

## 119 –WHO Cares - but does Edinburgh Council?



A press report signals another ratchet upwards on the plans to increase congestion in residential streets.

**<http://tinyurl.com/c69lrr8>**

The key extract:

*Eastbound traffic on York Place will be reduced from three lanes to two at the junction and westbound traffic from two lanes to one.*

*Extensive diversions will be put in place, sending traffic along Albany Street and Abercromby Place to Dundas Street and on to Queen Street and via East [London](#) Street, and Annandale Street to Leith Walk.*

The Council will say this is all just for the construction period and the people in these and other streets will see things back to normal.

Residents from the other end of Queen Street know how this works, so any residents from the streets above, and others in the area that will see further increases as motorists predictably decide to try their luck on other routes can get in touch and find out how things will continue.

The fact is that at present it is a construction period, but when that is finished the two lanes taken for the tram will not be returned for use by traffic because traffic isn't allowed to run on the track.

Everyone who knows this street knows that taking the two centre lanes of traffic will result in permanent traffic congestion which will then result in frustrated drivers seeking to get out of the jams by using roads throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Town and beyond.

The Council usually start by saying that this reduction in road capacity is temporary but the obvious fact is that it is not temporary, and the streets listed, with Great King Street, Drummond Place and others will not be the last streets to experience major and ongoing rises in traffic of all shapes and sizes as a direct result of the tram project.

The City is in chaos and the Council appear to prefer to wallow in some fantasy about the day far in the future when their vanity project may be pushed further down Leith Walk than wake up and do anything practical.

The permanent...er.... temporary stop is only being built so that the utter stupidity of stealing yet more road capacity from another historic arterial route simply to provide a switchover crossing for their trams can be camouflaged by providing an unplanned boarding place.

ENDS