

[REDACTED]

From: Carolyn n Geoff Bridges <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 23 February 2025 18:35
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department of Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the south east of Cambridge

Dear Sir

My name is Geoffrey Bridges of 1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am writing to make a formal objection to the "Application for a Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge", as submitted by the Cambridge Greater Partnership on 9 January 2025. The grounds for my objection are detailed below.

The proposed busway scheme connects a proposed new Park & Ride site adjacent to the A11 with the Addenbrooke's Biomedical Campus via a new 5 mile long bus only roadway (busway), with a service road immediately adjacent to it for busway maintenance, and cutting through pristine open greenbelt countryside. In addition, 3 large expensive major bridge/culvert structures will be required to cross rivers and associated flood plains. Not only will the busway do untold environmental damage but it will also create major visual intrusion on the heritage landscape of the Gog Magog Hills, one of the most important landscapes in the Cambridge area. Most of the land required for the busway scheme and its construction will have to be purchased, most probably under Compulsory Purchase Orders. The scheme only touches the eastern extremities of the surrounding villages such as Sawston, Stapleford and Great Shelford, requiring residents to travel out to the busway if they wish to use it. Little thought appears to have been given to accessibility from the villages to busway stops for residents especially the elderly and infirm, with little parking provided. Furthermore, the busway will cost £100 million more than a modified alternative scheme proposed by the applicant in 2018, and comprising a new bus lane immediately adjacent to the existing A1307, together with 1 mile of new road to serve the Addenbrooke's Biomedical Campus.

I urge you to reject the current busway proposal and replace it by the £100 million cheaper, far more environmentally sound and considerably less intrusive 2018 scheme previously proposed by the applicant. I detail below the net benefits of the 2018 scheme compared with the current busway proposal.

Both schemes would provide similar transport and economic benefits, but the 2018 bus lane scheme could be constructed with a saving of £100 million by using an existing traffic corridor that directly serves the large science parks along the route and with easy access to adjacent villages. The bus lane scheme would also not require a service road to be constructed adjacent to it. The County Council, etc., already owns most of the land required along the 2018 scheme route, again reducing costs, and minimising the environmental and visual impact associated with the proposed busway scheme. Furthermore, the 2018 bus lane scheme would do away with 2 major river crossing structures over the Granta river and culverting the historic Hobson's Conduit

chalk stream required for the busway proposal. Another benefit is that the bus lane scheme would progressively yield benefits whereas the busway as proposed would not yield any benefits until the whole scheme is completed.

As a resident of Sawston I will not be using the busway as it would be inconvenient to access and present local bus services from Sawston to the Addenbrooke's Biomedical Campus would be adequate if frequency was increased.

In summary, please reject the proposed busway scheme as it is environmentally damaging, excessively visually intrusive, and is far more expensive (and highly likely to increase as time passes) than the alternative modified 2018 scheme previously proposed by the applicant.

Yours faithfully

Geoffrey Bridges

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