

Mayor dithers while Transport for London advises cyclists to avoid Bow roundabout

Today in Mayor's Questions, Boris Johnson refused to admit there are fundamental design problems at Bow roundabout, despite two cyclist deaths there in recent weeks.

His response contrasted strongly with advice from Transport for London director Ben Plowden who said next summer TfL "will be directing people deliberately away from the Bow Roundabout", despite the fact that Cycle Superhighway 2 is the main cycling route between the city centre and the 2012 Olympic Park.

Debbie Dorling, widow of cyclist victim Brian, told LCC today: "The mayor has talked a lot about Bow, but the one thing we haven't heard him say is that he will take complete control of the situation, and do everything in his power to make the roundabout safe for cycling."

Speaking in the London Assembly, the Mayor used the fact that both recent fatalities involved large lorries to sidestep the issue of the flawed Bow junction design, which forces cyclists to share space with heavy volumes of fast-moving motor vehicles, including HGVs.

Instead, the Mayor repeatedly mentioned his record on lorry safety, which has yet to deliver the expected reduction in casualties, and he refused to agree the roundabout must be redesigned.

The Mayor has agreed to meet Mrs Dorling, who has said numerous times that the layout of the roundabout must be changed to protect cyclists.

The Dorling family and work colleagues of her husband from the Olympic site will attend a candlelit vigil organised by local LCC campaigners at Bow roundabout this Friday at 6pm.

Contacts

ASHOK SINHA chief executive, ashok@lcc.org.uk, 020 7234 9310

TOM BOGDANOWICZ campaigns manager, tom@lcc.org.uk, 020 7234 9310

MIKE CAVENETT communications officer, mike@lcc.org.uk, 07939 606359
