6 reasons why we need cycle lanes

1 Business booms

Business benefits because those of who cycle or walk make more trips to the high street and spend more money.



retail sales.



Shop vacancy rates are 5 times higher on streets with high levels of traffic.

2 They reduce congestion

Cycle lanes are the solution to congestion, not the cause.



Congestion cost the UK economy £6.9bn in 2019 with UK road users losing an average 115 hours and £894 a year.



Cycle lanes can move up to 6,500 people per hour in a 3m wide lane, compared to between 700-1,100 people in cars.

3 Cycle lanes are fantastic value for money

In May, £225m was announced for emergency measures to create new cycle lanes, low traffic neighbourhoods and widen pavements.

It's a cheap investment compared to:



Emergency active travel fund



£27.4bn Road investment



£110bn

For every £1 spent on...



walking and cycling infrastructure, the economy benefits by £13.



motorway upgrades and bypasses, the economy benefits by £3.10-£3.70.



4 Build them and more people will use them

The pattern across the world is that where separated cycle lanes have been built, many more people start to use them.



increase following the decision to build 50 miles of cycle lanes.



In London, where cycle lanes were installed, some places recorded a 53% increase in use.

5 The public wants them



Of those surveyed, 77% were in support of measures in their area to encourage more walking and cycling.



Of those who expressed a preference, 80% wanted the UK's streets redesigned to protect pedestrians and cyclists from motorists.

Even before the pandemic of 2020, 78% of residents in UK cities supported building more protected roadside cycle lanes.



It's not only about tackling coronavirus, more cycle lanes improve the health and wellbeing of everyone. It means more people will cycle, reducing air pollution, improve our general health, improve the economy and play a key part in tackling the global climate crisis.



For more details on why cycle lanes are so important for our future, check out our full briefing for further statistics and detailed arguments cyclinguk.org/article/six-reasons-build-bike-lanes