

Madina Mosque Trust

2A Lea Bridge Road, London, E5 9QD - 02089858204 - info@madina-masjid.org.uk

Charity Registration #: 291089

ICO Registration #: ZA291779

Wednesday 06 November 2019

Dear Mr Khan,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We write to express our disappointment in relation to the proposed segregated cycle lane at Lea Bridge Roundabout intended to connect Dalston with Walthamstow by way of Lea Bridge. We notice - with considerable alarm - the negative effects this proposal would have on not only the 5,000 Muslims living in the area, but also the wider population of Hackney.

Whilst we warmly agree with initiatives that allow people to improve their health, we cannot but disagree with the proposals or the weak justification with which it was based on and a few points of contention are made below:

- There has been no explanation of the methodology used to calculate the number of cyclists who use the roundabout
- There has been no explanation of the methodology used to calculate the number of vehicles that use the roundabout as a justification for bringing in a segregated cycle lane
- No consideration has been made for how local residents use the roads surrounding Lea Bridge
- No impact assessments have been conducted for how the segregated cycle lane would affect traffic. One only has to look at the congested route between Walthamstow and the Lee Valley Ice Rink for potential effects
- Lea Bridge Roundabout is not an accident hotspot for cyclists which may correlate with the lack of cyclists
- Cycling infrastructure already exists which cyclists find far easier to use to travel between Dalston and Lea Bridge
- Vehicle usage in the local community is based on car-pooling
- Restricting parking around the mosque will lead to service users unable to gain access to the services which the trust provides including:
 - Children will be not be able to attend evening school due to bus services being cut (48) and delays leading up-to Lea Bridge Roundabout
 - Elderly residents who live alone around Hackney will no longer be able to attend prayers at the mosque and partake in social activities due to lack of parking and increased congestion around the area
 - Islamic occasions, festivals and gatherings will be severely impacted leading to a social decline and exposure to wider civic society for many Muslims in the local area



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We understand that cycle lanes may be necessary to afford protection to cyclists and we are supportive of cyclists. Some of our congregants are cyclists and we have cycle racks within our compound which are always occupied. We have also lobbied Hackney Council to install more cycle racks in the immediate area to enable more of our congregants to cycle but it is our view - and the view of surveys that your organisation carries out - that the up-take in cycling where dedicated lanes exist is negligible.

From the reports published on your website, the profile of the average cyclist is a white, middle-aged, full-time employed individual who is earning significantly above average salaries (over £75,000).

Our congregant profile does not fit that mould and nor does the wider Hackney profile fit. Although we harbour aspirations for those who have lived in Hackney for generations, we are concerned that the proposals do not benefit the local community in any manner or form.

Where possible, our service users (who number around 2000 on a Friday and in Ramadhan nightly prayers) and an average of 300 adults and 300 students per weekday would prefer walking to the mosque. Those who travel from outside the immediate area would use public transport and parents who have multiple children would drive as it is far more cost-effective and gives much needed family time even for a few minutes. Many of the parents are in low income households and work tirelessly to support their children. Sometimes a car is the best form of transport for sending their kids to receive an education (See Page 4 - EIA) which stops them from loitering in the streets or being groomed into sexual activity and/or gangs.

According to the Equality Impact Assessment, crime is on the rise in Hackney and being the bike-theft capital of Europe, it appears the cycleways would tend to favour those who simply use the borough for commuting through and no consideration has been given to residents.

There are more points on which we can expand upon but we feel that the process has not taken into account any concerns of the local community despite your literature stating that "during public consultation, the owners/lead administrators for the places...will be contacted and their input will be given due consideration." It has been 3 weeks since the consultation and we are not aware of any contact being made.

We urge our un-/elected representatives to give this their most immediate attention and meet with us to address the concerns that our congregants and wider Hackney have in relation to the cycleway proposals.

CC'd: Member of Parliaments, Greater London Authority Members, Mayor of Hackney, Hackney Councillors, Commissioner for Cycling and Walking (Will Norman), Transport for London CEO (Mike Brown).

