

## **The A47 (Postwick Hub Interchange Side Roads and Slip Roads) Orders ~ Response from Campaign for Better Transport**

### **Postwick Hub Interchange is over-designed and hinders sustainable transport in Norwich**

Campaign for Better Transport objects to the above draft Orders and wishes to be registered as an objector. We believe this scheme is over-designed, impedes traffic, promotes unsustainable transport and hinders sustainable transport. As such, we ask that this application be rejected or a public inquiry provided so that the issues raised in the draft orders can be subjected to greater and public scrutiny.

#### **Design of Postwick Hub disbenefits road users and is over-complicated**

The existing exit and entry slip road on the eastbound carriageway of the A47(T) Norwich Southern Bypass which connects the A47 Trunk Road with the A1042 Yarmouth Road is a simple road junction. By contract, the proposals for new slip roads, roundabouts, link roads, a signalized junction and second A47 overbridge are extensive, costly and much less convenient.

Depending on the direction of travel, drivers heading for east or north-east Norwich, Great Yarmouth or the proposed Broadland Gate business park would be forced to negotiate a string of roundabouts. As well as increasing journey distances and travel times, the extra mileage would use more fuel, generating carbon dioxide emissions. We note that the Department for Transport expressed concerns about the suitability of the proposed layout and its tendency to disbenefit road users.

A proposed access road over a new bridge over the A47 would carry traffic to an expanded Postwick Park and Ride site. It would be better to enlarge Sprowston Park and Ride site off Wroxham Road which is closer to new housing in north-east Norwich than attract park and ride users unnecessarily to Postwick.

#### **Increased traffic capacity encourages car use, counter to government policy**

The high traffic capacity of the greatly enlarged Postwick Interchange would encourage people to drive rather than take the bus, walk or cycle. Facilities for pedestrians and cyclists would be limited and the intimidating traffic conditions would deter people from walking and cycling to and around the area. This is counter to the government's policies on promoting sustainable transport, especially to the goals, expressed in *Delivering a Sustainable Transport System* and the more recent *Urban Transport Strategy*, both of which stress the need to encourage sustainable transport.

#### **Scheme is integral part of wider plans for substantial, unaffordable road building**

The Postwick Hub is the first part in a larger proposal to build the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NNDR), which would continue wider plans for a ring-road around the city. The publication of these draft orders effort by Norfolk County Council to bring this scheme in by the back door, in advance of any public examination of the principle of this major road scheme.

Campaign for Better Transport objects most strongly to the NNDR. This scheme would increase reliance on car use and contribute to climate change, while generating substantial orbital journeys from new housing

(north-east) to new employment (south-west). It would also disbenefit plans for a guided busway, with the increase in traffic associated with the scheme forcing the bus to be rerouted from its preferred alignment to a more rural, less populated route.

There is also no guarantee that a NNDR would be built due to cuts in public spending. In this event, as the Department for Transport noted, the large-scale upgrading of Postwick Interchange would be a wasteful use of public funds. This is especially the case as local authorities are likely to be asked to make substantial cuts to their transport budgets over the coming years.

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Campaign for Better Transport

Campaign for Better Transport is the leading transport NGO. Our compelling arguments and ideas have won us the support of national decision-makers and local activists, enabling us to secure transport policies and programmes that improve people's lives and reduce environmental impact.

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