

Make cycling the easy choice

Holyrood 2026 Manifesto



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Scotland deserves a transport system where everyone can safely walk, wheel, or cycle for their everyday journeys in towns and the countryside—breathe cleaner air and enjoy connected, thriving communities.

Too many people in Scotland feel they have no choice but to get in the car even for short trips. For many, the streets outside their door feel too busy and unsafe, and the nearest bus stop is a long walk away. We can change this.

Making cycling the easy, affordable, and obvious choice isn't just about installing a new cycle path. It means building places where children can cycle to school, grandparents can get to the shops, and people don't always have to drive. It means cleaner air, less pressure on the NHS, and a boost to local economies. Most of all, it gives people real freedom to choose how they travel.



1 Investment in active travel

High-quality cycle routes installed by councils in recent years are increasing the number of people cycling and feeling the benefits. All political parties must re-commit to spending 10% of the transport budget on active travel and strive to reach this level of funding in the next parliament. Investment in cycling is not simply about miles of paths built but also lives improved and healthier places to live.

The next Scottish Government should deliver:

- **At least 10% of the transport budget spent on walking, wheeling and cycling.**
- **Sustained multi-year budgets** for both capital projects, like high-quality cycle paths, and ongoing costs, such as community-based projects which enable more people to cycle.

2 Safer roads for everyone

In many parts of Scotland, fear of traffic is the biggest reason people don't travel actively. Twice as many men cycle in Scotland than women, with many women reporting that they wouldn't feel safe doing so. Safer streets would give more women the confidence to choose healthier, cheaper, and greener ways to travel.

The next Scottish Government should deliver:

- **Appropriate speed limits for rural roads** that reflect local context and prioritise the safety of people walking, cycling, and wheeling – including provision of statutory guidance and requiring councils to **review rural speed limits**.
- A dedicated **public awareness campaign explaining changes to the Highway Code** from 2022, especially the principle that those most at risk on the road should be given the most protection.

3 More children cycling

The growth of organised Bike Buses, where children ride to school together, shows that children want to cycle and want safe streets so they can cycle to school, for local journeys and for fun.

The next Scottish Government should deliver:

- **Access to Bikeability training for every child**, so that they have the skills to cycle.
- **Statutory guidance and a requirement for councils to review all roads around schools with a view to introduce 'school streets' wherever possible.**

4 Paths to green spaces for better health

In Scotland many people live close to the countryside or valuable green space, yet poor connections mean they can't easily or safely get there without a car. Scotland has fantastic landscapes and legal rights to access them but we must now improve our paths to nature and green space so we can get there, enjoy them and be healthy. Access to nature should not be a luxury – it should be open for everyone.

The next Scottish Government should deliver:

- **Funding for local authorities to maintain core paths and the rights of way network.** We support calls for a £50m paths fund proposed by Scotland's Outdoor Recreation Alliance.

5 Greater transport choice and connectivity for all

A fair transport system doesn't force people into cars; it gives them real, attractive alternatives. That means government working hard to make it safer, cheaper and easier to choose travel by bike, foot and public transport, and to combine modes of transport into a whole journey.

The next Scottish Government should deliver:

- **A delivery plan for transport choice and congestion reduction** to be published by the end of 2026.
- **Better integration of active travel and public transport**, including secure bike parking at bus and train stations, more pedal cycle spaces on trains and rural buses, and joined-up route planning that reflects the needs of everyday users.
- **Local cycle network plans brought together into a Scotland-wide network map** which shows the public our existing cycleable routes and those being planned. Also it is crucial to identify gaps in the network and guide funding to where it's needed.



Ride with us

We are the UK's cycling charity

We enable and inspire people from all backgrounds and abilities to experience cycling's joys and benefits. We speak up for all who cycle to make sure it's a safe and easy choice for everyone to travel, explore and have fun. Ride with us for happier, healthier and greener lives.

For more information please contact:
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