Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Inquiry into air quality in Scotland

Written submission from S Housego

Removal of all speedbumps and traffic calming from areas not near schools.

Reverse 20mph blanket coverage over Edinburgh from areas not near schools.

Removal of bus gates and traffic calming/stopping measures from poorer estates. These encourage drivers to drive longer routes to get to their destination. (Bus gate example on Prestonfield Avenue joining to Peffermill Road, drivers forced to drive around the estate and through numerous traffic lights, how does this help reduce congestion and pollution???)

Change sequencing of traffic lights so they DO NOT change to red as cars approach even when there are no other cars at the lights. (Why does this happen?, example, at Polwarth Terrace)

Change sequencing so there is less of a delay between changes. As it stands some lights have a very large delay as everyone is sitting doing nothing waiting for them to change. (Example, Marchmont Road and Strathern Road Traffic Lights, there is enough time to cross the road, without pressing the button, between sequences.)

Change sequencing of traffic lights so drivers can turn left on red and pedestrians can cross at the same time. This model is used in numerous other countries with great success.

Encourage staggered opening times of shops. Retail shops should open later and close later reducing the rush to get to the shops after work. It is no good that most shops shut at the same time as people get out of work. Companies should be encouraged to use more flexi time and work from home strategies. It would be fairly easy to reduce the number of cars on the road by adopting this strategy alone!

Encourage stores to stock up at night so lorries are not stopping and unloading stock at busy times. All these local supermarkets need stocked on a regular basis and it all comes by road and is usually delivered at rush hour.

Stop Edinburgh tour busses using the roads at rush hour, they are just adding to the problem.

Turning off Pelican crossings at night would help or changing them to zebra crossings in certain areas. Example at Marchmont road and the Meadows. People tend not to look and press the button to stop traffic when they could have just lifted their head from their phone and crossed the road!

Complete removal of bus lanes on busy arterial routes such as Calder Road. And drivers can use bus lanes at rush hour, NOT the other way round. Drivers can also use Tram lanes, as works perfectly well in countries like Holland.
Reintroduce the urban railway and reopen stations at Blackford, Morningside, Gorgie, Niddrie and so on.