

[REDACTED]

From: B Kingsley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 03 February 2025 08:39
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to TWAO for busway in SE Cambridge

My name is Ben Kingsley and I live on [REDACTED]. I would like please to lodge my objection to the TWAO Application for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge, submitted by the Cambridge Greater Partnership on 9 Jan 2025.

While recognising that Cambridge is regarded by the Government as an area of significant economic potential, and consequently for infrastructure development, my objection is on the grounds that any necessary improvements in the transport infrastructure for this area can be better met by alternative means which would have much less impact on the open countryside, and on the lives of local residents.

In particular, I refer to the counter-proposals for a busway to be constructed adjacent to the A1307, which would avoid material disruption to the Gog Magog Hills, to the River Granta and Hobson's Conduit chalk streams, to the fields and countryside which surrounds many villages here.

As a resident of one of the affected villages which, it is said by GCP, the busway will be designed serve, I can categorically confirm that I would have no plans to use the busway. This is for two reasons: first, as a family we already make regular use of the DNA cycle path to travel to and from our children's school, and central Cambridge, and we shall continue to do so; second, to access the busway stop that would be closest to us on the proposed route will involve a long walk in the wrong direction out of the village. It will take longer and be less convenient than existing options for local travel.

Any assumptions that have been made about local residents using this busway appear not to have been tested properly with local residents — I am not aware of anyone in this village who has said that the busway route would serve their needs any better than existing cycle and train routes.

The alternative route that has been proposed has far greater merit than the existing proposal insofar as it would reduce the encroachment of this development activity on our remaining open spaces, reduce the unnecessary and unwanted impact on local villages, and better serve the Cambridge Biomedical Campus where the transport links are needed. It would also have the benefit of being more visible to drivers who continue to use the A1307 for commuting as an alternative (and hopefully more rapid/efficient) transport option.

I am not against the concept of transport improvements in our area. I object though to unsympathetic inappropriate development that will irreparably damage rather than improve my own and my children's experience of living in our local area.

When weighing the options, I hope that the DfT and the Secretary of State will also take account of the fact that the organisations which stand to benefit financially from the current proposals are well-funded and have ready access to people in positions of influence to speak for their preferred outcomes, whereas those of us who seek to advance a sensible counter-proposal do so with minimal resources and connections. It seems to me highly likely that moving the busway alongside the A1307 will not best serve the financial interests of some of those organisations.

Kind regards

Ben Kingsley



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