



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Cambridge Cycling Campaign welcomes Transport Commission report

Cambridge Cycling Campaign welcomes and supports the conclusions of the Cambridgeshire Transport Commission, and with the recommendations to submit a formal bid for money from the Government's Transport Innovation Fund.

The Commissioners have undertaken their work with the utmost professionalism and acted in an unbiased way. Everyone has had their opportunity to state their case, and the Commissioners have heard the range of views - for and against - fairly. The process could be considered a model for the future where contentious and complex proposals are under consideration.

We are pleased to see the commission recognises the important role that Cycling plays in and around the City. They say:

"The Commission particularly endorses the TIF proposals radically to improve the existing cycling facilities in Cambridge and also to provide new dedicated cycle lanes. Overall, Cambridge and its surrounds should become a European exemplar city for cycling."

We've set up a web site:

UnclogCambridge.com

This exposes some of the myths and explains many of the advantages in a way we believe the County Council could have done.

For instance many of the people who outrightly opposed the TIF scheme failed to realise that the proposals were for no charges to be raised until a significant amount of the 500 million pounds had been invested in new infrastructure, and that even then the charges would only be levied for the peak two hours on Mon-Frid mornings.

County Council Cabinet members need to act decisively to go forward with TIF, which will give £500m followed by a congestion charge five years later.

Delays in approving TIF will lead to the loss of half-a-billion pounds of investment. The next government of any political colour is unlikely to maintain the fund. However, the funds are still on the table, and the Conservatives have pledged to honour TIF agreements made before the election.

It would make a mockery of the process to create a body to investigate the options and then to ignore the findings.

The evidence given by the Centre for Cities was amongst the most persuasive case. We urge the Councillors on the County Council Cabinet to invite them to present their case and explain in the same clear terms why the TIF proposals are best to go ahead with.

Spending of money on infrastructure schemes needs to be balanced with 'sticks' to help persuade people out of their cars.

The Commission's report reaffirms the earlier study by the County Council that a majority of people would find the TIF proposals acceptable if the key conditions that congestion charging would

- (1) be morning peak only,
- (2) come in place after the massive transport improvements are in place,

and

- (3) have all moneys going back into transport.

The Government's Smeed Report of 1964 recommended some sort of Road User Charging as the way forward, as did the House of Commons Transport Select Committee report in 2005.

We believe that Councillors must be brave, take leadership, and implement the recommendations as the only way Cambridge will become a vibrant and friendly City in the future.

E N D S

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