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By e-mail to: SustainableTransport@glasgow.gov.uk

Ref: TF/SI/AM/BL

28 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL (GEORGE SQUARE) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 202_, Stage One

Thank you for your email of 07 February and the George Square consultation event on Monday 24 February. GoBike is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the preliminary proposals for the partial removal of private motor vehicles from George Square, particularly as we face a climate emergency and we move towards COP26 in November.

Generally we are very supportive of the proposals, and we like the use of Experimental TROs to introduce positive changes quickly, albeit subject to change based on experience. We are in favour of the removal of the passage and storage of private cars from this public square. Given the location of Queen Street railway station in the square, the very close location of Buchanan Street subway station and the short distance to Buchanan Street bus station, there is no requirement for other than disabled parking in the square.

We are concerned, however, that private vehicles will be allowed in the square from 7pm and we strongly suggest that this be made later, after the final train from Queen Street. This will allow families, visitors and indeed, all of us, to enjoy evenings in the square, particularly the long summer evenings, without the intrusion of private motor cars.

We are pleased to see the priority given to buses and we look forward to the day when all these buses will be electric, to further reduce pollution in the city centre.

Unfortunately, there is one part of the proposals that upsets us greatly and we must object to the removal of northbound cycling on Montrose Street between Ingram Street and Cochrane Street. It was just three days after your email informing us of this consultation that we were informed that the City Council is relaxing its unfounded opposition to contraflow cycling. We thus ask that you amend your plans for Montrose Street in the light of this change of position and maintain two-way cycling. To support this request we note that guidance documents, such as TAL 6/98 and LTN 2/08 do not require special infrastructure for contraflow cycling where the speed limit is 20 mph other than signage.

Yours sincerely

Tricia Fort for Consultations, GoBike