



STRATHCLYDE CYCLE CAMPAIGN

<http://www.gobike.org>

17th March 2015

Glasgow City Councillors
City Chambers
Glasgow City Council
Glasgow
G2 1DU

Dear Glasgow City Councillors,

An open letter concerning Glasgow City's Implementation of 20mph Speed Limits

GoBike welcomes the reduction of road speeds from 30mph to 20mph that Glasgow City Council continues to implement across the streets of our city. GoBike consider that lower speeds have a very valuable contribution to make in improving the safety and environment in our streets.

Since 2010 the Council have either completed or have in planning Phases 1 to 4 of 20mph zone projects across the city, covering 163km of roads, with Phase 4 to be completed this spring. A Phase 5 is in planning for the city centre with no traffic calming features. Whilst this programme is welcomed, GoBike have significant concerns about the extension of the Council's current approach to the remainder of the City's streets; speed of implementation and cost.

Slow Speed of Implementation: Phases 1 to 4 cover a total of 163km of road and have taken 5 years to implement - a rate of 33km/year. Glasgow has approximately 1,385km of strictly residential roads and 234km of 'tertiary' roads that link the residential areas. A large proportion of the tertiary roads should also have 20mph limits. In total, potentially 1,500km (75%) of Glasgow's roads should be set at 20mph. At an implementation rate of 33km/year, this programme will take another 40 years to complete. GoBike consider this rate to be unacceptably slow.

High Cost of Implementation: The Council has up to now taken the view that areas of 20mph should be 20mph "zones", i.e. areas with both signage and traffic calming measures such as speed bumps. GoBike are not authorities on the costs of traffic calming measures, but are aware that these are very expensive. A recent FOI request (FOI 4944195) revealed that the recent installation of speed bumps over 2.7km of roads in the Mansewood area of Glasgow cost £143,000, equivalent to £53,000/km. In light of the fact that approximately 1,300km of Glasgow's roads remain to have speeds reduced to 20mph, doing this through the implementation of traffic calmed zones could cost in the region of £70 million.

GoBike are thus keen to make the City's Councillors aware that 20mph speeds can be successfully introduced at a much faster rate and at a small fraction of the cost of 20mph "zones" by the use of 20mph "speed limits", indicated by speed limit signs only and with no supporting speed reducing features. Reduction of speed limits to 20mph solely through the use of signage has been approved by Transport Scotland (December 2014 <http://bit.ly/1GMwWiV>). We hope that this letter will inform your future planning decisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tricia Fort".

Tricia Fort, Convenor of GoBike