

## **Statement: PS10.02**

**Cabinet – 5 MARCH 2024**

**Re: Agenda item 10 – A4 Portway Strategic Corridor Outline Business Case (OBC)**

**Statement submitted by: Bristol Civic Society, Alan Morris**

### **A4 Portway Strategic Corridor Outline Business Case**

Bristol Civic Society is disappointed by certain aspects of the A4 Portway outline business case (OBC) scheme that is presented to Cabinet for approval.

#### **New Bus Lanes or Improved Pedestrian and Cycling Facilities**

We support the inbound bus lane (which already exists for part of the route) but we are not convinced of the need for an outbound bus lane. The OBC claims bus delays outbound, but the data aggregates Hotwell Road and Portway, and Hotwell Road is worse for congestion. We cannot see the supporting evidence, as data from First Bus has been redacted due to commercial sensitivity.

For pedestrians and cyclists, the main proposal is for a widened shared use path. Our view is that cycle paths, particularly on a major arterial road, should be physically segregated and properly designed to facilitate cycle journeys and reduce pedestrian/cyclist interactions. We are also concerned about reducing pedestrian refuges to 2m when this is the minimum for acceptability and not likely to encourage pedestrians to use these crossing points.

A segregated cycleway would benefit both cyclists and pedestrians. For pedestrians, it would move most of the traffic away from the pedestrian route beside the river, and significantly improve the pedestrian experience. It would give more separation between the pedestrians and the noise and pollution of the motor traffic, giving back a greater sense of the beauty of the gorge as a place.

#### **General**

Apart from a few new trees, the scheme does not include any greening or landscaping scheme; in a world of much hotter temperatures, cyclists and pedestrians would benefit from more trees and greenery along their routes. Hard surfacing seems to be being increased to a greater degree than soft landscaping; adding to the city's heat island.

We note that there is no comment in the OBC about the visual effect of the proposals and whether good quality materials and finish will be used to enhance the walking and cycling experience.