

From: [REDACTED]
To: [silvertowntunnel](#)
Subject: Silvertown Crossing Project - Motorcyclist stakeholder perspective
Date: 29 March 2017 13:35:15

Dear Sir,

Thank you for holding the consultation yesterday evening, this was very beneficial for me to see the proposals in place for the silvertown crossing project.

I am writing in regards to the proposed tolling of motorcycles for the Silvertown Tunnel scheme.

I am speaking in a capacity for myself and I believe that if TfL want to charge motorcyclists for using the new tunnel they will need to be providing a benefit.

As it stands I already use the Blackwall tunnel each day. This is as we all know heavily congested but it still only takes me 45 minutes to get to work during peak rush hour. If I was to travel by public transport this would take an hour and a half to 2 hours (if there are delays which is likely on my route). If motorcyclists are going to be charged to use the silvertown crossing I feel strongly that will simply find another route as they will still have to filter to get through the traffic – however less congested it is. This will increase pollution in other areas as it makes a motorcycle journey longer, but that's what motorcyclists will do because the additional cost of the toll is much more compared to current commuting costs on a bike.

So I depend on my bike to make the journey every day.

Using the roads is not cheap to start with – we must pay for fuel, insurance, the cost of the vehicle and also road tax. I pay road tax in the expectation that the roads I ride on are correctly maintained and do not suffer wear and tear (which I as a biker do not contribute to because bikes are so light they don't damage the road and everyone knows that). The Silvertown crossing is just another road that legally I am licenced to ride on and I would be prepared to use it but only without a toll for motorcyclists. The fact is there is no way I could justify paying a toll which would roughly triple the cost of my ride to and from work, which just isn't reasonable. Once it is open there will still be full lanes of cars / vans and HGV's. I will still filter and I will still be not seen by drivers that are not willing to check their mirrors before changing positions. If this levy were to come in I know that the majority of the motorcycling community feel this way and would not use the tunnel as it would not make any difference which route they chose, and we'll find a longer route instead because of the extra cost is such a big factor behind why I'm riding my bike in the first place, and definitely a bigger factor than it is for most car drivers. I know a lot of bikers who don't really enjoy getting wet and cold in the winter but they have to do it because they can't afford the other options. Any toll will just make using the tunnel a non-starter for them. When I was at the meeting in the Intercontinental Hotel in Greenwich on 28 March the people proposing the tunnel said that at certain times it's cheaper to use the tunnel, but that's not useful either because we have to make the trips just like everyone else - at the times our work demands. We can't organise our working hours around the tolls in the tunnel, so I didn't see the point the proposers were making about this as meaningful or helpful to me or most other riders.

The other thing is that I feel that motorcyclists as a key demographic group are being left out

of key consultations and the benefits of motorcycling are completely forgotten about in them. We're actually helping to solve problems for everyone on the road. Motorcyclists help:

- Reduce congestion
- Reduce pollution
- Cheaper to run on fuel
- More fuel efficient
- Saves time on journeys

I thought most of these were things the tunnel is meant to deliver as well, so why charge us when we're helping and not harming the goals of the tunnel? We can't all cycle to work and after walking - this is the second greenest solution and is extremely low in impact compared to that of cars. It is completely unreasonable to ask riders who are already doing their bit to ease congestion within the city to have to pay to use a road that will not greatly benefit them because the extra cost far outweighs the advantages of the new crossing.

Please also remember that we are riders also risking our lives by opting for this wonderful form of transport. Think pot holes / road paint / diesel spills / manhole covers. These can all be fatal hazards to us - not just other drivers! I hope you consider the above points and understand that I welcome regeneration in the city but this project will not directly benefit riders if there's a charge, because that charge will just stop us from using the crossing.

Sincerely,

Darcy de Sade

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