

[REDACTED]

From: Yonka Christova <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 06 March 2025 12:07
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge Cambridge

I, Dr Yonka Christova of [REDACTED], 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 this objection are the following:

As a resident of Babraham and an employee of Cambridge Biomedical Campus I don't think the proposed bus route would deliver any improvement in the connectivity between Cambridge Biomedical Campus and Babraham village/Babraham Research Campus (BRC) compared to the alternative route along A1307. It would be impractical for me to use the new busway for the following reasons: (1) the proposed 'transport hub' is located almost a mile away from the village, while the existing bus stop on A1307 is 2 minutes away. For the same reason, it would be impractical for the employees of Babraham Research Campus (BRC), for which the new transport hub will be 20-30 minutes away from their workplace in BRC, the the existing bus stops on A1307 are 5-10 min away from any building in BRC. (2) The proposed travel time from the new transport hub to Cambridge Biomedical Campus is >22min (excluding the time of at least 20 minutes to get to the transport hub) , while on the existing bus route it is 9-15 min depending on the time of the day. (3) The proposed connecting bus between the transport hub and Babraham village/BRC would add further to the journey time to/from Cambridge Biomedical Campus, especially if its frequency is not the same (and it won't be!) as frequency of the bus connecting Cambridge Biomedical Campus and BRC. (4) As a female, I won't feel safe to walk in the open fields between the travel hub and the village in winter, when it gets dark very early, even if the footpath is well lit.

The proposed bus route would be of very little benefit for the residents of Sawston, Stapleford and Shelford either, as the proposed bus stops are located outside the villages, which make them impractical for use. The new bus route could lead for the erosion of the current transport provisions for these villages with less frequent buses going through the centres of the villages than they currently do.

Apart from the lack of benefit for the residents of the villages, the proposed 5 km bus route through the open country side would be detrimental for nature, would negatively affect agriculture by severing the fields close to the villages and will open these fields for future development and further harm for the countryside. Running through the country park it would affect the enjoyment of the users of the country park. It will create a scar in the iconic Gog Magog landscape and will negatively affect the Nine Wells nature reserve.

Construction wise, the alternative proposal along A1307 is much simpler and straightforward and would avoid building two bridges over the River Granta chalk stream and putting Hobson's Conduit chalk stream into a culvert.

The proposed bus route would come at a huge expense of the taxpayer, costing times more than the alternative proposal along A1307, which would include only a bus lane along A1307 and 1 km of new road. The proposed bus route would not serve the planned expansion of Cambridge Biomedical Campus, while the alternative proposal along A1307 would do so.

Yours faithfully,
Yonka Christova

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