

## **Transport and Environment Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

### **Item 7.4 Leith Connections – Foot of the Walk to Ocean Terminal route and Low Traffic Neighbourhood**

#### **Deputation from Spokes – the Lothian Cycle Campaign**

Dear Committee Members,

Spokes disagrees strongly with the recommendation to delay the implementation of Phase 1 – Foot of the Walk to Ocean Terminal cycle route.

This scheme is essential for providing a safe route for cycling between the Foot of the Walk and Ocean Terminal.

It has become necessary due to the cycle (and general traffic) ban at the South end of Constitution Street and the lack of cycling facilities on the remainder of Constitution Street and most of the way along the tram route to Ocean Terminal. The Trams to Newhaven programme has denied any responsibility to provide safe cycling facilities along this section of the route as they considered that the Phase 1 route would cover this requirement.

Prior to the tram project, the roads along the route were a popular and reasonably safe space for cycling. Henceforth there will be dangerous tram tracks to contend with and very limited space for cycling between the track and the kerb.

It was therefore agreed and documented in Section 7.29 Supplementary Projects of the Final Business Case that this route would be delivered “in parallel” with the tram project. The formal agreement has always been that the cycle route would be in place before the tram extension became operational.

1. Spokes can understand that there may be some traffic issues, whilst the tram works continue, but this has already been known and alternative traffic management planned.
2. There is no suggestion as to where cyclists might cycle whilst construction of the cycleway is in progress, as part of these proposals.
3. There also seems to be no consideration for temporary solutions to the problems raised at particular location such as Sandport Bridge and The Shore, where flexible options could be considered in the short term.
4. We are also concerned about the length of time that it is taking to finalise designs and the lack of detailed discussion opportunities that Spokes has been asking for over many months.
5. We are concerned that there is still no solution offered for the route from Commercial Street to Ocean Terminal and that we have not been involved in any discussions on a “separate project to develop Concept Designs for several prioritised Transport Actions in North Edinburgh, contained within the Council’s Local Development Plan Action Programme”.
6. We are also concerned about the lack of cycling access to/from and along Constitution Street from neighbouring streets/destinations and alternatives for access through to the streets along the tramway, where there is no support for cycling.

We would urge committee members to reject the proposal to delay implementation of the cycle route and to press for its completion as soon as possible.

Martin McDonnell  
Spokes – the Lothian Cycle Campaign