

Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
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Martin Wastie

2 March 2025

Dear Secretary of State

Objection to transport and Work Act Order for a new busway to the south east of Cambridge

I, Martin Wastie, of [REDACTED] am writing to make a formal objection to the application for a Transport and Works Act Order to the Department of Transport for a new busway to the south east of Cambridge, as submitted by the Cambridge Greater Partnership (GCP) on 9th January 2025 ("The Proposal").

My primary objection to this proposal is that there is a viable alternative that utilises existing routeways and delivers the same transport and economic benefits as the proposal from the GCP. Indeed, the alternative was originally suggested by the GCP in 2018.

The alternative has a number of significant benefits over The Proposal:

- The alternative is significantly less expensive than The Proposal. I find it objectionable and to be frank, reckless, that we would consider a far more expensive option when a less expensive alternative exists that delivers the same benefits. Public services are in dire straits and the country is mired in debt. Also, the world has changed in the last few weeks and we need to spend far more than we have been on defence to defend ourselves. In this context, the thought of spending far more than we need to on a project, I find completely unconscionable.
- The alternative would avoid building bridges over the chalk streams that we have in this area. The Proposal builds two bridges over the River Granta and also would involve putting the important Hobson's Conduit chalk stream into a culvert.
- The alternative avoids driving a concrete roadway through the Gog Magog hills landscape. This landscape is a very special area, one of the most important landscapes in the Cambridge area. The Proposal will also cut across numerous well frequented public rights of way, partitioning these rights of ways and creating a barrier to people enjoying the countryside area. The alternative plan would completely avoid the scar that The Proposal would create in this area of natural beauty.
- The alternative will avoid building a road through a country park.

- The alternative will avoid various fields being partitioned close to villages. The Proposal will create a number of 'orphan' triangles of land between the busway and the main road that will become susceptible to further development. The area on the outskirts of my village of Stapleford is already being dramatically changed as a vast new 'retirement village' is currently being built. The Proposal will bring a new station to the outskirts of the village, the associated parking areas, and will also create a number of these orphan triangles, with the risk that they will then be developed. On top of the retirement village, the station and the risk of further development I find absolutely horrifying that it is changing the nature of my village so fundamentally.
- The alternative would actually better serve the planned expansion of the Cambridge biomedical campus and serve more of the campus.
- One of the touted benefits of The Proposal is that it will provide various cycle routes as well as the roadway itself into Cambridge. Various cycle routes in this area are already under construction. This includes the Linton Greenway which will already connect Cambridge to Babraham, Granta Park and Linton, largely duplicating what The Proposal is intended to provide. Likewise, the Sawston Greenway is under construction too which will connect Sawston and Cambridge, another duplication in The Proposal. Stapleford and Shelford too are already served by the 'DNA' cycle path. This is once again duplicated in the Proposal.

I believe that for all these reasons that the case for the alternative is absolutely compelling and The Proposal should be abandoned immediately. In my view, proceeding with the Proposal cannot be justified in good conscience on any basis whatsoever.

I hope that my objection will be taken into consideration as the potential granting of the Transport and Work Order is considered.

Yours sincerely

Martin Wastie