With the risks of cycling still rising, CTC Campaigns Director Roger Geffen asks if the PM will find essential cash for cycling

“The Government needs to develop consistent guidelines for cycle-friendly planning and design”

£10 per head of population, increasing progressively to £20 per head as cycle use grows. (London plans to spend £12.50 per head – see page 10 – while Dutch spending is around £24 per head)

The Treasury’s announcements coincided with new figures showing a worsening of cycle safety in 2012. The number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on Britain’s roads went up by 5% – the eighth successive annual increase – while estimated cycle use increased by just 1.2% compared with 2011. This highlights the urgency for action to improve cyclists’ safety if we are to maximise its huge health, economic and environmental benefits.

‘Cycleproofing’ road schemes

Meanwhile, CTC is concerned that plans for significantly increased road spending may threaten cycling in other ways. Increased car use can undermine growth in cycling; extra traffic, especially lorries, means increased threats; and road or junction schemes often ‘design out’ cycling, adding to the risks cyclists face or severing useful routes altogether. For example, a Highways Agency junction ‘improvement’ on the M3 near Winchester, is undermining a link from the city to the South Downs Way, worsening walking conditions and offering no cycle provision despite the council supporting it as part of the National Cycle Network.

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Urge your MP to support cycling

With the parliamentary debate due to follow the PM’s announcement, it is unclear if we’ll be urging the Government to spend any cycling allocation wisely or arguing that more is needed. Either way, we will want MPs to speak for cycling in Parliament on 2 September. Urge your MP to diarise the date straight away, and keep an eye out for updates via CycleClips. You can show your own support by signing this petition: tinyurl.com/bskppu4.