



2011 Summer

Go Bike News

Glasgow Cycling Forum

The most recent meeting took place on 24 June 2011. Here is a selection of the topics discussed.

- Glasgow City Council's Land and Environmental Services has funding for £ 0.5 million this year for projects such as: further work on Connect2, including a kerb-segregated cycleway on Waterloo Street; the route to Cathkin Braes, for the Commonwealth Games; and minor improvements such as dropped kerbs and removal of bollards.
- Advanced stop lines should be reinstated as part of scheduled resurfacing works, although it was noted that none were included when St Vincent Street was resurfaced.
- Air Quality improvement funding will provide five sheltered bike parks in the city.
- The East End Regeneration Route includes a shared walkway and cycleway but current plans force cyclists back on to the road at the numerous traffic light junctions.
- Forthcoming improvements to the shared use path between the Clyde Arc (Squinty Bridge) and the Kingston Bridge were described.
- Glasgow City Council is introducing the *Bike to Work* scheme.
- Glasgow Harbour works were discussed, including the shortage of cycle stands at the new Transport Museum.

Overall this was productive and the meeting was listed on the board in the entrance hall as one of the events of the day. We are getting there!

Local news and events

Join Go Bike or renew online – It is now possible to join Go Bike or renew your membership online from the Go Bike web site using PayPal. See the back page for details.

Bike Week – Go Bike took part in several activities during Bike Week (18–26 June). New 'spoke cards' were designed and a large number were distributed, particularly at the event in Kelvingrove Park.

Mountain Bike Glasgow Meet Up – This group organises local bike rides aimed at experienced mountain bikers and also ones aimed at starters and novices. They currently have over 230 members, many of whom commute or live and work in the Glasgow area. See <www.meetup.com/Mountainbikeglasgow>.

Free Wheel North – This is a cycling development charity with a vision for a greener, healthier, safer Glasgow. They lead group cycle rides throughout the city, generating health, mental and physical well-being, forging links between communities and creating demand for better street design; design that respects a fundamental need for interaction between human beings. See <www.freewheelnorth.org.uk>.

Local routes and facilities

Airdrie to Bathgate cycle path delayed further – The replacement cycle route being built by Network Rail has been completed between Bathgate and Plains. Regrettably, the section between Plains and Drumgelloch (near Airdrie) has been delayed and will not be complete until 'later in the year'. Until then, minor roads can be used as a diversion between Plains and Airdrie. (From www.sustrans.org.uk)

Colleges cycle route – Go Bike has secured some improvements to this controversial refurbishment. Some of the new lanes have now been surfaced in green although many remain too narrow for safety. A new bike lane has been painted on the uphill part of University Avenue from Kelvin Way.

Clyde Clippers – A new ferry runs between Govan and the Riverside Museum <www.clydeclippers.com/govan-ferry>. The web site states that ‘Prams and bikes are welcome onboard given there is adequate space for their storage’. Services will run at least every 20 minutes with the last departure from the Riverside Museum at 1705 each evening.

Glasgow Green to Parkhead Forge cycle route – Glasgow City Council is still working on this route, part of the *Smarter Choices Smarter Places* campaign. The route features infrastructure enhancements on Morris Path, London Road (new Toucan Crossing), Claythorn Park, Stevenson Street (raised junctions), Crownpoint Road (improved lighting), Fielden Street (crossing upgrade) and Camlachie Street. As proposed, the route ends at the Gallowgate entrance to The Forge, where there is a single wheel-twister cycle parking stand. The route will link with the route from the Merchant City at Parnie Street.

NCN 75 Clyde Walkway – Links are being provided at the Clyde Gateway East Business Park, which when completed will provide a much-needed link between NCN 75 and the East End of Glasgow at Braidfauld Street. Braidfauld Street leads to Wellshot Road, next to Tollcross Park, and travelling further north cyclists can continue up Carntynehall Road to reach Hogganfield Loch. At present the only access to NCN 75 in the Dalbeth area is through St Peter’s Cemetery.

Polmadie Bridge – In addition to the new bridge that has been installed across the Polmadie Burn in Richmond Park, a new riverside path has been built westwards from Polmadie Bridge to Waterside Street. The new path allows continuous riverside access on the south side of the River Clyde between Waterside Street and Rutherglen Bridge.

Segregated cycle routes in Parkhead – Glasgow City Council proposes new, partly segregated contraflow cycle lanes in Sorby Street and Craill Street, which will both become one-way throughout. A two-way cycle track will be provided in Ogilvie Street. It is not clear how cyclists are to get between any of these, other than cycling on the busy Tollcross Road. No redetermination of footways is shown in the plans. Furthermore, Quarrybrae Street (west end) and Drumover Drive (south end) are to be stopped up without any exemption for cycles. Beattock Street remains stopped up at Sorby Street.

‘Copenhagen style’ cycle track in Bridgeton – Glasgow City Council has started work on this track on James Street and London Road. When complete this segregated cycle track will link from Glasgow Green to the Commonwealth Games site at Parkhead as part of the *Smarter Choices Smarter Places* project. At present it extends as far as the London Road Police Station.

George Square – Glasgow City Council proposes to alter the traffic system. Bus gates will be implemented at Nelson Mandela Place and North Hanover Street, while George Square East is to be shut to all vehicles.

Lanark to Biggar cycle route receives boost – New cycle lanes are to be installed between Lanark and Hyndford Bridge, thanks to funding from SPT. New signs, roadmarkings and coloured surfacing will be installed to highlight the route. The lanes are the first phase of a project that will provide a new route between Lanark and Biggar and connect to the Tweed Cycleway. A total of £50,000 will be spent on the new scheme following a successful funding bid from South Lanarkshire Council. (From www.spt.co.uk)

National and international news

Road accidents down in Scotland – Provisional figures for 2010 show that 208 people were killed on Scotland’s roads, 1960 were seriously injured and 11156 suffered slight injury. Most of the casualties were travelling in cars (8293, 105 of whom died), 2011 were pedestrians (47 died), 844 were motorcyclists (35 died) and 781 were pedal cyclists (7 died). There were 1,375 child casualties of whom 4 died. In 2009 the figures for pedal cyclists were 803 casualties (5 died). Overall, the number of casualties has halved in the last 25 years and the numbers of people killed or injured in 2010 were the lowest recorded. (From www.scotland.gov.uk)

UK road deaths fall below 2000 for first time but more cyclists killed – The annual number of people killed on the roads in Britain fell below 2000 in 2010 for the first time since records began in 1926, government statistics show. The death toll for 2010 was 1857 as against 2222 in 2009, a 16% drop and the seventh consecutive annual fall. There was an 8% reduction to 22,660 in the broader statistic of people killed or seriously injured.

Unfortunately the number of cyclists killed did not follow the downward trend and instead rose from 104 in 2009 to 111 in 2010. While this is disappointing, your editor wishes to point out that such fluctuations from year to year are expected. The good news is that this is roughly half the number of deaths compared with 20 years ago. (From www.guardian.co.uk and www.ctc.org.uk)

Longer lorries would endanger cyclists – The CTC has joined a coalition of environmental and safety organisations resisting a Government proposal to increase the maximum length of lorries by over two metres. Longer vehicles will mean bigger blind spots and more tail swing, which is likely to result in more cyclist deaths in lorry turning movements. Left-turning lorries already present a disproportionate threat to cyclists. CTC's analysis of police records has found that, while left turns accounted for just 3% of overall road fatalities involving a lorry, the figure for cyclists' deaths was over 30%. Campaigners are also concerned that the increase in lorry length will artificially sustain the market for road haulage and thereby delay any shift to the greener option of rail freight. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

University student invents pedal-powered washing machine – Richard Hewitt, a student at Sheffield Hallam University, has come up with the 'Spincycle', a device that washes and dries clothes by using pedal power. It is fitted to the back of a tricycle, which is loaded with clothes, detergent and water before being pedalled around for ten minutes. It is then drained and filled with rinse water before another ten-minute session of cycling completes the wash. The same method can also be used to spin-dry the clothes once they are clean. (From www.mailonsunday.co.uk)

A snapshot of biking Britain – *The Independent* reported the results of a survey carried by ICM for EDF Energy to celebrate Team Green Britain Bike Week. Here is a small selection from the results.

- 56% of households questioned own at least one bicycle
- Only 11% of respondents ride for 11 hours or more a month
- Folding bicycles are popular in Glasgow, where they are chosen by 4% of riders; London and Hull are similar, while folders are most popular at 5% in Brighton, Bristol and Plymouth
- Cyclists in Glasgow are the most likely of those surveyed to keep their bicycles indoors (37%)
- 9% of respondents say that people look more attractive when riding

(From www.independent.co.uk)

Cycle rides 2011

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 7 August 2011 – Strathaven and back

Heading south from Glasgow, through Queen's Park, Carmunnock Village and East Kilbride to visit the tearooms of Strathaven. After lunch return to Glasgow via the Cathkin Braes ending up at the Suspension Bridge. Mostly on quiet city and country roads, with short sections on slightly busier roads.

Sunday 4 September 2011 – Airdrie to Edinburgh

A ride along the newly reopened Airdrie to Bathgate NCN 75 cycle path for lunch in Livingston Village. After lunch, cross Livingston on part of the extensive path network, then join Union Canal for ride into Edinburgh, passing the castle. Return from Edinburgh by train. (*A diversion will be taken if the path is not yet fully open.*)

Meet 1015 at Airdrie station. (Catch 0945 train from Glasgow Queen Street Low Level station to Airdrie)

Sunday 2 October 2011 – Pedal The Parks 25

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Glasgow Cycling Campaign's first 'Pedal The Parks' event, held at a time when cycling was illegal in Glasgow's parks, Go Bike will be holding a commemorative ride around many of the city's parks. Mostly on paths and quiet roads, with short sections of busier roads between some of the parks. The ride will also take in two cycle racing tracks! Lunch at Pollok Park.

Sunday 6 November 2011 – Milngavie via Baldernock

Leaving Glasgow and passing Bishopbriggs and Cadder to explore the country lanes in the Balmore and Baldernock area. After lunch in Milngavie, return to Glasgow along the Kelvin Cycleway.

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 8 September 2011** 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 on 17 November (AGM). 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), Douglas Bingham (Treasurer), Peter Hayman, Calum McCallum, Alan Munro (Membership Secretary), Andy Preece (Cycling Policy Officer) and John Davies (Newsletter Editor). A volunteer for Secretary would be welcome!

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 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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Join *Go Bike* or renew your membership

Membership of Go Bike is by donation, which covers the cost of campaigning, newsletters, meetings and the web site. **It is now possible to join or renew your membership online** at <www.gobike.org/join.php> using PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account; credit and debit cards are also accepted. Membership runs for 12 months from the date of payment.

If you prefer paper, please use the form below and send it with your donation to the above address. Make cheques payable to 'Go Bike – Strathclyde Cycle Campaign'.

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

New members – How did you hear about Go Bike?.....