



Support for cycling and the Lancaster University Cycle Lane Campaign

This policy was originally submitted as a motion to the Annual General Meeting 2024, it was passed on to Union Assembly following a failure to meet quorum at the AGM. It was approved by Union Assembly on 5th November 2024:

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 has been 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, isolation, and lack of maintenance making them unusable over the full 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 dangerous behaviours such as speeding, there are numerous stories of dangerous drivers bullying people currently cycling off the road. The A6 also lacks accessibility features like tactile paving, acceptable dropped kerbs, and there are lamp posts in the middle of the pavement, rendering it inaccessible to many of those who walk and wheel. It is Lancashire County Council who bears responsibility for addressing these issues, as the local transport authority.

There is a campaign for a safe cycle route between the university and train station, via the city centre (Lancaster University Cycle Lane Campaign), made up of students and staff. They have a

petition to the county council demanding a safe route; however, this will only be successful with substantial of support.

The campaign 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 more safety for students, staff, and the public.

Whilst the university has an internal network of cycle paths, which are well maintained they are missing key features and lack signposting that makes them easily accessible such as dropped kerbs and proper crossings.

Additionally, some students lack confidence in cycling on roads or need training. While the university has historically provided a form of cycle training (it was on historic versions on their website as little as a year ago), recently its implementation remains unseen. The university also has a goal to meet net-zero transport emissions by 2035.

- *Link to the petition: <https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=317>*
- *Link to the Lancaster University Cycle Lane Campaign website: <https://luclc.lp151.com/>*

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 to make things better and safer. 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 as accessible as possible.

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 people who traverse these routes daily, we students understand their intricacies and current challenges so will have insightful comments for local government and the university.

Cycling routes to campus require further maintenance and routes on campus require improvement to make them properly useable.

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:

1. *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.*
2. *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.*
3. *Collaborate with Relevant Organizations: We will work alongside relevant groups to enhance and create active travel facilities both to and around the university.*
4. *Advocate for Bikeability Courses (cycle training): We will lobby the university to consistently offer Bikeability (cycle training) courses for students interested in learning to cycle or gaining confidence to cycle. We will then actively promote them to students.*
5. *Lobby the County Council where possible for meaningful prioritisation of cycleways between campus and town, and for them to produce a dedicated plan for its implementation.*
6. *To lobby the university to also lobby the county council.*

Approved by Union Assembly:	November 2024
Lapses:	November 2027