



Stapleford Parish Council

CLERK Belinda Irons

14 Crawley End, Chrishall, Nr Royston, Herts, SG8 8QL

M:07840 668048 e-mail – clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

By email only

1st February 2022

Dear Professor Phil Allmendinger,

Request for a review Cambridge South East Busway decisions

In July 2021 the GCP Executive Board approved the Cambridge South East Busway Scheme to submit an application to the Department for Transport for a Transport & Works Act Order to secure planning permission, transport orders and powers of compulsory purchase.

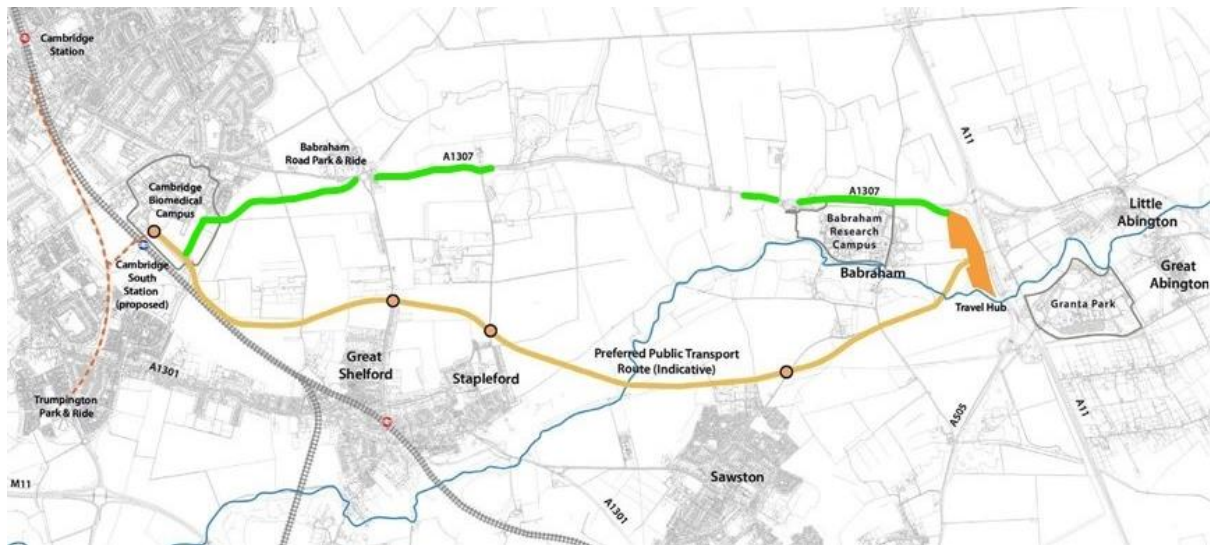
We are writing to you to request that you review your decision when you meet in March 2022, as there have been some significant changes in relation to this scheme:

1. The Preferred Option for the next Local Plan (published in November 2021) is to include an **extension of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus next to the A1307**. This new development will not be served by the proposed busway. However, Strategy 2 that was consulted on in 2018 would serve this new development. Therefore, there would be significant economic and transport benefits arising from routing new public transport infrastructure to serve both the existing and the new area of the Biomedical Campus. This will have a significant bearing on the Benefit Cost Ratio of the Strategy 2 option that was discounted by the GCP in 2018.
2. We have reviewed the decision made by the GCP Executive Board in 2018 to discount a route in the A1307 corridor in favour of a route through open countryside. It is clear that one of the major deciding factors was that the A1307 corridor options could not form part of the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM), ie the A1307 option could not provide fully segregated bus lanes in-bound and out-bound. The **CAM has now been dropped** and so there is no longer a policy requirement for fully segregated routes. Given that CAM was a major factor in reaching a decision on preferred routes, there is a requirement to review that decision. We also note that the Local Transport Plan is no longer being “refreshed” and will be a more significant review, which won’t be completed until autumn 2022.
3. A Planning Inspector has recently (January 2022) granted permission for a new development on the edge of Stapleford, this includes the creation of a new park. The Busway would run through or adjacent to this park. The impact of the Busway now has to be assessed in terms of impact on that park (in terms of public amenity, ecology, etc) rather than impact on private agricultural land. In other words **the negative impact of the Busway has increased**.

4. Plans for Cambridge South Station have progressed and the TWAO will be granted for that scheme well ahead of the busway. This means that Network Rail's scheme is likely to proceed first and therefore the **busway works will have to fit around or be delayed by Network Rail**, given that they plan to use some of the same work compounds and will both be working in the same area of the Biomedical Campus. This creates a risk of further delay, compared to alternative options.

5. There is a growing awareness of the **carbon emissions** associated with large infrastructure projects such as the busway. Alternative options require less infrastructure and therefore will have a better carbon budget. All of the councils that vote on the GCP Exec Board have pledged to reduce emissions as fast as possible.

We have carried out some preliminary work to consider an alternative busway within the A1307 corridor. This would involve adding sections of bus lane to the A1307 where localised congestion would impact the reliability of bus services, as well as creating a new section of busway between the Babraham Road Park & Ride and the Biomedical Campus (ie serving the proposed new development of the Campus). This route would then join the route currently proposed by the GCP. This alternative would also have the advantage of serving more of the Campus than the proposed busway, which runs only along the western edge of the Campus and duplicates the access that will be provided by the new station.



Yellow line = GCP busway scheme; Green line = Alternative route; Orange = new Park & Ride.

This alternative would provide similar journey times and reliability as the proposed off-road busway but can be delivered at significantly less cost, more quickly and with less damage to the countryside. Due to the expansion plans of the Biomedical Campus it would also deliver higher economic and transport benefits.

We request that the GCP Exec Board formally revisits the decisions that it made in 2018 and July 2021 and that a full assessment is carried out of an optimal scheme in the A1307 corridor. We also request a meeting with you as soon as possible. For further detail please see Smarter Cambridge Transport's Optimised Alternative Proposal attached.

We are also writing to the other GCP Executive Members, making this request on behalf of a group of organisations including:

Stapleford Parish Council
Gt Shelford Parish Council
Babraham Parish Council
Cambridge Past Present & Future
Magog Trust
Smarter Cambridge Transport
Cambridge Connect

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Kettel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Howard" and the last name "Kettel" clearly distinguishable.

Cllr Howard Kettel
Stapleford Parish Council
3 Adcroft Piece
Stapleford
Cambridge
CB22 5FD