

## **London Cycling Campaign**

**18 March 2016**

### **Tanner Street and Tower Bridge Road**

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/cycling/cycle-improvements-tanner-street>

This response is made on behalf of the London Cycling Campaign, the capital's leading cycling organisation with more than 12,000 members and 40,000 supporters. We welcome the opportunity to comment on these plans and our response was developed with input from the co-chairs of our Infrastructure Review Group and is in support of the response of Southwark Cyclists, our local group.

We welcome the theory of Quietways targeting less confident cyclists who want to use low-traffic routes, while also providing capacity and maximum route choice for existing cyclists. We also welcome the Mayor's vision for Quietways that are direct, designed as whole routes, segregated from motor traffic where they briefly join busy roads and make use of "filtered permeability" that restricts through motor traffic etc.

Sadly, our assessment based on the first routes to reach public consultation is that Quietways thus far fail to fulfil these ambitions to the degree needed to genuinely boost cycling numbers. In these schemes, we again see some minor positives, but the big issues largely not tackled. This scheme is partially welcome, but fails to tackle the biggest issue on the Quietway – through or "ratrun" traffic along it.

In general, the London Cycling Campaign want, as a condition of funding, all highway development designed to London Cycling Design Standards (LCDS), with a Cycling Level of Service (CLOS) rating of 70 or above, with all "Critical Fails" eliminated. On top of that, we wish to raise the following specific issues:

Most importantly, the area of narrow streets around Bermondsey Street desperately needs a reduction in through traffic. This scheme should consider on an area-wide basis how to remove through traffic from Bermondsey Street, Druid Street, Tanner Street etc.

As a lesser option, and at the very least, the one-way directions of the two arms of Tanner Street should be reversed (Tanner Street eastbound west of Tower Bridge Road, and westbound east of Tower Bridge Road), while Leathermarket Street becomes westbound. This potentially could discourage a large amount of the through traffic currently cutting across Bermondsey Street, spoiling the streetscene and ensuring the Quietway will, as currently proposed, be far from quiet.

As currently proposed, the bi-directional track on Tanner Street, while welcome, is too short. It would see eastbound cyclists crossing often heavy and aggressive streams of westbound traffic on the west side of Tower Bridge Road and features no protection on the east side – where it should also feature physical segregation. Semi-segregated or other measures should be run along the length of Tanner Street and Leathermarket Street if most through motor vehicle traffic is not removed.

On top of that, in the current proposals, the right turn pocket on Tower Bridge Road for motor vehicles could further increase westbound traffic flow towards Bermondsey Street.

The current design of the Tanner Street/ Tower Bridge Road junction is problematic in other ways. The protected pocket for cyclists riding north along Tower Bridge Road does not appear to offer those cycling a safe, convenient or comfortable turning movement into the Quietway eastbound – its presumed purpose.

It also is impossible to tell from the drawings, but looks like there may be several lane widths that fall into the 3.2-4m “critical fail” width according to CLoS (including potentially at the pedestrian refuge south of Tanner Street on Tower Bridge Road).

We’d also like to see 20mph speed limits extended further south along Tower Bridge Road and further measures to improve the Tower Bridge Road junctions at Druid Street and Abbey Street, either as part of this scheme or as soon as possible. A right turn for motor vehicles travelling southbound on Tower Bridge Road into Druid Street would also remove much through traffic from the current Tanner Street route – which again, would be welcome.