

Dear 2G3S supporter

Please can you give a little time for a good cause? I know that many people will be very busy in the run-up to Christmas, but I am writing to urge you to complete the online survey on the [GCP Making Connections consultation](#). It will be time well spent. Let us look at this with the help of Rudyard Kipling\*:

## What?

The [Greater Cambridge Partnership](#) does not always get a good press but they are now proposing what they describe as a 'once in a generation opportunity to transform how we travel'. Read the [consultation document](#) and you will see that there are 3 parts to the proposals:

- From mid-2023, **transform the bus network** through new routes, additional services, cheaper fares and longer operating hours
- Invest in **other sustainable travel schemes** such as better walking and cycling links
- Create a **Sustainable Travel Zone in Cambridge** including a road user charge. Vehicles would be charged for driving within the zone between 7am and 7pm on weekdays, and money raised would fund improvements to the bus network and other sustainable travel schemes. The Zone would be fully operational in 2027/28 but only once the first bus improvements are introduced.

## Why?

(ie, why do we want you to complete the survey?)

- 1 This is a **visionary scheme** which aims to address many problems in a joined-up way:
  - **Climate crisis:** cut carbon by reducing congestion; create a sustainable bus network with more, faster and cheaper buses
  - **Public health crisis:** improve air quality by reducing congestion with its associated emissions; encourage cycling and walking, leading to enhanced fitness
  - **Congestion:** Cambridge is too congested now; forecast growth makes the situation unsustainable. Introduce a Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) with a road user charge (congestion charge)
  - The proposals would also benefit **people without cars** (40% of lowest-income households according to [government-sponsored research in 2019](#)) by giving them access to a much improved and cheaper bus network; and create **emptier, safer streets and more pleasant green spaces**.

- 2 There is **widespread virulent and often ill-informed opposition** to the congestion charge. Many people have just latched on to this one proposal and have not looked at the scheme in the round, or appreciated that it would be phased in gradually. There is a danger that the survey will be overwhelmed with people just completing the one question about the congestion charge, and opposing it. As an environmental group 2G3S is supporting the proposals, and **it is very important that all those who agree with all or most of the aims send in a considered response, even if you don't agree with all of it.**

## When?

The survey closes at **midday on Friday 23 December – THIS FRIDAY!**

## How?

There are 19 questions on the proposals, some multiple choice and some text boxes, and then a further 10 questions 'about you'. In completing your response, you may like to consider:

- [The 2G3S response](#): thanks to all those who were sent early drafts and contributed to this joint effort. Original survey text is in black; 2G3S responses in red
- [The Cambridge Sustainable Travel Alliance guide](#) – incorporating views of their constituent members, Camcycle (cycling focus) and Cambridge Living Streets (pedestrian focus); thorough and useful; does not always agree with the 2G3S response

### Some additional information:

- [Car-reducing strategies ranked](#)
- [Daily air quality readings for Cambridge](#) (the Particulate Matter (PM) concentration in Cambridge of 2.5 is 5.4 times WHO guidelines)
- [GCP answers](#) to many of the questions they have been asked
- A [TED talk](#) about why you should support schemes such as this!

*(Tip: despite the advice in the Cycling Campaign guide, we advise that you do not copy and paste answers. This might be picked up and less credibility afforded your response; besides, your take on things might be slightly or a lot different to the organisational responses. It is better to put things in your own words.)*

## Where?

[Online](#) – scroll down to the actual survey.

## Who?

**\*YOU\*** dear reader!

Please help if you can – and if you care to email our new newsletter email address - [2g3snewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:2g3snewsletter@gmail.com) - saying that you have done so, we should be delighted.

And after all that - Merry Christmas!

Linda Whitebread  
2G3S Newsletter Editor and 2G3S response co-ordinator

*\* I keep six honest serving-men  
(They taught me all I knew);  
Their names are What and Why and When  
And How and Where and Who.  
(Rudyard Kipling)*