From:	[redacted]
To:	TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Cc:	[redacted]
Subject:	Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport for a new busway linking Cambourne to Cambridge as submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council on 12 November 2024
Date:	07 January 2025 09:08:13

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
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London SW1P 4DR

By email to:
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Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport for a new busway linking Cambourne to Cambridge as submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council on 12 November 2024

To whom it may concern

My name is Dr Mike Bullard and I live at [redacted]. I am writing to make a formal objection to the above Order. My objection is related to the off-road section between Madingley Mulch and West Cambridge. I am objecting to this section of the scheme on the grounds that there is no need for it, that it is simultaneously economically and commercially non-sensical, that a more appropriate alternative route exists that GCP has failed to evaluate thoroughly, that in any case it has been superceded by another, better, scheme and finally that it is wantonly environmentally destructive. Specifically;

Lack of Need

- There is a totally viable on-road alternative including new bus lanes and bus priority measures following the A1303 which has never been properly assessed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP). Indeed, GCP has gone out of its way refuse a direct and like-for-like comparative assessment of the merits of this alternative scheme (presumably fearing the answers that such as assessment would yield);
- Furthermore, the new Labour government confirmed in its October 2024 budget that it intends to proceed with the East West Rail development which will provide a direct link between Cambourne and the new Cambridge South station adjacent to the Biomedical Campus. This is a far better transport option.
- Much of the traffic heading into Cambridge down Madingley Hill is accessing the M11 and J13, not local commuter traffic heading into Cambridge at all – particularly since the Covid-19 pandemic has changed working patterns. This M11 access bottleneck should be addressed at the M11/A14 interchange rather than simply imposing a scheme that is not fit for purpose as a sticking plaster.

Economically and commercially illiterate

- The suggested on-road alternative would cost a fraction of the cost of the GCP's proposed off-road route. Also, the Benefit Cost Ratio for the GCP scheme is less than 0.5 which indicates extremely poor value for money and does not meet the Department's criteria for considering such a scheme. Once East West Rail is built, the Benefit Cost Ratio of the busway will fall further making it extremely poor value for money.

Logistically nonsensical

- Both the alternative, on-road, scheme and East West Rail would provide a more direct route to the Cambridge biomedical campus. The GCP route which terminates in Grange Road does not serve either major employment destinations or Cambridge's sixth form colleges which commuters would have to traverse the city centre to access.
- Although the GCP scheme includes facilities for active travel these would be better provided by the GCP-sponsored Comberton to Cambridge Greenway which avoids Madingley Hill.

Environmental vandalism

- A busway built across the greenbelt on the side of Madingley Hill would be nothing short of environmental vandalism, a scar visible from many miles around which would disturb the setting of the American Cemetery and destroy greenbelt. The busway would cleave a path through Coton Orchard, a County Wildlife Site and East Anglia's largest remaining traditional orchard, which is the eighth largest in the UK. The biodiversity value of >100 year old trees is far greater than that achieved with any 'replacement' planting; once lost, the habitat will never be regained.
- Once constructed this busway would inevitably encourage further development of the land for housing and commercial enterprises, thus further eroding that valuable landscape and environment.

Please refuse this Order.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mike Bullard

Sent from my iPhone

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