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Herald Letters

By e-mail to: letters@theherald.co.uk

Ref: TF/r'burn/Herald

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Cycle lanes and Retail Outlets

Dear Editor,

GoBike! Strathclyde Cycle Campaign wishes to reassure the “angry traders” referred to in your article today (30 January) about the proposed cycle lane along Roseburn Terrace. We fully support our friends and colleagues in Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign, and the City of Edinburgh Council in improving facilities for existing cycle users and for encouraging more people to cycle.

There are numerous studies of the effect of cycle lanes, many from the USA, not known as a cycling nation, see: <http://www.fastcoexist.com/1682022/want-to-make-money-build-a-business-on-a-bike-lane> which reports that one street in New York has seen a 49% increase in sales since a protected cycle lane was built along it.

If someone is cycling they can see shops and street-side businesses more easily than someone driving a car and they can park more easily than in a car, taking up next to no space, thus encouraging them to support local shops and traders. The reduction in cars parked roadside will also encourage more pedestrians to walk and browse in shop windows – and, of course, before someone else points this out – the cyclists will be in the cycle lane and not dodging pedestrians, or even dodging cars on the road that are trying to get in and out of parking spaces!

Overall, a win-win for us all.

Tricia Fort
Convenor, GoBike! Strathclyde Cycle Campaign