

Cyclists asked to light up at Streets Ahead roadshows



More than half of Edinburgh's cycle casualties in November, December and January happen during the hours of darkness.

Meanwhile, almost 50% of serious injuries sustained by cyclists in the Capital between 2006 and 2010 were linked to other vehicles carrying out turning manoeuvres. So while cyclists should take extra care to be seen, it is equally important that motorists take extra care to look out for cyclists as they turn at junctions.

This week a new campaign and series of roadshows run by the [Streets Ahead](#) partnership will reinforce these messages in a bid to cut the cycle casualty rate this winter.

The visibility campaign urges cyclists to make sure they are seen on the roads during the winter months by wearing high visibility clothing and ensuring their bikes are fitted with lights and reflectors.

Councillor Jim Orr, Vice Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee, said:- "[Cycling](#) is a safe and healthy way to travel and as a Council we are committed to encouraging bike use. However, too many Edinburgh cyclists are still taking a cavalier approach to visibility, in particular by cycling without lights. Apart from being unsafe, this contravenes the [Highway Code](#) and undermines the goodwill of the motorists we cyclists share the roads with.

"As a keen cyclist, I'm always properly kitted out with high visibility kit and lights. This new joint campaign will reinforce the visibility message with free samples and timely tips on how cyclists can keep themselves safe. My message for

all road users – motorists and cyclists alike – is to take special care to look out for each other during the darker winter months and make sure you are visible and brightly lit.”

In addition to a marketing and advertising campaign launched last week, a cycling safety roadshow aimed at both cyclists and motorists will tour University of Edinburgh and NHS buildings this week to coincide with the clocks going back at the weekend.

Cyclists will be given free bike lights and information leaflets and advice. Free bike checks by The Bike Station and bike security marking by Lothian and Borders Police are also on offer.

Superintendent David Carradice of Lothian and Borders Police said:- “Edinburgh, like many cities in the UK has numerous cyclists travelling on the road network as they make their way to work, school, or who use their bikes recreationally.

“The road conditions change dramatically during the autumn and winter months, with increased hours of darkness and more challenging road conditions to face.

“It is therefore extremely important for cyclists to take the appropriate steps to ensure their safety.

“The cycle safety road shows will provide cyclists with all the necessary advice and guidance on keeping themselves safe while out on the road.

“Lothian and Borders Police and their partner agencies are committed to promoting cycle safety and reducing the number of casualties on our roads.

“Anyone wishing further information on keeping themselves or their bike safe can contact their local policing team or visit the Lothian and Borders Police website at www.lbp.police.uk.”

[Cycle Safety Visibility Leaflet](#)