



**Address to Highways Decision Meeting, 22 June 2023
re Experimental St Clements Bus Lane proposal
Robin Tucker, Co-Chair, CoHSAT**

I apologise that I cannot be present, as I am returning from holiday.

At CoHSAT, we are strong supporters of public transport, and have recently welcomed Oxon4Buses into our Coalition. Public Transport and Active Travel are inseparable as part of sustainable transport solutions.

We support the idea of bus priority measures and this proposal. Whenever you walk along St Clements and see the line of single occupied cars taking up so much space, belching out fumes and creating a culture of inactivity and road danger, it is clear we must do more to shift away from this. A quarter-mile queue of single-occupied cars would fit on one electric bus.

These interventions need to be designed not to disadvantage active travel users, people who walk, wheel and cycle, as described by the user hierarchy in the Highway Code and the Council's unanimously approved LTCP. It makes sense to do this with reference to the number of users and potential users on *or across* a route.

For this proposal, pedestrian crossings should be considered at all points, they are particularly difficult at the Marston Road junction. Cycling on this junction is not good either, an early start would be helpful.

A review of crossings and timings at this junction would be beneficial.

The scheme should be considered temporary as the situation will change significantly when the Strategic Traffic Filters are implemented in Autumn 2024.

CoHSAT member group Cyclox makes a number of other points that we also support.

Oxford's roads have been mired in traffic problems since at least the 1970s, and the current crisis has been recognised since 2015. We have literally run out of road for the private car and public and active transport the only ways to move the people who want to move in the space that we have. The broad strategy set out by the previous administration and being developed and implemented by this one is the only plausible one, and CoHSAT supports it. Actions like this are small positive examples along the way.