DASHCAM PORTAL SAVED

After more than 2,000 Cycling UK members and supporters used our online action to support the at-risk National Dashcam Safety Portal (NDSP), Scottish Transport Minister Fiona Hyslop confirmed in July that the Scottish Government and Police Scotland remain committed to the vital road safety tool. The delays to implementation are still frustrating and we will keep up our campaign until the NDSP is launched.

Member benefits

GET SET FOR AUTUMN

Protect your bike from theft and damage with Pedal Cover home and contents insurance; members get 15% off. Those looking to plan an autumn trip can save 20% on guidebooks and e-books from new partner Cicerone. Members also receive 12.5% off full-price items online or in store at Cotswold Outdoor. And as the weather turns, why not take advantage of a 10% discount on hiring an indoor trainer from Turbo Trainer Hire? cyclinguk.org/memberbenefits

Cycling development

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Cycling is convenient, affordable, great for the environment and makes you feel good. Yet many people face barriers that prevent them from accessing the benefits that riding a bike brings. At Cycling UK, we’re determined to help people overcome these challenges.

Many people do not have access to a bike and, facing a cost-of-living crisis, cannot afford to go out and buy one. In Scotland, 72% of households with a net annual income of over £50,000 have access to at least one bike, but this falls to 21% for households with an income of £10,000-15,000. Our Access Bikes programme removes this barrier by providing bikes to people experiencing financial hardship. Training and support is also on hand to enable people to cycle confidently.

There are other factors to consider – not having a safe place to store a bike, or feeling uncertain around choosing the right one or how to maintain it. We’re proud to be tackling these barriers through the £1m Scottish Government-funded Cycle Share Fund that launched in July. The fund will support schemes that give people access to a bike that they don’t own, including loan schemes, subscription services, hire schemes and bike libraries.

Some people feel tied into driving and don’t see any alternative – perhaps they see their journeys as too far or too hilly, or consider that they have too much to transport. E-cycles are a game changer here. Stonemason Steve Roche was fed up with spending his morning commute stuck in Sheffield’s rush hour traffic, so signed up for a free e-cycle loan from Cycling UK’s Making cycling easier scheme. Cycling has cut his 4.5-mile journey by 15 minutes, saving £25 per week on fuel and enabling him to lose weight. “My commute is perfectly doable on an e-bike,” he said. “It now seems like madness that I was driving around, running an engine and getting stuck in traffic every day.” Steve now has an on-loan e-cargo bike that can transport all his tools, and he’s saving up to buy his own.

We will continue to deliver these programmes throughout the year, and we’ll keep you up to date with more of the transformative changes we’re helping people to make.