

Response to Community Engagement on the Greening of Phoenix Road

To: greeningphoenixroad@camden.gov.uk CC: Acacia Hasler

This response to the consultation on Phoenix Road and the surrounding area is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough. We have discussed this consultation by email and online (using Cyclescape).

Introduction

We are impressed by the large amount of work that has gone into the Feasibility Reports and welcome the proposals to make the area better for residents, visitors, pedestrians and cyclists and to reduce the impact of motor vehicles. We do not propose to comment on the details but will focus on issues that affect cyclists. We will discuss our overall opinion of the different options as well as some specifics that relate to potential interactions between cyclists, pedestrians and motor vehicles.

Ossulston Street is a major north-south cycle route and will continue to be so even now the Midland Road – Judd Street alignment is open. We expect that cyclists will continue to form the most common vehicle and that the current numbers of 200-250 per hour will continue. Motor vehicle flow on Ossulston Street has increased since the closure of Judd Street and we think this initiative should address this.

Cycle numbers on Phoenix Road are relatively low and will probably remain so; although in principle it is an attractive route to Euston station and forms a link between Euston and St Pancras stations. With the opening of the cycle tracks on Midland Road we expect numbers to increase somewhat.

Our response to the proposals

Overall

As explained in the studies, the area is unattractive and overly dominated by motor vehicles so we welcome the proposals to reduce motor traffic and make it more attractive. Of the four options, we support option 3B as it has the most potential to reduce motor traffic, particularly on Ossulston Street (we are assuming that option 4 will not be taken forward). However, we recognise that this option may not get enough local support and other options such as 1B and 2 also have the potential to reduce through traffic so we would support them.

Configuration of Highway Space

We (and London Living Streets) are concerned by any idea of 'shared space' so we think that there should be a clearly demarcated area where it is expected that cyclists will be found. However, we do expect informal movements by pedestrians and therefore the design for Phoenix Road should encourage slow cycling. For this reason we support the idea of a meandering rather than linear route; this approach has been

quite successful in other parts of the borough. We recognise that this would also improve the quality of the streetscape.

Please acknowledge receipt of this response. We would be very happy to discuss any aspect of our comments; contact details are below.

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