



Glasgow Councillors
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Dear Councillor,

Congratulations on your election as a Glasgow City Councillor!

GoBike, the organisation for promoting cycling and good cycle infrastructure in the Glasgow area, would like to warmly congratulate you on your election to Glasgow City Council. Our congratulations, however, come with a request and that is to encourage you to be aware to the needs of cycling and cyclists in Glasgow as you carry out your council duties.

For complex reasons relatively few people in Glasgow cycle, but other cities have shown that by providing the right infrastructure cycling levels can be greatly increased. Increased levels of cycling leads to benefits not just to the cyclist but the city's population as a whole, for example:

- Increased population fitness
- Less pollution
- Lower noise levels
- Reduced congestion.

It's the Scottish Government's goal to have 10% of all journeys by bicycle by 2020 and we would like to work with you to make this happen.

With this aim in mind we attach some examples of the current state of cycle provision in Glasgow and extend to you a cordial invitation to meet us and tour some of the city's cycling infrastructure, the good, bad and indifferent.

Yours sincerely,

Tricia Fort
Convenor, GoBike!, Strathclyde Cycle Campaign

A Gallery of Some Glasgow Cycle Infrastructure (*warning, tongue may be in cheek 😊*)

In recent years considerable amounts of money have been spent on cycle infrastructure but in the opinion of GoBike much of the expenditure has been wasted due to poor design, poor construction, poor connectivity and lack of maintenance. There has also been little analysis of how cyclists actually use cycle infrastructure and what they really need to help them traverse the city. These pictures give a flavour of problems that Glasgow cyclists encounter every day.

 <p>St Georges Rd/Woodlands Rd Junction</p>	 <p>London Rd</p>
<p>If you have trouble dismounting your bike, here is a wheel-trapping groove to offer assistance. <i>Poor maintenance can be dangerous</i></p>	<p>Cycling can be hot work. Give yourself a refreshing shower by splashing through this thoughtfully proved water feature. <i>Poor construction can lead to problems</i></p>
 <p>Cumbernauld Rd</p>	 <p>Gordon St outside Central Station</p>
<p>Roads are for sharing so it is only right that cars drivers should park on cycle lanes. <i>Seriously, what is the point of spending money on a cycle facility that cannot be used?</i></p>	<p>One of the cheapest ways of making a cycle route is to simply mark it on a map. This is the Gordon Street "cycle facility" <i>Every effort has been made to save money by building absolutely nothing.</i></p>
 <p>St Andrew's St</p>	 <p>The Broomielaw</p>
<p>Cycle routes frequently start and end abruptly. <i>What is the point of a cycle facility if it doesn't connect logical destinations and starting points?</i></p>	<p>It's always fun to have an element of surprise in life so how about a shared cycle path where it's impossible to see around the corner? <i>There may be someone there, there may not. What fun!</i></p>
 <p>Edinburgh Rd</p>	 <p>Kilmarnock Rd</p>
<p>Cycling can be strenuous so it's great that the authorities limit cycle use of shared bus lanes to 5 hours/day. This stops cyclists getting over-tired. <i>Can bus lanes really be claimed as cycle routes?</i></p>	<p>Cyclists need to practice their agility skills and what better way than to dodge random car doors flung open into a cycle path. <i>Cycle lanes MUST NOT be built immediately adjacent to parked cars!</i></p>

A tour with GoBike

The pictures shown on the previous page show some of the deficiencies of Glasgow's cycle network, but it's not all bad. Some of the newer routes are an active contribution to making Glasgow a more cycling friendly city.

Many of GoBike's members have detailed knowledge of Glasgow's roads and cycleways and hope to use this knowledge to run tours of Glasgow's cycle facilities for Councillors: which cycle facilities assist cycling, which don't?

We hope to run these tours for groups of councillors, or for single councillors depending on availability. To get the best flavour of Glasgow's cycle facilities these tours will ideally be by bicycle but we are also very happy to provide tours of the city centre, or your ward, on foot.

We plan to run these tours in early September and will be contacting you again with some suggested times and dates. If in the meantime you have any questions please contact Tricia by email at convenor@gobike.org.