

# Cross-Party Group on Cycling, Walking And Buses

## 3rd Meeting

Tuesday 27 June 2017, 18:00-19:30

Committee Room 6, Scottish Parliament

## MINUTES

**Present:** Claudia Beamish MSP (Co-convenor, chairing), Alison Johnstone MSP (Co-convenor), Graham Simpson MSP (Deputy Convenor), Mark Ruskell MSP; Joe Fagan (on behalf of Neil Bibby MSP), Alex Robb (office of Alison Johnstone MSP); Isobel Leckie (Causey Development Trust), George Mair (CPT Scotland), Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland), Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland), Maureen Kidd (Cycling Scotland), Lizzie Reather (Cycling UK (Scotland)), Tom Rye (Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute), Tricia Fort (Go Bike!), Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland), Kim Harding (Pedal on Parliament), Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland), Dave du Feu (Spokes), Claire Daly (Sustrans Scotland), Daisy Narayanan (Sustrans Scotland), Colin Howden (Transform Scotland, group secretariat), Jamie Wylie (Transform Scotland), Robert Samson (Transport Focus), Pete Grant (Transport Scotland), Tom Davy (Transport Scotland).

**Apologies:** Richard Lockhead MSP; Paul White (CPT Scotland), Suzanne Forup (Cycling UK), Rona Gibb (Paths for All).

### 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. Claudia Beamish MSP [CB] opened the meeting and welcomed those present. There followed a round of introductions.

### 2. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 07/12/16

- 2.1. **DECISION:** The minutes of the meeting held on 07/12/16 were approved as a good record.

### 3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 01/03/17

- 3.1. **DECISION:** The minutes of the meeting held on 01/03/17 were approved as a good record.

### 4. Matters arising from meeting held on 01/03/17

- 4.1. Colin Howden [CH] reviewed the matters arising from the previous meeting, noting the following:
  - That no response had been submitted to the Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy Review 'Early Engagement Survey'.
  - That a response had however been submitted to the Scottish Government's call for evidence on the draft Climate Change Plan.
  - That speakers from Transport Scotland and Sustrans Scotland had been obtained to speak at this meeting, but that Paths for All had not been able to supply a speaker for this meeting due to a previous engagement.

## 5. Membership applications

- 5.1. CH reported that we had a request to join the group from Simon Pilpel (South Lanarkshire Council). Graham Simpson MSP indicated that he knew Simon, and recommended his approval as a member of the group. The group agreed unanimously to this proposal. **DECISION:** Simon Pilpel to be added to membership of the group. **ACTION:** CH to advise Simon re. this decision.

## 6. Scottish Government transport bill

- 6.1. A presentation was made by Tom Davy (Head of Bus & Local Transport Policy, Transport Scotland) [TD] and Pete Grant (Team Leader, Bus Policy, Transport Scotland) [PG] on the topic of the Scottish Government's forthcoming Transport Bill.
- 6.2. TD prefaced his comments by saying that he could only go into a certain amount of detail as a Ministerial decision was still to be taken as regards its final content and when it would be introduced to Parliament.
- 6.3. TD indicated that the Bill would be likely to include proposals regarding: (i) road works and their regulation; (ii) bus services; (iii) responsible parking; and (iv) smart and integrated ticketing.
- 6.4. TD noted that there was an ongoing consultation on parking (ending 30/06/17) and that further consultation should be expected on both the road works & bus services aspects of the Bill.
- 6.5. PG spoke in more detail regarding the bus services aspects of the Bill. He highlighted the scale of bus operations compared to other forms of public transport, and the importance of bus services not only to those on lower incomes, but also to the wider economy. However, bus services had suffered a significant long-term decline in patronage, which had continued in recent years, although there were regional differences. PG highlighted a variety of factors which might explain this, including increases in car ownership, the rise of online shopping, and road congestion.
- 6.6. PG indicated that the Bill was likely to include options for Local Authorities (statutory partnerships; local franchising; Local Authority ownership), measures on open data, and provisions for smart and integrated ticketing (multi-modal).

## 7. Active Travel Task Force

- 7.1. Daisy Narayanan (Deputy Director, Built Environment at Sustrans Scotland) [DN] presented on the topic of the Scottish Government's Active Travel Task Force.
- 7.2. DN reported that the Task Force had been set up following some high-profile setbacks in 2016 for existing and proposed segregated cycle routes, and challenges faced in implementing other routes. The group is chaired by Transport Scotland chief executive Roy Brannen, and also includes representatives of Cosla, SCOTS and the Regional Transport Partnerships. DN indicated that she herself was representing seven national active and sustainable transport NGOs. Minister for Transport and Islands Humza Yousaf MSP had also been present at the first meeting of the Task Force.
- 7.3. DN indicated that the Task Force was "currently in listening mode": it had issued a call for written evidence, was now in the process of receiving oral evidence, and had further evidence-gathering sessions planned. Later in the year, there would be a summit for Local Authorities, and it was expected that a report would be presented to the Minister by the end of this year.
- 7.4. DN noted that emerging themes included, amongst other things, "cultural barriers"; government processes (such as the Planning Review, Climate Change Plan, and STPR2), the visibility of leadership, future technologies, community engagement and co-design, "turning evidence into stories"; and the quality of design and community engagement.

## 8. Q&A

- 8.1. Tom Rye asked TD/PG regarding permitting schemes for road works. The response was that the current view was that this might not be appropriate for Scottish circumstances.
- 8.2. Dave du Feu asked TD/PG regarding bus lanes, noting that there had been a reduction in their operational period in Edinburgh. George Mair confirmed that bus operators in Edinburgh had not been pleased with this decision. Tricia Fort raised concerns regarding conditions for bus services in Glasgow. CH questioned whether the Bill might not do something directly regarding road congestion. PG indicated that he was aware of the research by Greener Journeys and others regarding this matter, and suggested that this would be a topic for the partnerships, as enabled by the Bill, to consider.
- 8.3. Robert Samson noted that the Bill proposals were focussed on bus operators and Local Authorities, and asked where is the voice of bus passengers. PG indicated that he was aware that bus passengers were often not well represented in transport discussions, and that the Scottish Government had a responsibility to ensure that passengers are heard at the national level. PG suggested that Bus Users Scotland might be an appropriate group to invite to address a future meeting of the CPG.
- 8.4. Lizzie Reather asked DN a question regarding place-making, and in particular speaking in language appropriate to different audiences.
- 8.5. Keith Irving asked TD/PG regarding the timescales for consultation on road works, and whether there might be mention of Low Emission Zones in the Bill. He received the response that the road works consultation should be expected "soon". It was currently felt that legislation might not be needed on LEZs.
- 8.6. Alison Johnstone MSP expressed the view that she couldn't see what more evidence could be needed to make the case for substantial investment in active travel, and bemoaned the slow progress in establishing infrastructure for walking and cycling across the country.
- 8.7. CB thanked the speakers for their presentations, and for engaging in an open and informative fashion in the discussion that had followed. CB clarified that the speakers were content for their email addresses to be shared with CPG members should group members have further points that they wished to raise.

## 9. Q&A

- 9.1. CB raised the topic of tram/cycle safety, highlighted the recent tragic death of Zhi Min Soh at the West End in Edinburgh, and suggested that the CPG might want to consider this matter. Tom Rye and DN suggested that it might be appropriate to broaden consideration to road danger more generally; this view was supported by Graham Simpson MSP, not least as it would be of greater interest to those groups from outside Edinburgh. **DECISION:** It was agreed that the group would return to the issue of 'road danger' at a future meeting.
- 9.2. Dave du Feu pointed out that Parliament's Health and Sport Committee was seeking evidence on how far the health and sport budget reflects government stated priorities as set out in the National Performance Framework and elsewhere. He suggested that the group might submit Parliamentary Questions regarding the relationship between Scottish Government transport spending priorities and the Government's National Indicators. CB indicated that this matter could be pursued by herself as an MSP (and indeed by other MSPs) rather than by the CPG. Tricia Fort asked whether the group would write to a transport conference organiser asking why the conference programme had no speaker on active travel. After discussion, there was a vote which agreed by 8-2 not to take forward this proposal.

## 10. Proposals for date & theme for next meeting

- 10.1. CB asked for suggestions regarding themes for following meetings.
- 10.2. CH suggested that having considered the Transport Bill that the group might also want to ask the Scottish Government to supply a speaker on the topic of Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2).

- 10.3. Rod Mitchell suggested that road casualty reporting might be a suitable theme for a future meeting.
- 10.4. Tricia Fort suggested that a discussion on the use and purpose of streets might also be a suitable theme.
- 10.5. **DECISION:** It was agreed to pursue STPR2 as theme for the next meeting. **ACTION: CH** to ask Transport Scotland to supply a speaker.
- 10.6. **DECISION:** It was agreed to hold the following meeting on the themes of 'road danger' and 'the use and purpose of streets'. **ACTION: Members** to suggest possible contributors to CH.
- 10.7. CB said that the next meeting should be held in early autumn, and the following meeting in the New Year. **ACTION: CH** to confirm dates for future meetings, obtain meeting room bookings, & advise the Parliament and group members.

CB closed the meeting at 19:40.

Minutes: CH, 29/06/17; with revisions agreed at 07/11/17 meeting.