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Campbell, Jacqui

From: Roads Eastern Srit
Sent: 10 March 2015 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: York Street Interchange Formal Consultation

Andrew

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

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

Campbell, Jacqui

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From: Andrew Thomson [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2015 10:05
To: Roads Eastern Srit
Subject: York Street Interchange - Public consultation

Sir,

I wish to voice my concerns over the of the plans for the new York Street interchange.

In my opinion the design, as it stands, not only discourages cyclists and pedestrians but actually increases the danger to both these groups. The cycling lanes proposed, which go against all International best practice, seem to have been designed by people who have never been on a bike in traffic. It would be better to remove all of the green markings as these offer an illusion of safety. In addition, expecting buses and cycles to share the same lane is utter stupidity.

With the opening of the University campus there will be many more pedestrians and cyclists making the journey between the York Street train station and the campus. This means that there will be large groups of people crossing several junctions at rush hour. This will slow down traffic and will actually increase the delays, will be dangerous, and will create conflict between pedestrians and drivers.

The design seems to have one focus, and that is how to facilitate more and more cars. This seems misguided as increasing capacity at the YSI doesn't take into account any of the bottle necks elsewhere in Belfast. For example, where there is a delay on the M1, the south bound traffic block the routes of north bound traffic via the West Link, the Broadway interchange, and across town. A bigger YSI will not fix this. The only thing that will fix it is to reduce the number of cars. You reduce the number of cars by providing infrastructure for other forms of travel.

The YSI needs a segregated cycle lane running in both directions - with bus stop by-passes and International best practice employed where turning vehicles cross over the cycle lanes.

There should be wider pavements to facilitate the increase in footfall when the UU campus opens and rather than having to negotiate several junctions pedestrians should have a clear way between the train station and the campus.

How to do all this? Remove a car lane. Simple.

Regards
Andrew