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Campbell, Jacqui

From: Roads Eastern Srit
Sent: 09 March 2015 11:43
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: York Street Interchange Formal Consultation

David

Thank you for your response to the consultation on the proposals for the York Street Interchange. Your views have been recorded as part of this process and will contribute to the decision on whether The Department should hold a Public Inquiry into the scheme.

Regards

Colin Pentland

Strategic Road Improvements

DRD - Eastern Division, Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road, Belfast BT8 8JL.

Campbell, Jacqui

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From: David Hembrow [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2015 17:58
To: Roads Eastern Srit
Subject: York Street Interchange project

Hello,

I'm writing about the plans for the York Street interchange in Belfast. The reason why I am doing so is that it is clear that the designer has not understood what it takes to create a safe environment for cycling and walking.

On-road cycle-lanes, advanced stop lines, central cycle lanes to access advanced stop lines and bus stop designs as featured in the plans are all associated with injuries to cyclists. None of these features are real infrastructure, they are merely paint and paint does nothing to prevent motor vehicles from injuring cyclists.

The bicycle strategy for Northern Ireland says "We are committed to creating a network of high quality, direct, joined up routes. We want to make the bicycle an attractive, obvious mode of transport, and to help those who choose to cycle, by having high quality infrastructure which provides greater priority for the bicycle."

Unfortunately there is no sign of that in the current plans. Have the planners forgotten who cyclists and pedestrians are ? Not thrill seekers, but just normal members of the public trying to get from A to B.

A simple test for planners: Consider if you would feel safe cycling on the infrastructure that you design. Would you want your spouse to use it ? Your child ? Your parents ? If not then don't expect other people to want to use it.

You can read more about the problems caused by the type of infrastructure proposed for the York Street interchange at the following link:

<http://www.aviewfromthecyclepath.com/search/label/on-road%20cycle-lanes>

If you would like to know more about how to design truly safe infrastructure which will encourage everyone in Belfast to cycle, in line with the Northern Ireland bicycle strategy, please get in touch. We run regular study tours in the Netherlands in which important features of good design are demonstrated.

And please do not go ahead with this development until it has been revised so that it does not exclude the most vulnerable people or force them to have to use motor vehicles to make their journeys.

Yours.

David Hembrow.

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A View from the Cycle Path blog <http://www.aviewfromthecyclepath.com>
Cycling Infrastructure Study Tours: <http://www.hembrow.eu/studytour>