From: [redacted]
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Cambridge to Cambourne busway
Date: 05 January 2025 19:38:07

Dear DFT,

this is not an objection as much as a "do you think this is this wise" suggestion.
I am a convinced advocate for bus travel and I approve of all the various policies and funding now being directed towards bus travel. As a regular bus user in Kent, I am concerned about the deteriorating situation in Kent, where greater funding is resulting in a shrinking bus network, fewer services, and more 'life line bus services' being cut or withdrawn. The tragedy being more funding is producing fewer buses. Something needs to be done.The DFT needs to investigate and make some positive changes to the Kent BSIP.

Busway
The advantage of the bus is its flexibility,enabling the bus to operate in environments that heavy rail and light rail cannot operate.The bus can start and stop operations almost anywhere and services can be started (and unfortunately stopped) quickly. A busway has heavy rail construction costs (re: The BAM Nuttall dispute), heavy rail construction costs,with motorway sized land requirements.
The public will switch modes more readily, if the alternative transport mode is rail or even light rail, especially if it is electric,(the so-called 'sparks effect',) but not I am afraid, buses, especially diesel buses.
In my view, instead of approving this busway extension, I would instead consider the alternative light rail or Ultra light rail alternatives. The trams do not have to be standard gauge vehicles, nor does a dual track permanent way have to be installed initially.
A tramway might be more acceptable to the charity which is objecting on environmental grounds. Overhead electrification is the optimal installation, but battery vehicles could be used at the outset to keep costs down.If the intention is to create a bus way network, it might be better to commission a study on the options or even a feasibility study of a Cambridge light rail network as an alternative.

Regards,
Richard Styles

[redacted].

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