

# Lancaster University Students' Union AGM 2024

## Motion 1

**Title:** *Support for cycling and the Lancaster University Cycle Lane Campaign*

**Proposer:** *Joe Dimambro-Denson*

### The Students' Union notes:

*As a student body, we recognize the importance of cycling for our community. With approximately 11,000 students living off-campus and attending the university, cycling offers numerous benefits:*

- 1. Affordability: Cycling serves as a low-cost transportation option, especially crucial during the current cost-of-living crisis.*
- 2. Environmental Impact: By being a low-carbon mode of transportation, cycling contributes to a greener campus and city.*
- 3. Physical Health: Regular cycling integrates exercise into our daily routines, promoting overall well-being.*
- 4. Mental Well-Being: Cycling reduces stress and enhances mental health, benefiting students academically.*
- 5. Focus and Academic Performance: Riding a bike also improves concentration, positively impacting academic success.*

*However, our most direct route—the A6—poses significant safety challenges. The road, labelled as one of the country's most dangerous in a report by the Road Safety Foundation. Existing routes (such as the canal and Bowerham) are inadequate due to their indirectness, steepness, and isolation making them unusable over the course of the year (particularly winter).*

*Safety remains the biggest barrier to cycling according to a government report. The local section of the A6 is dangerous because of poorly placed car parking and bad design which encourages speeding, there are numerous stories of dangerous drivers bullying people currently cycling off the road. The A6 also lacks accessibility features like tactile paving and quality dropped kerbs, rendering it inaccessible to many of those who walk and wheel. Lancashire County Council bears responsibility for addressing these issues, as the local transport authority.*

*Additionally, some students lack confidence in cycling on roads or need training. While the university supposedly provides cycle training, recently its implementation remains unseen. The university also has a goal to meet net-zero transport emissions by 2035.*

*There is a campaign for a safe cycle route between the university and city centre (Lancaster University Cycle Lane Campaign) made up of students and staff, which has a petition to the county council demanding a safe route, however this will only be successful with large amounts of support.*

**Sources:**

- <https://goodordering.com/blogs/blog/benefits-of-cycling-for-students>*

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-attitudes-study-wave-9/national-travel-attitudes-study-ntas-wave-9-cycling>
- <https://roadsafetyfoundation.org/project/cutting-cost-dangerous-roads-british-euro-rap-results-2017/>

**The Students' Union believes:**

*No number of road deaths is acceptable. It is our responsibility to advocate for change. As students, we recognize the urgent need for a safe and direct cycling route between the university and the city centre. This affordable and sustainable mode of transportation should be accessible to all.*

*Our proposal centres on creating a dedicated cycle lane along the A6, physically separated from motor traffic. This lane would connect the city centre to the university, ensuring safety for students, staff and the public. The A6, previously identified as one of the country's most dangerous roads, demands immediate attention.*

*We support the ongoing campaign for safe cycle lanes along the A6. Its mission is to demonstrate widespread backing for this crucial project. However, we acknowledge that additional support is necessary to make this vision a reality.*

*As students who traverse these routes daily, we understand their intricacies and challenges so will have insightful comments for local government.*

*Many of us would like to learn to cycle or do not currently have the confidence to cycle, so need proper training to be able to confidently travel by bicycle.*

**The Students' Union resolves to:**

*Promote the Lancaster University Cycle Lane Campaign: We will actively support and raise awareness about the need for a safe cycle route on the A6, aiming to remove obstacles to cycling and to save lives.*

*Engage in Consultations: As an organization, we will participate in relevant consultations and keep students informed about these discussions. This ensures that student perspectives are effectively communicated to local government.*

*Collaborate with Relevant Organizations: We will work alongside relevant groups to enhance active travel facilities both to and around the university.*

*Advocate for Bikeability Courses: We will lobby the university to regularly offer Bikeability (cycle training) courses for students interested in learning to cycle or gaining confidence to cycle.*