



Secretary of State
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

By e-mail only

06 March 2025

Dear Sir,

RE: The Cambridge South East Transport Order 202[x] and request for deemed planning permission

I am writing to you on behalf of the directors of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus Ltd. (CBCL), as the chair of the CBC Travel and Transport Group (TTG).

We are pleased that the project to deliver transport infrastructure allowing access via the southeastern route toward Cambridge, has come forward to the stage of Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). The scheme will enhance access to the Campus, supporting growth, and sustainable development, as well as connectivity across the region. I write first and foremost to express our firm support for the principle of the Scheme, however, as the plans stand, it gives rise to some concerns which CBCL feel should be addressed.

Until the matters raised in this letter are addressed satisfactorily, CBCL will need to register its objection to the proposals. It is very much hoped, that with further engagement and the provision of additional information, concerns can be resolved.

About the Cambridge Biomedical Campus

The Campus has grown considerably in recent years and the organisations on the site reflect the strength of healthcare and life sciences in Cambridge:

- Healthcare and the NHS: Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
- Education: The Deakin Centre and Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology
- University & Research Institutes: The Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (MRC LMB), The University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine – housed in multiple buildings across the CBC and comprising twelve Academic Departments, four Research Institutes and five Medical Research Council (MRC) units, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, Heart and Lung Research Institute and Addenbrooke's Centre for Clinical Investigation
- Industry & Expansion: AstraZeneca Strategic R&D Centre, GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) Experimental Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology Unit, Abcam Headquarters and ideaSpace – a co-working community of start-ups

As the largest employment site in Cambridge – CBCL is focused on ensuring patients benefit from the Campus' world-leading research. The international nature of the collaborations cut across traditional boundaries to allow us to work together on care, research and training. Our success is based on everyone's willingness to unite to exert a powerful global influence as the Campus attracts world class companies, investment, and talent to Cambridge with the aim of improving healthcare and knowledge.

With world-leading academic and industry scientists on the same site as the teaching hospitals of the University of Cambridge, the Campus is the optimum environment for the rapid and effective translation of research into routine clinical practice.

As the cost of healthcare is set to increase as the demand from an ageing population soars, we are set to develop the treatments of the future while also creating the next generation of UK life sciences companies. We have the foundations in place to generate the ideas, products, and revenue to deliver the future success of the UK's flourishing life sciences industry.

The Campus will therefore continue to grow, creating jobs and bringing investment to Cambridge but we do this in collaboration with the city and its residents. Our achievements and success reflect the endeavour, persistence and brilliance of the people who live and work here.

As of today, there are 22,000 researchers, industry employees and clinicians working on the site, estimated to go up to 30,000 by 2031. Investment in the Campus over the past three years totals more than £750m, with more to come with the new Cambridge Children's Hospital and Cancer Research Hospital due to commence building soon. Our vision for 2050 can be found via the following link: [Cambridge Biomedical Campus Vision 2050](#)

Concerns:

CBCL has engaged with the Project Team for this scheme, over several years, and are pleased that it has now reached the final stage of delivery.

Several of the partner organisations within the CBC are writing to you directly with their individual issues and concerns. The concerns from the collective standpoint are as follows:

1. **Land acquisition** – The Campus partners have rights of access over, and rights to connect into, and use infrastructure services within Francis Crick Avenue, Addenbrooke's Road, and Dame Mary Archer Way. It is essential that those rights are preserved to ensure that there is no impediment to the operations of the Campus. This aspect of the Order is of extremely high concern, and we request that either provision is incorporated into the order to ensure that the CBC partners rights are maintained (including access to services and infrastructure) or that separate agreements are put in place with each of the partners to provide such protections.
2. **Protection of blue light route** – The Campus is home to several healthcare institutions. Ambulance services need to support patients' access to all the hospital sites, for emergency departments, delivery units and urgent inter-hospital transfers (most likely to be the sickest of patients). Patients are also brought to Campus via air ambulance. The Helipad is currently located adjacent to Francis Crick Avenue, and it is used 24/7 by several different air ambulance services. Potential for foreign object debris is of particular concern and it will be essential that as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan, measures to mitigate impact are described. Assurance is sought to ensure that there are no adverse impacts upon blue light routes (including helipad) during construction or operation.
3. **Maintaining access for pedestrians and cycle routes during construction** – There are a significant number of staff, patients and visitors who access the Campus via the existing DNA cycle route from Shelford. It is noted that many also use the route for onward travel to local schools and into Cambridge city centre and beyond. The partner organisations are keen to be assured that this important active travel route is maintained during construction, and any temporary diversion routes are well lit and appropriately sized for traffic volume.
4. **Drainage** – Hobson's Brook (also known as Hobson's Conduit) is within the Order Limits. Several of the partner organisations have rights in terms of drainage into this facility, and obligations in terms of contaminants. The Campus would look for assurances that these matters and rights are not impeded because of the rights listed within the TWAO and that in the event of any contamination incident, it is possible to readily ascertain as to whom it should be attributed.

Some partners have specific concerns in relation to the operation of their services and activity. Those will be outlined separately within their individual responses.

Summary:

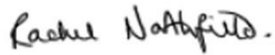
CBCL directors welcome the positive intentions of the scheme, the principle of the busway and contribution which it will make to sustainable travel options and public transport provision. There are aspects of the proposals which require further detail to enable the CBC to support the scheme in its' entirety.

We would very much welcome further dialogue with the project team to resolve concerns.

Any correspondence in respect of this matter should be sent to CBCL by email c/o:

rachel.northfield3@nhs.net

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Northfield".

Rachel Northfield
Chair of the CBC Travel and Transport Group

