

E-mail from GoBike Convenor to Bailie Thomas, 13 October.

Dear Bailie Thomas,

Thank you for taking this forward and for providing the reply. While some of the reply from Andrew Brown is encouraging, some is very disappointing. For clarity, I'll go through the numbered points in turn:

1. Resurfacing of the tunnels and approaches: this is good news - let's hope it is done before Christmas.
2. Signage: this has been missing for so long, but good to hear that it will be done next month.
3. Moss Road crossing from Peninver Drive: this is very disappointing. On 27 August, further to the meeting we had with Andrew Brown and Steve Gray of LES, Steve wrote to us and stated "*Peninver Drive A new toucan crossing is to be provided at the junction of Moss Road / Peninver Drive which will assist those walking and cycling between the hospital and the Clyde Tunnel and work is proceeding to facilitate this as quickly as possible*". Andrew seemed to be genuinely shocked at the state of the crossing here when we met on 10 August. Both the crossing and the road are heavily used and it is extremely difficult at times for pedestrians and cyclists to cross. In our view this needs urgent action.
4. Peninver Drive surface: again, this is disappointing and less than we were led to expect when we met Andrew Brown and Steve Gray on 10 August.
5. Advance Stop Line at Govan Road / Moss Road junction: thank you for recognising that not all cyclists will be going to the hospital and that the ASL will still be useful. However, the answer does not agree with what we have been told at other times by LES; we have been told that ASLs are to be installed when junctions are repainted and as a standard feature elsewhere. The point has been made at meetings with LES that there should be consistency in their provision. Is Andrew Brown referring to Fastlink when he writes "the project had a significant provision for cycling measures"? I doubt if anyone who has cycled in the area would agree with that!
6. Cycle exit from the southbound tunnel: it is disappointing in the extreme that this was not included in the Fastlink design.
7. Cycle exit from the southbound tunnel 2: the point was made on 10 August that people will not want to use 3 Toucan crossings, particularly when they are not in their direct route. Cyclists have found their own way out of the tunnel while the works have been going on since there was no provision made for them, and I suspect this will continue to be the case.
8. Cycle use of Fastlink: the response appears to confirm the view that there was little, or no, consideration of cycling as a viable travel mode when Fastlink was envisaged.

It has been extremely helpful to get this response from LES and we are very grateful to you for not only recognising our concerns but for taking them up in such a positive way.

With very best wishes,

Tricia Fort

Convenor, GoBike! The Strathclyde Cycle Campaign, www.gobike.org

On 13/10/2015 11:18, Thomas, Fariha (Councillor) wrote:

Further to our meeting I took up the following issues and have now had this response, which at least answers some questions

I have also asked about air quality monitoring, so that any changes as a result of the

increased traffic to the hospital can be considered in the review next year. There are 2 monitoring stations in the vicinity.

With regard to the Advance Stop Lines (ASLs) I will be raising with them that not all cyclists are going to the hospital so ASLs would be helpful for those travelling further on Govan Road.

If there is anything I have missed or that you require further clarification on, please do not hesitate to contact me

Regards

Bailie Fariha Thomas

From: LESMLU

Sent: 09 October 2015 11:17

To: Thomas, Fariha (Councillor)

Cc: Gilmour, Suzanne

Subject: MLU ID 294707 - Clyde Tunnels and cycling to the new hospital fao Fastlink and active travel team

**MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF ANDREW BROWN, PROJECTS MANAGER
LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Dear Bailie Thomas

I refer to your undernoted e-mail and can respond on the points raised as follows:-

- 1. I am aware that there is to be re-surfacing of the tunnel, and presumably the approaches as they are in very poor condition – can you let me know the timescale for this?**

The tunnel approaches are programmed for re-surfacing week commencing 19 October 2015. With regard to re-surfacing of the cycle tunnels, a contractor has been appointed, but due to the specialist nature of the work and agreeing a safe method of work a start date has still to be agreed. We are still hoping to have the work completed for Christmas.

- 2. I also understand that there is to be new signposting regarding cycle routes/access to tunnel– again can you let me know the timescale for this?**

New pedestrian and cycling signage for both the tunnel and wider hospital have been procured and the signs currently being manufactured. Works are currently programmed to commence on 2 November 2015.

- 3. Go Bike believe there is to be a new pedestrian/cycle crossing across Moss Road from Peninver Drive to the hospital which will help keep people off Govan Road if appropriately signposted – can this be confirmed, with timescales?**

Glasgow City Council prepared a package of measures to improve the connections for walking and cycling in relation to the Fastlink project and presented this to SPT for spend approval (SPT are the funding administrators for the project). This included the improvement to the crossing facility at Peninver Drive. To date SPT have not approved the funding to allow these works to commence. The Council is, therefore, currently investigating alternative funding streams with a view to implementing this improvement by April 2016.

Peninver Drive is heavily potholed , which will need re-surfacing work if this is to become more heavily used by cyclists, , so can this please be looked into?

A roads inspector will inspect Peninver Drive and identify what works are required to be undertaken to address any potholes.

5. On Govan Road at junction with moss road, there is no advance stop space for cyclists, and at this busy junction this would definitely increase cyclists safety, so can this please be looked into?

As you may know, the inclusion of Advance Stop Lines (ASLs) are not a statutory requirement. As the project had a significant provision for cycling measures with cyclists being directed onto Peninver Drive to the new proposed crossing, ASLs were not included in the road markings for the Junction.

6. The lanes on Govan Road east of Moss Road are very narrow for the type of vehicles – eg HGVS and buses, leaving very little space for cyclists. Can some consideration be given to a specific cycle lane, perhaps on north pavement from southbound tunnel exit, as pavement is wide at this point – but would need suitable off ramp and crossing to reach hospital at Holmfauld Road?

Following a number of comments the Council has received, we are investigating alternative options to link the Clyde Tunnel cycle entrance to Holmfauld Road. As the existing bridge parapet would require to be raised if cyclists were to use the footway together with associated amendments to traffic regulation orders, there is not a short term solution.

7. Southbound tunnel – cyclists coming out of tunnel have real difficulties in getting across Govan Road – and will not go East to roundabout if that is what is expected. The railings along the road seem to block what would have been seen as logical access and egress points so maybe some collaborative discussion could take place to examine this?

The railings are provided to ensure a safety barrier. As vehicles are exiting from the tunnel into flowing traffic, to remove the barrier so close to the junction and allow cyclists to cross would create risk and conflict between parties and could lead to accidents. As such, cyclists are directed to use the provided crossing points.

8. Can you update me on what parts of Fastlink route will be open for cyclists, and how, and when, that information will be conveyed?

Cyclists will be permitted to use the segregated Fastlink lanes while crossing the Clyde Arc Bridge. They will also be permitted within all kerbside with-flow bus lanes along the length of the route. This information will be available on the signage at each individual section.

I trust this is of assistance, however, should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact my officer, Steven Gray on 0141 287 9301.

Andrew Brown
Projects Manager
Land and Environmental Services

(MLU ID 294707)

From: Thomas, Fariha (Councillor)
Sent: 24 September 2015 12:41
To: LESMLU
Cc: Gilmour, Suzanne
Subject: Clyde Tunnels and cycling to the new hospital fao Fastlink and active travel team

Last week I met with GoBike members on their request, at the tunnel to have a look at issues causing concern (see their email below, but I have tried to pull out main points)

From what they have told me. part of the problem seems to be a lack of coordination between the Fastlink and active travel teams, which might have alleviated issues in terms of design. I would hope this can be addressed in relation to completion of works, eg in relation to erection of barriers which may not impact on the order for the works. Also I am aware that there is to be a review of the travel plan in a year, and while I hope some issues may have been dealt with before then, I do hope that a holistic approach is taken to that review, with all parts of LES involved, and Councillors kept well informed as well.

While I was out with them I witnessed the real increase in cyclists using the tunnel and also trying to navigate Govan road etc, which is a success, but also means the roads need to be cycle friendly.

- I am aware that there is to be re-surfacing of the tunnel , and presumably the approaches as they are in very poor condition – can you let me know the timescale for this
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- Peninver Drive is heavily potholed , which will need re-surfacing work if this is to become more heavily used by cyclists, , so can this please be looked into.
- On Govan Road at junction with moss road, there is no advance stop space for cyclists, and at this busy junction this would definitely increase cyclists safety, so can this please be looked into.
- The lanes on Govan Road east of Moss Road are very narrow for the type of vehicles – eg HGVS and buses, leaving very little space for cyclists . Can some consideration be given to a specific cycle lane, perhaps on north pavement from southbound tunnel exit, as pavement is wide at this point – but would need suitable off ramp and crossing to reach hospital at Holmfauld road
- Southbound tunnel – cyclists coming out of tunnel have real difficulties in getting across Govan Road – and will not go East to roundabout if that is what is expected. The railings along the road seem to block what would have been seen as logical access and egress points so maybe some collaborative discussion could take place to examine this.
- Can you update me on what parts of Fastlink route will be open for cyclists, and how, and when, that information will be conveyed
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I look forward to hearing from you on this

Regards

Bailie Fariha Thomas

From: GoBike! (Convenor) [<mailto:convenor@gobike.org>]
Sent: 18 September 2015 12:11
To: Thomas, Fariha (Councillor)
Cc: Andy Winter; Alasdair Macdonald; Brown, Andrew (LES); Gray, Steve (LES)
Subject: GoBike meeting 17 September, with Bailie Fariha Thomas, Clyde Tunnels and cycling to the new hospital

Dear Bailie Thomas,

Sincere thanks for meeting Alasdair Macdonald from the GoBike committee, Dr Andy Winter, a GoBike member who spends his working week between the new hospital and other venues in the city, and me yesterday evening, 17 September. We were pleased that you understand not only our concerns but those of your constituents in the locality as well as the pressures on the City Council.

I have copied both Andy and Alasdair into this message and have also included Andrew Brown and his assistant Steve Gray, from Land and Environmental Services at the City Council, both of whom met us at the same venue on Monday 10 August. It is unfortunate that despite the efforts of Andrew and Steve, the Fastlink team have not actively engaged with cyclists and pedestrians in Govan.

There has been a phenomenal increase in the number of people cycling to and from the new hospital and in the Govan area, which is very welcome, but this appears to have been done as a result of the very small number of parking places at the hospital and the severe traffic congestion, not because of any increase or improvement in cycling infrastructure on the commuter routes we looked at yesterday. It seems that, overall, no consideration has been given to the route to and from the now-heavily-used Clyde Cycle Tunnels across the Fastlink Route and, although some changes are now being made to access to the Fastlink lanes, there is a lack of clarity.

To summarise our discussion, we have listed the points we covered below and we would be very grateful if you could assist in finding out some answers for us and clarifying other points of concern.

1. At our meeting last month with Andrew Brown and Steve Gray we discussed the proposed resurfacing of the Clyde Cycle Tunnels, but as yet, we have not been told the timescale for these works.
2. Steve Gray informed us that he had prepared a signing schedule to guide people to the cycle tunnels; this is very much needed. You will remember that we saw someone on Peninver Drive yesterday asking how to get to the northbound tunnel? It would be good to know that signage will soon be put in place.
3. The crossing of Moss Road from the hospital gate to Peninver Drive is of concern. It is heavily used but unsuitable for the number of people walking or cycling across. We were told that improvements would be made promptly but over 5 weeks on we have heard nothing.
4. Peninver Drive and Burghead Place, leading to the northbound tunnel: could you please ascertain the extent and timescale of the resurfacing to be done in this area?

I now turn to the exit from the southbound tunnel and Govan Road, where, as we saw yesterday, there is no provision for cyclists. Despite it being City Council policy to install Advance Stop Lines for cyclists, none have been installed at the new traffic light junction of Moss Road and Govan Road. The whole area has been made to look as if it has a busy highway through it and natural pedestrian and cycle routes have been blocked off by all the metal fences that have been installed.

1. Cycle exit from the southbound tunnel and route to the new hospital: at our meeting with Andrew and Steve on 10 August they suggested that cyclists would be expected to exit from the tunnel, use a new toucan crossing over Cressy Street (ie taking them east and away from the hospital) use two more toucan crossings over Govan Road and then join the bus lane to continue their westbound journey. There are many objections to this, not least being that it is impractical! A suggested option of a shared footway on the south side of Govan Road now appears to have been removed with the erection of one of the many new fences. We looked yesterday at the option of a shared system on a widened footway on the north side of Govan Road, with the possibility of crossing Govan Road at the high point (thus giving good visibility) directly over the road tunnel (the recently installed pedestrian crossing further west is not in a suitable place).
2. However, our conclusion is that a more holistic solution is required and expert advice should be sought as to how a robust and usable cycle network may be constructed alongside good walking routes to allow commuters to the hospital, patients, local residents and people employed in the area to walk and cycle, not only from the tunnel to the hospital but to the new housing that is being constructed on the north side of Govan Road, to the new and existing shopping areas and to the schools and other local amenities. The new housing being constructed is presumably to attract people to live in the area and now is the time to look at improving the ambience of the area, as has very successfully been done in other parts of Govan.

You told us that there would be a review of the traffic management around the hospital one year on - from either the opening of the new hospital or the completion of Fastlink, which, you informed us, is now scheduled for 02 October. I've no doubt the completion of the route will be very welcome to all the people who have suffered from the congestion, noise and lack of access! Could you tell us whether this review will cover vehicle flows along Govan Road before the opening of the new hospital, after the opening, before and after the completion of Fastlink and, of course, the numbers of people cycling along Govan Road and through the tunnels?

As we discussed there have been changes to the access allowed to cycles along the Fastlink Route, with the Clyde Arc section being the first to allow cycles, and now Govan Road. GoBike proposed at the time of the initial consultation on Fastlink that bikes should be allowed on the entire route, since the lanes for all other traffic are so narrow. Can you confirm that cycles will be allowed to use the entire route?

We did, of course, discuss many points of concern and we realise that they won't all our questions won't be answered immediately, but action is required on some points sooner rather than later. We look forward to hearing of improvements being made!

With very best wishes and with thanks for the time you spent with us yesterday,

Tricia

Tricia Fort

Convenor, GoBike! The Strathclyde Cycle Campaign, www.gobike.org