



2010 Summer

Go Bike News

Cycling Action Plan for Scotland launched

A £ 3.9 million plan to boost cycling numbers has been unveiled by Scottish Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson. The *Cycling Action Plan for Scotland* sets out how the Government will get 10% of all journeys by bike by 2020, through expanding cycle routes across the country and enhancing delivery of cycle training in schools. The plan will deliver:

- £ 2.5 million investment in cycling infrastructure, such as new paths
- £ 150,000 loan support scheme to help business improve workplace cycling facilities
- £ 500,000 to Glasgow City Council for its Connect2 project, allowing cyclists to travel between the city centre, the Clyde riverside promenades, Kelvingrove Park and the West End free of traffic
- £ 300,000 on child cycle training

The report can be downloaded from <www.cyclingactionplanforscotland.org>.

Further food for thought comes from a recent report by Sustrans and Transform Scotland, **Civilising the Streets**. It examines investment in active travel in 13 cities across Europe and compares them with Scotland. They conclude that "It is clear from drawing comparison with other cities of similar size and topography across the continent that there are no insurmountable barriers to make walking and cycling popular forms of transport – it is essentially a question of political and public will." As an example of what can be achieved, they suggest that Scotland look to Stockholm for inspiration. "Through simple but meaningful and consistent investment, Stockholm went from a city with low levels of cycling and no 'cycling culture' to one where cycling is a popular, convenient, and growing form of personal transport. The change in attitudes towards cycling took place in just two years." (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

The final release of **Cycling by Design** was announced during a debate on active travel in the Scottish Parliament on 8 June. It is available from <www.transportscotland.gov.uk> and provides guidance on consistent and appropriate design, primarily for local authorities. The first draft dates from 1999 – over ten years ago!

Local news and events

Glasgow Cycling Forum – The third meeting, chaired by Councillor Matthew Kerr, was held in the City Chambers in June and attended by Council officers and representative of other cycling organisations. The main discussion centred around a future strategy for the forum and who should attend. Go Bike circulated a suggested strategy document, based on the major aims of Go Bike, which we hope will be adopted by the Forum. We will post the minutes to the Go Bike website shortly.

Southern General Hospital – NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has allocated £ 3M to improve cycle access to the new hospital and has asked the City Council for advice. The area under review includes the Clyde tunnel approaches in the North to Queensland Drive in the South and the approaches to Braehead and Renfrew in the West to the centre of Govan end of Langlands Road in the East. Four City Council officers and four representatives of the Glasgow Cycling Forum, including three members of Go Bike and the Chair, Councillor Kerr, joined a 'cycle around' site visit in July. This initiative should lead to improved cycle routes in that area for all cyclists visiting or passing through Govan and the surrounding area.

Glasgow's Strategic Plan for Cycling, 2010–2020 – Go Bike has responded to the phase 2 consultation of Glasgow City Council's Strategic plan for cycling. This initiative is led by British Cycling and chaired by Stewart Kellet, their Recreation and Partnership Director, in partnership with the major city council departments, Glasgow Life, the NHS, Glasgow Centre for Population and Health and all the major national cycling organisations. The Strategic Plan and Go Bike's response can be viewed on the Go Bike website.

Connect2, Elderslie Street area – During Bike Week members of Glasgow City Council's Bicycle Users Group (BUG), Go Bike and others joined a cycle ride from the City Centre to Kelvinside Park. This included a review of the new Connect2 route, particularly in response to problems experienced by Go Bike members. As a result Go Bike sent a summary of suggested improvements to the Anderston elected representatives. Councillor Craig Mackay forwarded our comments to Land and Environmental Services (LES) whose response was circulated to all GoBike members. If you wish to see a list of our suggestions and the Land and Environmental Services (LES) response, please contact Jonathan Ridge.

Glasgow Bike Shed – This new bicycle recycling project in Glasgow has now opened its premises in London Road and is already refurbishing old bikes. Donations of unwanted and broken bikes will be gratefully received. The organisation also has qualified instructors to do cycle training and cycle maintenance training. See <www.glasgowbikeshed.org> for details.

Recycle your unwanted bicycle – Here are some further local organisations that refurbish old bicycles. See <www.gobike.org/donate.php> for more.

- **Common Wheel** <www.commonwheel.org.uk> is at 53 Chapel Street, Maryhill, Glasgow, G20 9BD with a branch in Bridgeton; their former branch in Drumchapel has closed due to end of funding.
- **De'ils on Wheels!** is at 40 Kingsway Court, Scotstoun West, Glasgow, G14 9SU, and is part of the Dumbarton Road Corridor Environment Trust <dumbartonroad.wordpress.com>.

Potholes in Norwich and around Glasgow – The Eastern Daily Press reports that drivers pass an average of nine potholes on their way to work each day. They went on to quote statistics from the CTC's website for reporting road defects <www.fillthathole.org.uk>, which put Norfolk in 74th place in a league table for repairing reported problems. (From www.edp24.co.uk)

For comparison, here are figures for local councils, showing the percentage of defects repaired and the position in the league table: South Lanarkshire 38%, 57; East Dunbartonshire 33%, 77; East Renfrewshire 32%, 80; North Lanarkshire 26%, 125; Renfrewshire 20%, 172; Glasgow City 15%, 191; West Dunbartonshire 8%, 208. The reported average repair rate for the UK is 30%.

Skyride Glasgow – Go Bike and CTC will share a stand for this event on Sunday 22 August at Glasgow Green. Streets from the green to the SECC will be closed from 0930–1530 for this mass participation event, which was highly popular last year despite foul weather. Please email campaigns@gobike.org if you are able to help with the stand, or just turn up on the day.

Pedal for Sustainable Saturday – Join an attempt to generate a record-breaking amount of electricity from bicycles over a 24 hour period. This will take place from 1700 on Friday 27 August to the same time on Saturday at Coalburn One Stop Shop. Sign up at <www.poweringtothefuture.org.uk>.

freshnlo Pedal for Scotland – This year's ride is from Glasgow to Edinburgh on 12 September 2010. The traditional 51-mile route has been supplemented with a 100-mile sportive ride and a 3-mile off-road ride for families. Go to <www.pedalforscotland.org> to enter. Last year saw 7000 riders take part.

Local routes and facilities

West Street cycle track – Access to West Street and Scotland Street will now be retained in both directions outside West Street Underground Station. The banana-shaped traffic island proposed for the main road on the corner will now have a gap permitting cycle right turns to take place.

The cycle track was originally introduced after Go Bike objected to the stopping up of West Street in the 1990s. At one point the cycle track even boasted palm trees on either side!

Garscube Landscape Link – This has now reopened following a prolonged closure for extensive refurbishment. It is an important link between the Forth and Clyde Canal and Cowcaddens, under Dobbies Loan. The surface has been renewed and the surrounding area landscaped in dayglo colours.

A new ramp has been built connecting the Canal at Speirs Wharf to the Link at Cowcaddens, meaning cyclists can now cycle down from the canal to the cycle routes on the edge of the city centre.

Shakespeare Street cycle track – Go Bike is investigating what has become of this popular route in central Maryhill. At a time when Glasgow City Council is building what it is now calling 'Copenhagen style' cycle tracks, this crucial section of segregated cycle track, which forms part of an important link between the Kelvin Cycleway and the Forth and Clyde Canal, has been fenced off and dug up. Go Bike fought hard to get this link as part of the Maryhill Road Route Action Plan in the 1990s.

Connect2 – South Lanarkshire council has completed a new path from Strathclyde Country Park to the River Clyde, which will continue to Chatelherault Country Park and Larkhall. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

Bridgeton Cross bus gate – This now permits cycling! After many requests from Go Bike, the signage to allow cyclists to use the link between London Road and Dalmarnock Road is now in place. Previously the signs said 'No Entry except buses'. However, the cycle directional signage at Bridgeton Cross towards Glasgow Green has disappeared.

NCN 75 Clyde Walkway/Cycleway – This will close again in the Dalmarnock area for more work related to the Commonwealth Games. The Camlachie Burn will be diverted, with the path closing in mid-July for about 18 weeks. A diversion will be signed and further information will be posted on the Go Bike web site when it is received. Another closure is presently in place associated with resurfacing work. NCN 75 remains closed between Airdrie and Bathgate while the railway is reconstructed.

National and international news

Cycle Hire Scheme launched in London – The Barclays Cycle Hire scheme started on July 30. Users pay an access fee of £1 per day plus a usage charge that depends on the duration of each journey. The tariff is designed to encourage short journeys: a trip of under 30 minutes is free but a full day's use costs £ 50. Substantial discounts on the access fee are available for longer-term membership, falling to only £ 45 for a full year. *Cycling Weekly* reported that over 1700 'pioneers' had registered for membership by Friday July 23, a week before the start of the scheme. Transport for London hope to generate 40,000 extra cycling trips a day in Central London. More information at <www.tfl.gov.uk/barclayscyclehire>.

Cycling increases, fatalities decrease – The Department for Transport reports that 3.1 billion miles were cycled in the UK in 2009, compared with 2.9 billion in 2008. This is an increase of about 5%. In comparison, the number of miles travelled by motor vehicle miles dropped to 313 billion from 316 billion. Cycling fatalities declined to 104 from 115 but this was unfortunately offset by a rise of about 5% in overall injuries. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

Climate Camp gathering – The next Camp for Climate Action will be in or near Edinburgh from August 20–24 and aims to target RBS and the fossil fuel industry. Further details at <www.climatecamp.org.uk>.

Cycle rides 2010

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 otherwise stated. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number with you in case of problems: 07932 460093.

Sunday 5 September 2010 – Drumpellier Country Park

Taking NCN 75 cycle route eastwards through Glasgow Green and along the River Clyde out of Glasgow and onwards to the edge of Coatbridge, then to Drumpellier Country Park. Return to Glasgow via the Strathkelvin Railway Path and the Forth and Clyde Canal from Kirkintilloch.

Sunday 3 October 2010 – Mugdock Country Park

A trip to Mugdock via the Kelvin Cycleway, the Craigdhu Wedge and other paths. Return to Glasgow via the Baldernock countryside.

Sunday 7 November 2010 – Canal and Castle Tour

A tour taking in the Paisley Canal and Johnstone Castle, as well as some of the countryside nearby, before heading into Johnstone for something to eat.

Sunday 5 December 2010 – Glasgow Parks Tour

A mystery tour of parks and sights around Glasgow, mostly on quiet roads and various paths, ending up in Glasgow Green for food and refreshments.

Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!

A page for past rides has been added to the Go Bike website: see <www.gobike.org/ridespast.php>.

For further organised rides in the Glasgow area see CTC Glasgow, for Ayrshire see CTC Ayrshire, for Edinburgh see Spokes, and for relaxed weekend rides in Scotland and Northern England, try Mellow Velo.

Meetings

The next Go Bike committee meeting will be held on **Thursday 2 September** 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 Thursday 25 November. Note that the meetings are now on *Thursdays*, not Wednesdays! Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite are always welcome.

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

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2010 if they have not done so already? 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 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 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

Go Bike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign
PO Box 15175
Glasgow
G4 9LP

Phone: 07932 460093
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.

Name.....

Address.....

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Email.....Phone.....

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

I wish to purchase a Glasgow Cycle Map at £4.95

Please make cheques payable to 'Go Bike – Strathclyde Cycle Campaign'