



**EMBARGOED until 7pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Photo opportunity: 1:30pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January outside the Parliament building. See notes for information on other freely usable photographs

### **Pedal on Parliament 2 Announced**

In May this year cyclists young and old will once more be converging on Holyrood to urge the Scottish Government to make Scotland a cycle-friendly nation. Pedal on Parliament, the grass-roots organisation which brought thousands of cyclists onto the streets of Edinburgh in April last year, have announced a second mass demonstration in support of their call for safer cycling conditions in Scotland. 'POP2' will start from the Meadows in Edinburgh at 3pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May and end at the Parliament building where politicians will be presented with an eight-point manifesto that the organisers believe will help make Scotland's towns, cities and villages fit for cyclists from eight to 80.

This will be a light-hearted ride, but with a serious purpose. The most recent road safety figures for Scotland show that the numbers of cyclists and pedestrians killed and seriously injured has actually risen. Experts have warned that the numbers of pedestrians and cyclists killed or seriously injured on Scotland's roads are set to exceed those in cars within a few years.<sup>1</sup> The Olympics and the success of Scottish cyclists Sir Chris Hoy and Paralympians Aileen McGlynn, Karen Darke and Neil Fachie have created a huge interest in cycling this year, with thousands more Scots taking to two wheels – but they will quickly give up if the conditions they encounter on the roads aren't safe and inviting, and that will require real investment. The Scottish government has a target of 10% of all journeys to be taken by bike by 2020, yet despite some high profile announcements of investment in cycling in the wake of the last Pedal on Parliament, it still spends barely 1% of the transport budget on cycling.

One of the organisers of POP2, Dr. David Brennan, said, "After the first Pedal on Parliament last year, Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond said we were 'pushing on an open door'. Yet although they have listened to our arguments we're still not seeing any real change, as the recent budget announcements have shown. Spending for cycling has stopped falling, but it's nowhere near the levels we need to make the roads safe for my young family to cycle on – and that's the sort of change we need to see."

Lynne McNicoll whose step-son was unfortunately killed whilst cycling to work last year and who set up the charity Andrew Cyclist said, "Ian and I remain committed to working with others to make

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Transport Review Issue 55, Nov 2012, "Reported Road Casualties in Scotland".  
<http://www.stsg.org/str/str55.pdf>

cycling in Scotland safer for all abilities and we strongly support the aims of the Pedal on Parliament team and will work with them to help achieve their aims. We are delighted to support Pedal on Parliament Scotland 2013. The turnout at POP in 2012 was incredible and we hope that the turnout at this year's event will be even higher. We will be there!"

Pedal on Parliament urges anyone who cycles in Scotland, or who would like to cycle in Scotland but doesn't feel safe to join them for POP2 and maintain the pressure on the Scottish Government to put cycling at the heart of its transport policy. Together we can make Scotland a cycle-friendly nation.

## **ENDS**

Notes for Editors:

Pedal on Parliament's eight-point manifesto asks for 1) proper funding for cycling; 2) cycling to be designed into Scotland's roads; 3) slower speeds where people live, work and play; 4) cycling to be integrated into local transport strategies; 5) improved road traffic law and enforcement; 6) the risk of HGVs to cyclists and pedestrians to be reduced; 7) a strategic and joined-up programme of road user training; and 8) improved statistics supporting decision-making and policy. More information: <http://pedalonparliament.org/the-manifesto/>

The first Pedal on Parliament on April 28 2012 brought 3000 people onto the streets of Edinburgh, including hundreds of kids; one of the biggest ever demonstrations outside the Scottish Parliament. Several children completed the 1.5 mile protest ride on balance bikes, with others on tagalongs, trailers, child seats, or pedalling alongside their parents. Cyclists rode in from as far afield as Aberdeen to join the event.

The website address for Andrew Cyclist is <http://www.andrewcyclist.com>

Images: These images are free to use, as long as they are credited to the named photographers

"Pedal on Parliament: just a 'wee protest' then?": Ian McNicoll (father of Andrew McNicoll, killed on his bike in Edinburgh in 2012) and Mark Beaumont lead out the ride from the Meadows <http://www.flickr.com/photos/richard-x/7125235211/> Photo courtesy of Richard Cross; <http://www.richardx.co.uk/>

Demonstrators fill the Royal Mile on the way down to the Parliament building <http://www.flickr.com/photos/68043431@N02/7141906449/> Photo courtesy of Colin Lindsay

'Two wheels united' – motorcycle rider high fives a demonstrator in a show of solidarity for the protest <http://www.flickr.com/photos/andycatlin/7122621637/> Photo courtesy of Andy Catlin

Family support for the cause was shown by the many hundreds of children who attended with their parents <http://www.flickr.com/photos/andycatlin/6976541948/> Photo courtesy of Andy Catlin

Website address <http://pedalonparliament.org/>

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