EDINBURGH BUS USERS GROUP
Annual Report 2024/25

This is the Committee's report of EBUG's work over the year. As always, more details are provided in the Members Bulletins, which are also posted on our website.

We remember again our Treasurer, Fiona McLean, who died unexpectedly in December. Fiona had been a Committee member since 2022 and took on the Treasurer’s role in 2023. Her contribution as a committee member and office bearer have been sadly missed.

In happier news, during the past year:

* The roll-out of a new Bustracker system was largely completed, after many delays.
* The Council's lease on the bus station site was extended for 15 years.
* Edinburgh’s increased budget for supported bus services brought new services on stream, with supported routes 60, 63, 68, 69, and 70 joining long-standing supported services 13, 18, 20, 38.
* Public transport generally continued to recover from the Covid pandemic. Lothian Buses ridership, for example, rose from 110 million trips (2023) to 116 million (2024).
* In May, Edinburgh Council's Transport & Environment Committee 'rationalised' its proposed programme of projects from now up to the year 2035, reflecting the realities of likely future funding. Given the scale of the proposed programme, this was probably inevitable. Bus-based projects were included in the cuts, but it could have been much worse.
* The Council is still committed to its target of reducing car mileage by 30%, despite the Scottish Government dropping its less ambitious 20% target. Edinburgh's higher target reflected the likelihood of reducing car use in Scotland's cities being easier than in rural areas.
* KPMG updated research for the Confederation of Passenger Transport 'Trends in Scottish bus patronage' https://www.cpt-uk.org/media/b3rgvsvx/trends-in-bus-use-in-scotland-final-20240904.pdf . This shows the continuing negative effect of car availability, work patterns and journey times, partly offset by the positive effect of the under-22s bus pass.
* Locally, our collaboration with Napier University students produced useful insights into passengers' views of bus travel in and around Edinburgh. https://edinburghbususers.group/napier-university-student-study-edinburgh-bus-users-views