



STRATHCLYDE CYCLE CAMPAIGN

<http://www.gobike.org>

Press Release 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

## Glasgow Roads on Trial!

20mph Speed limits for safer streets and a better Glasgow

<https://www.glasgowconsult.co.uk/KMS/epetitions.aspx>

**The biggest objections that GoBike hears from motorists concerned about the introduction of 20mph speed limits are that fuel consumption will be increased and journey times greatly lengthened. Conversely, published studies suggest that fuel consumption is lowered and journey times only slightly increased on a standard city trip. If you are confused by the different opinions from different people, we don't blame you. It's complex. So what is right?**

**In an attempt to find out for himself, GoBike member Bob Downie took his car onto the streets of Glasgow. Bob made five repeat journeys over the same routes at the same weekday times. Each pair of journeys was identical except that in the first maximum speed was 20mph, in the second 30mph. Journeys were 4.5-9.3 miles in length and included residential roads, busy city areas and arterial roads**

**What is it like driving at 20mph?** Bob reports that it was initially hard to get used to being gentle on the accelerator but it soon became normal. He made some interesting observations. Cars in front that accelerated away were often caught at the next traffic lights or junction. Bob also noted that he spent more time driving and less time stopping and starting, which eased the stresses on both himself and the car.

**So what about fuel consumption?** Bob's tests showed that when speeds were kept down to 20mph maximum, journeys showed from 7-16% (12% average) improvement in fuel consumption compared to 30mph maximum. Result!

**What about journey times?** That surely had to be slower? Here the results were more complicated. Journey times seem to be as much to do with traffic as maximum speed. One journey was actually longer at 30mph despite only moderate traffic on both trips. On the other tests, travel times at 20mph were only increased by a minimal 25-50 seconds per mile.

**Tricia Fort, Convenor of GoBike says:** *"Even on results of this small trial, Bob's experience on Glasgow's streets clearly show the significant fuel consumption benefit that 20mph can bring for at most only minimally increased journey times. The benefits of the lower emissions and increased safety to all road users make the wide-spread implementation of 20mph speeds across our city something we should have now, rather than many years into the future. Please sign our petition and help us persuade the Council to make our city a safer and greener place".*

Sign our petition for wide-spread 20mph speeds across Glasgow

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