[redacted]

5 January 2025

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

We, John and Cathy Shaw of [redacted] are writing to make a formal objection to the above Order. Whilst we support the improvement of public transport WE DO NOT support this scheme.

We are only objecting to the off-road section between Madingley Mulch and West Cambridge. There is an excellent on-road alternative including new bus lanes and bus priority measures following the A1303 which we feel has never been properly assessed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and would like to see this done before any decision is made to carve up Coton Orchard and the fields surrounding Coton.

The on-road alternative would provide a more direct route to the Cambridge biomedical campus and allow other buses and emergency vehicles to use the priority lane. 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 so why is this being proposed?

The suggested on-road alternative would cost a fraction of the cost of the GCP's proposed off-road route at a time when more infrastructure projects also need to be funded.

Working patterns have changed since the Covid pandemic and the justification for this environmentally destructive busway has not been properly assessed in the light of this. Services on the existing bus route between Cambourne and Cambridge have been reduced with the reduction of traffic on the route so we do not see the need for this busway and the East/West railway between these 2 destinations. Surely once East West Rail is built, the Benefit Cost Ratio of the busway will fall further making it extremely poor value for money.

While we share concerns for the southern routing of East West Rail, all route options show a stop at Cambourne, so regardless of consultation outcome there will be a C2C rail link.

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.

A busway built across the greenbelt on the side of Madingley Hill, visible from many miles around would disturb the setting of the American Cemetery.

Regards

John and Cathy Shaw