

[The things they say--- the things they said in 2006.](#)

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THEY were billed as the answer to Edinburgh's congestion woes - three extensive tram lines spanning the Capital in all directions.

But the plans for a city-wide tram network have been massively scaled back amid fears that costs were spiralling out of control.

Just one tram line, linking Leith and the city centre with the airport, is **likely to be built before 2010**, meaning most of the proposed northerly loop from Princes Street to Roseburn, Granton and Leith has been shelved. **With a projected cost of up to 714 million, and a maximum of 535m in the pot, two complete tram lines will prove impossible to build on schedule.**

..... One council source said: "**The administration knew it couldn't afford both tram lines, but this was covered up for a very long time.**

"Transport chiefs insisted it would only cost 473m, even though the real figure was much higher THE Scottish Executive has promised 375m, which council chiefs believe will be bumped up to reflect inflation - **taking it to 490m.** The local authority has found 45m for the scheme, mainly from land taxes forced on developers. **With a total of 535m, there is a funding shortfall of at least 100m.....**

This leaves 51m to put towards "phase 1B" of the tram network - the spur from Haymarket to Granton, controversially running along the Roseburn Urban Wildlife Corridor. Initial estimates suggest the total price for this

link would be 75m, **meaning it could possibly be completed by 2010 if construction of the main line comes under-budget.**

..... Councillor Burns also insisted that the "no" vote in last year's congestion charging referendum did not impact on the Tram Line One and Two plans. But council sources today claimed the entire scheme was drawn up **on the back of road tolls, and both lines would only have been affordable with the 760m in income from charges.**

..... SNP Councillor Steve **Cardownie added: "Trams were removed from Edinburgh for a very good reason and the plans should be scrapped now."**

*** Emphasis ours and dots indicate excised parts of the original story***