

The Camden (Torrington Place to Tavistock Square) (Prescribed Routes, Waiting and Loading Restrictions and Loading Places) Traffic Order [2017]

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: DPI/X5210/17/8

Proof of Evidence - Camden Cycling Campaign

Witness: Tabitha Tanqueray for Cycle Islington

I'm here speaking on behalf of Cycle Islington. My background is that I work in Hackney as a hospital doctor. I got into cycle campaigning after working at a trauma centre and seeing seriously injured cyclists. Currently, my work includes looking after super-obese patients requiring gastric bypass surgery and mothers in childbirth. I live on the Islington/ Hackney border and I use a bicycle for the vast majority of my trips within London.

When coming into central London, the Tavistock Place/ Torrington Rd route is an extremely important east-west route for workers coming from Haringey, Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest by bike, keeping us away from the dangerous and polluted Euston Rd. Both Quietway 2 and Quietway 10 feed into this route. Many Cycle Islington members and have fed back to us that the new layout makes their journey safer and more comfortable than the previous one.

In particular, the previous layout was over-crowded and there were risks of being "hooked" by motor vehicles turning across the tracks. Pedestrians also tended to walk out into the bike track without looking in both directions. Parents with cargo bikes found the track too narrow.

Residents from other boroughs have important reasons to be here, and contribute much to local businesses.

I've been using the route for many years. I cycled to most of my antenatal appointments at UCH, where I had my son 7 years ago. Now I travel to UCH mainly for teaching purposes. I give up my free time to teach doctors and midwives at UCH about Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma.

What Camden have done here is to actually act on Public Health England and NICE guidance which compels Local Authorities to provide opportunities for active travel and to aid the shift away from dependence on motor vehicles. They are also future-proofing this route to enable far more Londoners to get around when the population swells and cycling levels increase further. Unfortunately my other option to get to UCH (Victoria Line) is already so overcrowded that the gates are often closed in the mornings, yet more and more residential developments are being built in North-East London.

Cycle Islington strongly urge this enquiry to maintain the current layout. Please maintain Camden's reputation as a forward-thinking borough which acts in the best long-term interests of the health of all Londoners.