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City of London
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RE: Wonderland Road Widening and Ring Road

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We strongly oppose moving forward with a motion to widen Wonderland Rd from 4 lanes to 6 lanes for vehicular traffic (instead of dedicated bus lanes) as well as looking into a ring road.

While road widening (with no dedicated bus lanes) does provide a brief period of relief from traffic congestion it comes at a high cost and has many negative impacts. These impacts are supported by many professional studies. The approach of road widening and a ring road would seem to be contrary to many aspects of the London Plan.

Induced Demand: It would induce more car travel, leading to increased traffic congestion and pollution, even if the initial goal was to alleviate it.

Urban Sprawl: Easy access by car encourages development in areas further from the city center, further leading to even more urban sprawl and potentially damaging surrounding natural areas.

Car Dependency: Car dependency is reinforced by making it easier to travel by car, potentially discouraging the use of public transportation, walking, or cycling.

Climate Targets & Environmental Impacts: The largest community GHG emission source is car travel. This would increase GHG emissions and effectively remove any hope of meeting London's Climate goals.

Further Loss of Vibrancy of Downtown: At a time when London is spending time and resources trying to revitalize the Downtown, a ring road would contribute to further decline in the vibrancy of traditional areas including the Downtown core.

Increased Infrastructure Costs: The cost of the project itself would be extremely high. It would pull funding away from other projects or further put pressure on tax increases. It would also add to operating costs of additional kilometres of roadway.

Public Health Negative Impacts: Increased car usage leads to negative public health impacts from increased localized air pollution and sedentary lifestyles.

In addition to the negatives of the proposal itself there is an issue of **lack of public input**. The Mobility Master Plan was developed over time with input from many parties including the general public. To simply ignore that entire process and make a drastic change is disrespectful.

The traffic congestion frustrations being expressed by Londoners are real. This was foreseeable after the Wonderland Road widening was paused and no significant measures were immediately taken. The answer was always wait until we examine mobility holistically in the Mobility Master Plan. A multi-modal approach that includes rapid transit, cycling and walking are the logical solutions. Combined with new zoning bylaws and other measures to reduce the number of car trips needed, a multi-modal approach would be a cost effective climate-friendly approach to creating a more liveable City of all. Widening Wonderland Road and creating a ring road is not that.

On Behalf of Climate Action London

Bob Morrison
Mary Ann Hodge