

## A. SCOTTISH BUDGET PROGRESS - BUT EMAILS NEEDED \*URGENTLY\*

The full story (and further background evidence) can be found in the December 7th news item at <http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/>.

In case you don't have time to read that, the main point is that the Parliament's all-party Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee (TICC) has just published its report on the draft budget. For the 3rd year running it expresses its (ever stronger) concern over Scottish Government funding for active travel, which has been static or even declining.

Most importantly, the Committee then recommends...

“that the Scottish Government should conduct an exercise to establish what scope exists across the transport budget for reallocating resources in order to reverse the incremental decline in the active travel line. It further recommends that this exercise is conducted prior to the debate on the Finance Committee’s report on the draft budget and that the results are submitted to both committees.”

In other words, the Committee is asking Ministers for an \*immediate\* exercise looking into a transfer of funding into cycling and walking from elsewhere in the transport budget - so that the results are ready for the full debate on the draft budget later in December (17th?).

In our view, with a total transport budget around £2500m (of which nearly half is trunk roads) a modest reallocation must surely be possible! [The Spokes budget submission - which is complimented in the TICC report - suggests a new £20m cycle projects fund, in addition to existing funding sources].

\*\*\* But going on past experience the government is likely to ignore the recommendation to conduct this immediate exercise - unless they come under pressure. So, please contact your MSPs urgently – it's easy using [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).

- a. Tell them very briefly why more cycling investment matters to you.
- b. Tell them how pleased you are that the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee has recommended in their report on the draft budget 2010-11 that there should be an immediate investigation into reallocating some funding within the transport budget, and that the results should be ready for the December debate on the draft budget.
- c. ASK YOUR MSPs TO TAKE THIS UP URGENTLY within their party, and with Ministers, to ensure that the investigation exercise into funding re-allocation does happen and does happen immediately.
- d. Finally, ask them to let you know what they have done, and what is the result.

