

Dear Sir / Madam

As a representative of the London Licenced Taxi Trade we have some serious concerns over the proposed restrictions on Judd St. Access to Judd Street is vitally important for the taxi trade and its customers due to the many important destinations situated in and around Judd St. As stated by the Mayor and TFL, taxis are part of the sustainable public transport network and are fully wheelchair accessible as well as other features primarily to cater for protected groups. We ferry elderly and disabled passengers across Bloomsbury to various NHS sites including Handel St and Hunter St. Our passengers also include visitors to the RNIB and the Brunswick Estate. No access from Euston Rd into Judd St will mean increased fares and journey times for our customers, especially those within protected groups.

The licenced London Taxi Trade is currently involved in a trial with the London Ambulance Service (LAS) and TFL with taxis carrying defibrillators. In the event of someone suffering a heart attack responding within 5 minutes can reduce deaths by over 50%. Taxis are the ideal form of sustainable public transport to be 1<sup>st</sup> responders with a defibrillator via the Good Sam app. Early indications are very positive and we look forward to the majority of the taxi trade carrying defibrillators. With this in mind access to all roads is essential going forward.

RMT are confused as to why if turning left into Judd St from Euston Road was a cause of accidents why no simple measures were put in place. At minimum the RMT would of expected warning signs or reduce speed signs for both motorists and cyclists alike when approaching the junction. RMT are concerned that no intermediate measures were considered and Camden have gone straight to banning vehicles. We have looked at Strava (cycling & jogging time trial app) and this year alone over 2000 cyclist have pit their wits along this section of Euston Road in a segment called "Euston Rocket Launch". We feel better signage slowing down all road users will help safety, especially pedestrians.

Whilst we would welcome some improvements to this junction banning vehicles will have a negative impact on Local businesses, local residents and the taxis trade. We think that by all parties working together to find a balanced solution to this junction is the answer as at the moment it feels like local authorities (particularly Camden) are hiding behind the Mayor's Transport Strategy whilst throwing rotten eggs at working people and local residents.

Regards

Ray Alleeson

RMT RANKS AND HIGHWAYS OFFICER