiated between walking and cycling and thus getting cycling permitted almost anywhere in Scotland.

Bicycle races: Manufacturers struggle to keep up with the boom – Europe is running out of bikes thanks to a British cycling boom that has caught the world's biggest bike manufacturers on the hop. Bike shops are struggling to meet demand, which has tripled in the past 12 months despite massive price hikes.

Riding a bike has become so popular that shops are running out. Business for bike shops is booming partly because of the good weather: bike sales track ice-cream sales when the mercury rises. But bike experts also point to the popularity of the Government's "Cycle to Work" scheme – which uses tax incentives to entice employees onto two wheels – to explain the sales surge. The scheme is estimated to account for as much as half of all sales in some bike shops. One of its biggest operators, Cyclescheme, said it had doubled the number of vouchers, which are exchanged for bikes, it issued in the past 12 months. (From the *Independent*, 5 July 2009)

Safety In Numbers – The CTC's latest campaign emphasises that cycling gets safer, the more people do it. For example, London has seen a 91% *increase* in cycling since 2000 and a 33% *fall* in cycle casualties since 1994–98. This means that cycling in the city is 2.9 times safer than it was previously. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

Cycle rides 2009

Regular, easy-paced rides are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 1000 from the north end of Bell's Bridge in Glasgow unless stated otherwise. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number 07932 460093 with you in case of problems.

Sunday 6 September 2009 – Bothwell and Blantyre

Taking NCN 75 cycle route eastwards through Glasgow Green and out of Glasgow to Uddingston, then via part of the proposed NCN 74 route and a railway path in Bothwell to reach the David Livingstone Memorial Footbridge. After lunch at the adjacent visitors' centre, climb over Dechmont Hill to descend steeply into Cambuslang, then return to Glasgow. As always, please ensure your brakes are in good working order!

Sunday 4 October 2009 – Erskine Bridge

Heading westwards through Govan on a mixture of roads and paths, then past Braehead and Renfrew on the riverfront, to Erskine to reach the Erskine Bridge. Once across the bridge, return to Glasgow via the Forth and Clyde Canal. Note that this ride involves a short section on the busy A8 road between Renfrew and Inchinnan.

Sunday 1 November 2009 – Southern Parks and Lanes

A tour of parks and country lanes to the south of Glasgow, taking in Rouken Glen, Waterfoot and Kittochside, before returning to Glasgow for something to eat.

Sunday 6 December 2009 – Gleniffer Braes

Heading out via the Waulkmill Glen and Balgray Reservoirs, and crossing a former railway viaduct in Barrhead, before climbing up the Fereneze Hills. Stopping at the Gleniffer Braes viewpoint, then returning to Pollok Park for something to eat.

Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!

For other organised rides in the Glasgow area see CTC Glasgow, while for Edinburgh see Spokes and for Ayrshire see CTC Ayrshire.

Meetings

The next Go Bike meeting will be at 1930 on Wednesday 26 August 2009 in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. Directions can be found on the web site. The following meeting will be the AGM on 25 November 2009. Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite would be welcome.

The current committee of Go Bike is Peter Hayman (Convenor), John Davies (Vice Convenor) and Andy Preece (Treasurer).

Could members please pay their annual subscriptions if they have not done so already? The renewal date is on your address label. Please use the form below or make a donation on a ride.

Glasgow Cycle Map

The current edition was produced by Go Bike in association with Spokes Maps and was published in late 2007. It is available for £4.95 from Go Bike; in most good cycle shops; by sending a cheque for £4.95 made payable to 'SPOKES' to: Spokes Maps, St Martin's Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2JG; or online at <edinburghpaths.info/spokesmaps.htm>.

Cycling leaflets

Go Bike has supplies of various free leaflets from Glasgow City Council and others. If you would like a selection please send a C5 stamped, addressed envelope to the address below. Leaflets include the Loch Lomond cycle route, Clyde Coast routes, Paisley and Cumbernauld cycle routes, and the Critical Mass ride.

Yahoo group

Sign up to the Go Bike News email group to keep in touch with cycling news, views and events. You are unlikely to be deluged with messages! For more information see www.gobike.org.

Contact us

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Email: campaigns@gobike.org
Web: www.gobike.org

Join Go Bike

Membership of Go Bike is by donation, which covers the cost of campaigning, newsletters, meetings and the web site. Please send your donations to the above address.

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I enclose a membership donation of £.....