



# East Lothian Cycle Forum

## Project updates

11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Staffing

Evelyn Philp has joined ELC's Roads team to support project delivery, including Journey Hubs and Accessibility Audits.

### Access to bikes and cycle parking

#### Community cycle parking

ELC have appointed a contractor to deliver community cycle and scooter parking improvements at the following locations.

- Aberlady Pleasance Playpark
- Aberlady Primary School Park and pitches
- Aberlady Sea Green
- Longniddry Community Centre and Library
- Macmerry Village Shop
- Margiotta Aberlady High Street
- Musselburgh High Street
- Ormiston Library
- Pencaitland Trevelyan Hall

To suggest a location for community bike parking please email [activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk).

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## Folding bike hire pilot

A virtual hire hub remains live at Prestonpans Library, with hubs in libraries in Musselburgh, Dunbar and Haddington due to come online in January. Users can book bikes via the Brompton Hire app, and pick-up/return them during opening hours. Bikes cost £5 for 24 hours and can be used for short local journeys and/or taken on public transport as part of longer trips.

## Residential cycle storage

ELC are exploring two pilot locations in Dunbar, with potential for enabling works at one location (just off Lamer Street) taking place before the end of the financial year.

ELC welcome further suggestions for shared residential cycle storage, which can be sent to [activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk).

## Workplace cycle storage

ELC have now completed works to install new secure sheltered cycle storage at the Amenity Services Depot, Meadowmill and the Outdoor Learning facility, Musselburgh.

# Behaviour change initiatives

## Active Prescriptions

ELC continue to collaborate with colleagues in NHS Lothian to bring walking and cycling activity into the existing Exercise Referral Pathway within the Primary Care Sector in East Lothian. Walking app GoJauntly have developed walking challenges for patients, and this will go live in January. Once this has been established will look to signpost referrals to East Lothian's new Cycling UK Connecting Communities Hub as well, so that those who are interested can explore cycling as an exercise option.

## Centre Line removal pilot project

ELC's partnership project studying the effects of centre line removal on speed, funded by Road Safety Trust and led by Professor Adrian Davis of the University of West England, is progressing well, with data gathered on all 9 sites selected for the study. 6-

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month counts have now been completed, with 12-month post-intervention data scheduled to come in by June 2025. Once our academic partners have had a chance to fully analyse and report on this data, findings will be published and decisions on potential changes to ELC policy made.

## Public transport

### Journey Hubs

Drawing on Innovate UK funding, ELC continue to work in partnership with designers Quarterre and low emission transport consultants Cenex to develop a modular approach to our proposed network of Journey Hubs. As part of this work, in September we held a series of community engagement design workshops – in Musselburgh, Tranent and Pencaitland. Quarterre led these fun and engaging events, and we were able to harness the creativity and local knowledge of community members to help shape the Council’s approach. The consultants have since had a chance to reflect on the inputs and develop some more detailed ideas to present to communities again in January. They engaged with local stakeholders so that the residents once again have a voice in shaping this piece of work.

### North Berwick Rail Station improvements

ELC are working with Scotrail and Network Rail to explore access and cycle storage improvements at North Berwick Rail Station. This work will consider options at the west end of the platform, which could include new sheltered cycle storage and a widening of the current public access point there from the current 1.1m to a minimum of 1.5m. Any agreed works will be funded via a grant from SEStran.

## Route development

### Aberlady to Longniddry

*See Coastal Feasibility Study*

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## Active Travel Improvement Plan refresh

ELC are currently working on the network plan component of the active travel improvement plan refresh. This is focused on defining long distance, secondary, and primary networks for active travel across East Lothian.

Desired active travel links have been added from local place plans and active travel plans completed by the community. Any further reports by communities identifying key active travel connections can be sent to [ndeans@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ndeans@eastlothian.gov.uk).

## Blindwells to Prestonpans Rail Station active travel link

**Location / description:** *a shared-use path from Blindwells to Prestonpans rail station along the B1361. See [Path from Blindwells to Prestonpans Station | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).*

A design has been agreed in principle. Timescales for delivery are now the responsibility of the Developer, Hargreaves.

## Coastal Feasibility Study

This work will not be taking place in 2024-25 due to external grant funding constraints. ELC and Sustrans remain in discussion about this project with a view to securing funding for the financial year 2025-26.

## Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

**Location / description:** *see [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | East Lothian Council](#)*

Construction of the East Linton section of this route commenced in early December and will be ongoing until the end of January 2025.

## Dunbar NCN realignment

Grant funding has been provided for this feasibility study, with procurement currently under way. This study will be formed of two parts, a technical feasibility to assess the

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potential for segregated cycling along the Edinburgh Road from West Barns to Beveridge Row, and options to connect this to the shared use path that starts at Spott Road on the northeast side of the railway bridge.

### Dunbar Rail Station access

Grant funding was awarded for construction of this project from Transport Scotland's Tier 2 fund. Network Rail are currently designing their side of the project to match East Lothian Council's earlier work. Once the designs are completed Network Rail will appoint a contractor to construct the entire project.

### Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

***Location / description:** development of an improved cycling and walking route between Elphinstone and Tranent, incorporating the Charles River Research Centre.*

An appraisal of options has been completed alongside initial design works. These will be presented for consultation and feedback on receipt of further grant funding.

### Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

***Location / description:** development of designs for a new 4m wide replacement crossing of the structure [here](#).*

Grant funding has been provided by Sustrans to allow ELC to commission geotechnical work and develop a final design package. Procurement of these works is currently under way.

### Haddington, Tynebank Road

***Location / description:** development of a shared-use path at [Tynebank Road, Haddington](#), see [Tynebank Road, Haddington | Projects | East Lothian Council](#). There is currently no path on the southern section of this road.*

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A Tree Survey and updated designs are being prepared for ELC's Planning team. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2025, subject to planning approval.

## Musselburgh Active Toun

- Detailed designs for Routes 1, 2 & 5 outwith the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme footprint have been submitted for pre-planning advice. These are awaiting formal response from Planning.
- In January proposed Traffic Regulation Order amendments associated with the Routes 1, 2 & 5 proposals will be presented to Cabinet for authority to progress. Draft Orders to be published thereafter.
- MFPS team continue to progress designs for Route 3 and the Eskside section of Route 5.
- Planning applications are being developed for sections of MAT route within the general footprint of the MFPS but that require a separate consenting process to the Scheme itself. A phased consultation programme will start early in the new year before the applications are submitted.
- Concept designs for Routes 4 & 6 and section of A199 Edinburgh Road completed and consultation undertaken though Oct and Nov. An analysis of feedback and reporting are underway.
- Background documents required to meet funding obligations are progressing.
- Government funding programmes for large active travel infrastructure projects are changing. ELC are waiting on further details before bids for construction funding can be developed/submitted.

## Pencaitland, crossing of the A6093 at Woodhall Pit

***Location / description:*** crossing of the A6093 [here](#).

The crossing improvements have been completed at Pencaitland; however, community feedback has raised concerns about the tarmac on the north side of the crossing becoming slippery with ice. ELC and Sustrans are assessing options to reduce the risk slipping. A handrail is not currently under consideration as this would reduce the effective width to below accessibility standards and poses a risk to catching handlebars and horse reins. Options being considered include a high friction surface and grit bin.

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The signage alerting drivers to the presence of pedestrians and cycles crossing is being tested week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> December to ensure that it is operating correctly. Any faults detected will be addressed during the testing period.

## Prestonpans to Levenhall

*Location / description: development of an improved active travel connection between Prestonpans and Musselburgh along the B1348. See [Levenhall to Prestonpans / Projects / East Lothian Council](#).*

Concept design drawings have been prepared and will be published between January and March to enable public consultation. This will include drop-in events in Musselburgh and Prestonpans in February.

## Town Centre audits

The purpose of these audits is to identify minor improvements that could be made to accessibility, including works such as dropped kerbs, tactile paving, consolidation of signage, footway damage, and bollard / guardrail removal.

A GIS database of issues has been compiled for Haddington, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Tranent. In the New year ELC will be auditing infrastructure in the remaining towns.

If members would like to support this work, we would welcome participation on our walk arounds. Please email [ndeans@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ndeans@eastlothian.gov.uk) if interested in doing so.

A package of works is being progressed, using funding from SEStran to address some of the issues identified in Tranent.

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# Schools

## Cycle and scooter storage

In addition to the comprehensive cycle and scooter improvements delivered earlier this year, further scooter storage facilities have been installed at Pencaitland and Wallyford Primary Schools.

The final works to be carried out this year are cycle rack improvements at Haddington Primary School and Ross High School, which will be completed by January.

## I Bike

I Bike is a Sustrans programme that helps people choose active travel. In East Lothian, we have a schools programme that works closely with five schools and supports a further eight. Schools that choose to work with their I Bike officer do so for a few years and grow the school's active travel culture. I Bike is supported by SESTran/ East Lothian Council. We have an 0.5 FTE officer; the only part-time programme in Scotland.

I Bike supports all things active travel: it can be learn to ride, developing bike riding skills; we really enjoy taking classes out with scooters; led walks; campaigns like Big Walk & Wheel as well as the recent Leg it to Lapland; working with schools to support their active travel strategies; finding bikes for households that wouldn't otherwise get one; systems to secure bikes; working with parent groups (eg on bike/ walking buses); training teachers, volunteers & school communities; positive parking campaigns; doing Dr Bikes; more.

In this financial year to date, we have undertaken 172 activities, had contact with participants 1748 times, taught 20 students to cycle, fixed 129 bikes, had volunteer support on 44 occasions and loaned bikes, for a session or for weeks, 81 times.

## School Travel Planning

After a period of review, earlier this year ELC embarked on a new, more formal approach to School Travel Planning across the county. We are still intending to work



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with up to 18 primary schools this academic year. We are currently working with 7 schools and hope to bring more on board in the new year. As part of this process, views of parents, carers and the wider community of each school will be sought via the Council's consultation hub platform.

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