

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Consultation Response: Waterbeach to Cambridge

Dear

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation. The CPCA welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the GCP on the development of this scheme that form a fundamental component to the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) project.

When designing the active travel component of the scheme, it is essential that due consideration is given to end user and provide the right level of infrastructure. Routes must be planned, designed, built and maintained to be inclusive for all. A route that only considers the needs of one specific user group will be less successful than an inclusive route.

The introduction of a traffic-free route should form part of a network-wide plan and ultimately be embedded into the wider active travel network. This will ensure that existing and proposed routes are integrated and address actual travel needs. Trip generators will include education sites, retail, healthcare facilities, businesses and public transport facilities; therefore, due consideration should be afforded to the links to these origins and destinations. With the recent improvements to the rail network and services between Waterbeach and Cambridge it is essential to understand how this scheme would complement these improvements and not provide a duplication of effort and services. In order to deliver a truly integrated network for the residents of Cambridgeshire, it is important to provide a network to meet their needs through dedicated, sustainable and integrated network across all modes.

To meet the requirements and aspirations of the *LTP: CAM sub-strategy* it is important that this project meets all planning and environmental requirements, offers opportunities for all residents and communities and is fully complementary to active travel modes. In addition, it is essential that this scheme supports and enhances environmental sustainability, including the delivery of biodiversity net gains. Therefore, each of the proposed options should be examined in turn to assess the level of impact on the environment with the appropriate mitigation measures put in place in a timely and effective manner.

Economic growth across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has over recent decades not been matched by the provision of the appropriate transport infrastructure. Evidence shows that to sustain future growth in the region, new infrastructure is essential to support the delivery of new jobs and new homes. CAM is a key component of the transport programme for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It will connect key regional centres of employment, existing settlements, key railway stations, new homes and planned growth, to create a platform for sustainable and inclusive growth. The scheme will transform people's day-to-day lives, by connecting communities and creating new jobs and widening access to opportunities across the region.

The *Waterbeach to Cambridge* project needs to be integrated into the overarching transport network and offer a viable, sustainable alternative to the private car. The interchanges need to offer seamless transfer between modes and need be at optimum locations for accessibility to help reinforce the sustainable transport message.

The Combined Authority is continuing to develop its portfolio of transport schemes for the people and businesses of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This programme of measures includes the A10 corridor. The work on the A10 corridor is examining how connectivity can be improved along and through the corridor, with a particular focus on improving the “offer” to the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Therefore, any developments or improvements to the highway network, along with the delivery of components of the CAM need to be integrated and complementary in order to provide for a network where the adverse impacts are minimised wherever possible. Therefore, as these schemes are developed by the, it is essential that due consideration is given to the requirements of CAM and the A10 improvements.

Milton interchange is a key junction on the A14 providing access to north Cambridge and the Science Park. It is imperative that due consideration is given to the important junction to ensure that the *Waterbeach to Cambridge* scheme does not adversely impact on its operation, capacity and flow. In addition, during the development of the scheme it is important that the Cambridge North-East fringe development is considered and adapted so the scheme is seamlessly integrated into the fabric of the urban environment.

The Authority look forward to continuing the on-going dialogue with the GCP to develop this scheme in a timely manner whilst minimising the impacts on the local environment.

Regards,

Mayor Palmer (Chair of the Combined Authority’s Transport & Infrastructure Committee)