

CAMCYCLE



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Submission to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee

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Re: Transport Impacts of COVID-19

Camcycle is a volunteer-led charity with over 1,450 members that works for more, better and safer general-purpose cycling for all ages and abilities in the Cambridge region.

We read agenda item 2.1 with interest since it pertains directly to the current crisis. However, we were disappointed to find only minimal mention of cycling, and nothing about it being a vital means of transport for essential journeys, particularly for key workers.

Cities as diverse as Auckland, Bogotá, Berlin, Milan, Paris and Oakland are all installing temporary infrastructure to ensure that people cycling and walking can maintain safe physical distancing while also being protected from motor traffic. Towns and cities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough should be on this list too, as global leaders in sustainable transport.

Most of our members live in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, where we have seen a sharp reduction in motor traffic and consequent improvement in air quality. However, the empty car lanes have incited a corresponding increase in excessive speeding, which still leaves many people afraid to walk or cycle in spite of there being more room for them.

We are concerned that as the months press on, many people will turn to driving in order to avoid public transport. Congestion and air pollution will worsen again, and roads will become more dangerous for cycling and walking. The consequence would be an unnecessary burden on the NHS, and it would potentially undermine the future of the CAM programme of integrated transport.

Therefore, we ask: what steps will the Combined Authority take to reallocate space to enable and encourage cycling and walking during the pandemic period? This is vital to ensuring that key workers and others can make their essential journeys safely by sustainable means while maintaining the recommended 2m distance from others.

We invite the mayor and members of the Combined Authority board to engage via video-conference with other city, district and county councillors as well as road safety stakeholders, including Camcycle, to discuss ideas for temporary measures to improve safety and compliance with physical distancing guidelines.