

August 27, 2017

Our ref: L17002

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CAMCYCLE



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Camcycle

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Two-way cycling in one-way streets

We write to comment on the above TRO proposals¹.

By way of introduction, Camcycle, the Cambridge Cycling Campaign, is a local voluntary organisation with over 1,200 members. We work closely with local government and others to improve conditions for cyclists in Cambridge and the surrounding area. Government statistics show that in Cambridge more than 25% of local people cycle to work and that this is much the highest figure for the UK.

Support

We very strongly support the proposals. We welcome all the proposed streets and urge that they be implemented quickly.

The history of making streets two-way for cycling in Cambridge over the last decade shows that it creates few problems in practice, and avoids unnecessarily criminalising both local and more strategic cycle journeys. The original purpose of making these streets two-way was to reduce rat-running by motor vehicles, not to make cycle journeys more difficult, so it is good to see that this long-standing error is being addressed.

The streets of Romsey in particular are well overdue for making two-way for cycling.

¹ <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-projects/cycling-&-pedestrian-improvements/two-way-cycling-in-one-way-streets/>

If there are remaining objections to any streets, these should be trialled with a Temporary TRO and reviewed within 18 months. We feel this would demonstrate that there are no safety issues in practice.

Future work

We would like to see the remaining anomalies done in a future phase.

We are disappointed that the County Council still is not progressing Willis Road because of some residents vociferously opposed, the result of which is that their fellow residents and members of the public, who should have an equal say in the use of their streets, are unnecessarily criminalised if they cycle the wrong way.

We also remain disappointed that other streets in Newtown are not being done. We are keen to work with residents to see wider traffic reduction measures in this area that would allay their concerns, though we remain strongly of the view that two-way cycling would be acceptably safe to change more immediately.

In particular, we are extremely disappointed at the failure to include Panton Street. The twin mini-roundabout on Trumpington Street is a major collision black spot. Permitting two-way cycling in Panton Street would permit numbers on cycles to avoid that area. It would also enable a more pleasant and safe way for those cycling to the many schools in this area. Removing the second of the two car lanes, as well as a few car parking spaces, on Panton Street approaching Lensfield Road, would enable two-way cycling.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith
Liaison Officer