

# APPG for Walking and Cycling:

## Lime **Women's** **Night Safety** Report



November 2023



Lime

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Op  
Opinion

TACKLING  
THE GENDER  
'PEDAL GAP'

# About Lime

- Lime is the world's largest and most experienced shared electric bike provider.
- Lime's mission is to build a future of transport that is shared, affordable and carbon free.
- Lime operates globally, including in the UK (London, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Oxford, Greater Manchester).

250+

Cities

280k+

Vehicles

1 Billion

Rides

750m+

Zero-emission trips



# Tackling the Gender 'Pedal Gap'

We conducted research to understand the extent of gender disparity in cycling as part of **Lime's commitment to get more women riding in the UK.**

Our [Tackling the Gender 'Pedal Gap' Report](#) revealed findings concerning the barriers women face to cycling.

These concerns were in particular with regard to travelling alone at nighttime, as well as identifying some clear solutions to help make cycling safer and more accessible.



# Summary



- [Lime's report](#) shows women face barriers accessing cycling, particularly at nighttime
- **9 in 10 women face barriers to cycling**
- **Just 1 in 5 female cyclists feel safe riding alone at night.**
- The report gathered data from 132 Lime riders and 2,000 UK adult participants of an Opinion survey to highlight the barriers to cycling that women face both day and night as well as case studies from our riders.

# Barriers to cycling

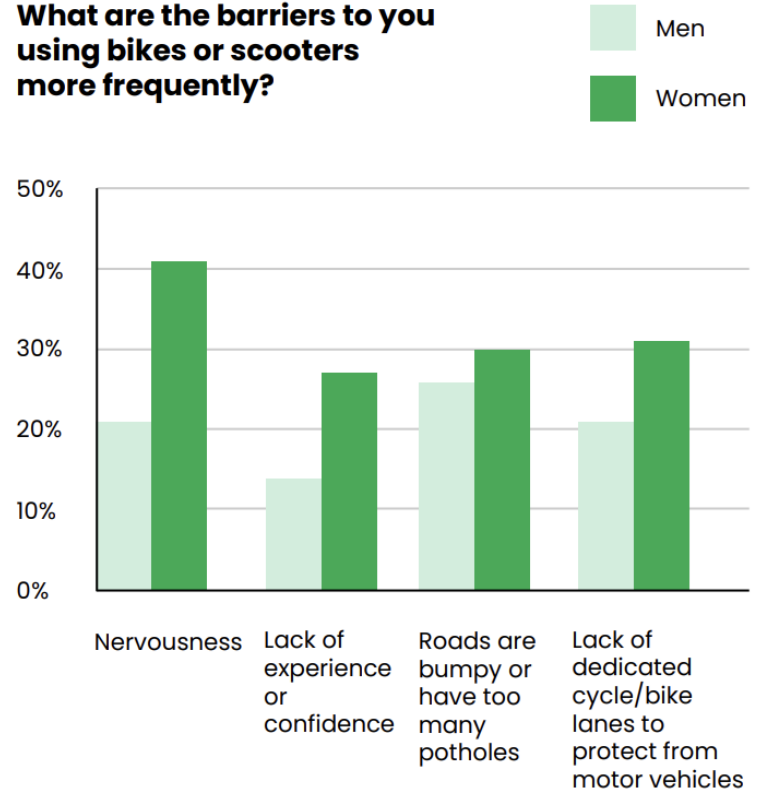
## Lack of confidence/experience

- Almost double the amount of women say they are **nervous to cycle in traffic in comparison to men** (41% v 21%).
- They cite a **lack of experience or confidence as a reason not to ride** (27% v 14%).

## Insufficient infrastructure

- The **lack of dedicated cycling lanes** is seen as a concern by 31% of women (compared to 21% of men).
- The same proportion (30%) of women also pointed to the **state of the roads in the UK**, in particular the amount of potholes and their uneven nature, as a barrier to cycling.

What are the barriers to you using bikes or scooters more frequently?



# Barriers at night

Nearly half of female riders (46%) highlighted **poorly lit roads** as a barrier to cycling alone at night, as well as cycle routes being located in **isolated and quiet areas** (41%).

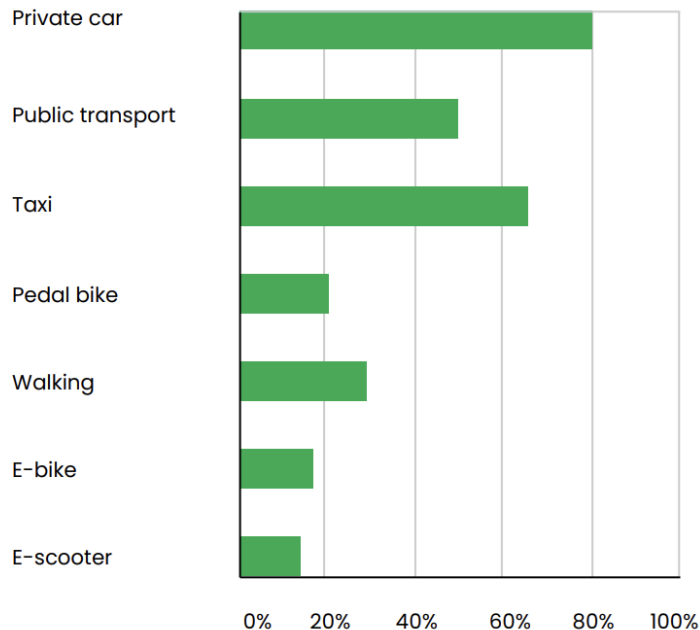
These women also identified **potential harassment** they can experience from other road users as a nighttime barrier to cycling and a feeling of threat to personal safety (36%).

**71% of women said they would not hire a shared micro mobility vehicle at night if it meant they had to park far away from their destination.**

Women were instead **choosing private cars** and more carbon intensive options for personal safety.

**Thinking about your personal safety when travelling alone at night/after dark, how safe do you believe the following modes of transport are or would be?**

(Female answers only)



# Why do women cycle at night?

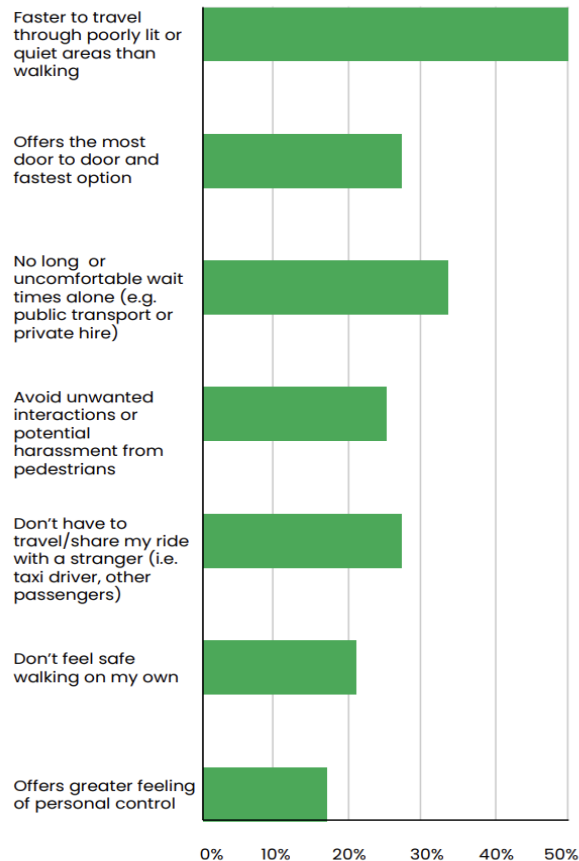
## Speed

- 50% of female cyclists said that it is **faster to travel** through poorly lit or quiet areas than walking.
- 33% said that cycling **helped avoid long or often uncomfortable wait times alone** for public transport or private hire vehicles.

## Personal freedom

- 27% of those asked cited the fact that they **do not have to travel with strangers** (e.g. on public transport or taxi drivers).
- 25% highlighted that cycling allowed them to **avoid unwanted interaction and potential harassment** from other pedestrians.

## Why do female riders feel safe cycling alone at night?



# What do Lime riders think?

Lime riders are more likely to view cycling as an option that offers them personal safety at night compared to the general female population.

65% of female Lime riders said they view cycling as a safe option at night in comparison to the UK women surveyed externally (19%).

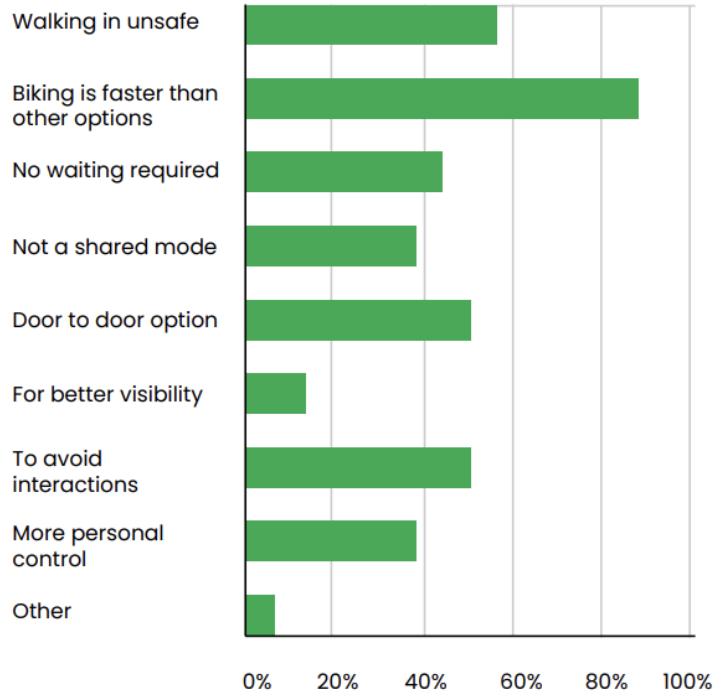
## Why?

- *Speed*
- *Avoiding unwanted interactions*
- *Door-to-door option*

However, female Lime riders were unwilling to walk long distances alone to access parking for rental schemes like Lime at night, with nearly **63% stating that they would only be willing to walk 3 minutes maximum to pick up or drop off a vehicle.**

## Why women use Lime at night\*

*\*Only women who said they felt very safe or fairly safe using a shared e-bike or e-scooter at night were asked in this survey*



# Case studies

**Abigail** said that with Lime she will “always have a way home, especially at night”

**Raelynn** stated that the e-bikes “give me the independence to get around London whilst feeling safe. As a woman, knowing I can get a Lime bike gives me the freedom and security to journey on my own”.

**Kitty** said “I commute to work as a nurse for the NHS using Lime. I have to park the bike a ten minute walk across the park [to my flat]. The park isn't well lit and there have been lots of occasions where I have felt scared. I would like to [be] able to park my lime bike nearer to my flat. It would make my commute so much safer.”

**Amelia** said that Lime's service “makes me feel safer than walking or getting the tube late at night”.

**Maria** highlighted that Lime allows her to “get to places safely at night as a single woman without the risk of using cabs or night public transport”.

**Ella** said that “Lime ... helps me get home safe late at night in areas where I historically would have had to walk. This has helped increase my reassurance that I'll get home safely”

# Recommendations

| Recommendations  | Insight  |
|--|--|
| <b>Government and local authorities should build upon existing work with businesses and active travel groups to design and deliver more cycling infrastructure and dedicated parking bays. This should be particularly focused on integration with public transport.</b> | <b>67%</b> of female riders would feel safer with more cycle lanes<br><b>68%</b> of female riders would feel safer with more cycle parking in public transport hubs and stations   |
| <b>Local authorities should ensure there is street lighting on popular cycling routes and above parking bays. Operators such as Lime can provide data on popular routes and parking locations to support with this.</b>  | <b>69%</b> of female riders would feel safer with better lit parking spaces for cycling.<br><b>71%</b> of female cyclists would not hire a rental e-bike at night if they had to park too far from their final destination |
| <b>Government should work with industry, charities and local authorities to introduce accessible cycling proficiency refreshers in secondary schools.</b>  | <b>41%</b> of women say they are nervous to cycle in traffic.<br><b>27%</b> of women cite a lack of experience and confidence as a reason not to ride more often   |
| <b>Transport and geographical mapping applications should introduce a feature to show the most well-lit routes home for cycling and walking to support women getting home at night time alone.</b>   | <b>66%</b> of female riders would feel safer with a 'well lit route home' map feature  |
| <b>Lime to explore developing new product features such as a 'Follow My Ride' feature in the UK, allowing women travelling home at night to share their journey with those important to them to provide greater personal safety.</b>                                     | <b>65%</b> of female riders would feel safer with an in-app feature from operators allowing them to share their ride location and progress with close friends and family   |



**Any questions?**

