

Have your say

Rapid Transit
proposals from
Ashton Vale to
Temple Meads via
Bristol City Centre



We welcome
your **views** and
comments on
any aspect of
the scheme



rapid transit

What is rapid transit ?

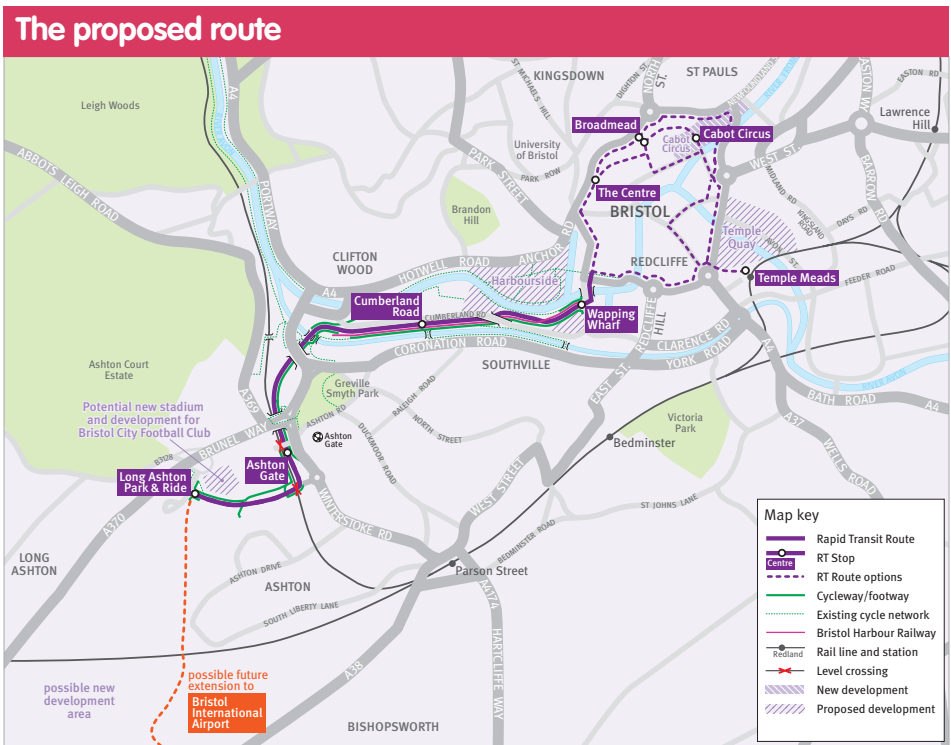
Rapid Transit has been delivered around the world to provide fast, reliable, frequent and comfortable public transport services that present a real transport alternative for many car users.

To achieve this, vehicles have a high level of segregation from other road users and are given priority at traffic signals to help guarantee journey times.

The vehicles and networks have the quality feel of a tram but with lower cost infrastructure, and the flexibility of a bus.

Your Councils are planning a Rapid Transit network to serve the West of England area. As part of this, they are proposing a Rapid Transit route from Ashton Vale to Temple Meads via Bristol City Centre.

“at least £350 million is lost to our economy each year due to time spent in congestion”



Find out more about our rapid transit proposals

The West of England is a prosperous area with an excellent quality of life and a growing national and international profile. The rapid growth that accompanies this prosperity is increasing pressure on infrastructure, particularly provision of transport.

In response your Councils are working together to deliver high quality public transport measures to provide alternatives to the car that are a realistic transport choice for the majority of trips. This will meet the area's growing needs, whilst safeguarding its environmental and economic future.

Rapid transit, as one of these measures, would play a significant role in reducing traffic congestion. It will provide hassle-free journeys that link shopping, work, leisure and district centres.

This leaflet describes our current proposals for the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads rapid transit route. Further consultation on other routes will take place as these proposals are developed.

Rapid transit

A fast, frequent and reliable public transport service which will eventually be a network across the area. The commission of these new services will be an opportunity to identify the most effective operator and the best technologies for rolling stock, fuel and ticketing.

Rapid transit uses modern, accessible, comfortable, low-emission vehicles that combine the high-quality feel of a tram with the flexibility of a bus.

Services will run on traffic-free routes – sometimes on and sometimes off existing roads – and will be given priority over other road users at traffic lights.

Emerging new ticketing and payment technologies will mean tickets can be purchased at stops to speed up passenger boarding; this, with frequent services, will make rapid transit a turn up and go service. User-friendly electronic information displays will state when the next service is due.



Benefits to passengers

- Journey time reliability
- Reduced journey times achieved by rapid transit separation from other traffic and priority over other road users
- Improved ticketing and payment
- Turn up and go service frequencies
- High quality stops and infrastructure
- Modern, environmentally friendly vehicles
- Real time electronic information
- High quality walk and cycle links built-in
- High quality ride and accessible, comfortable system

Rapid transit is a **fast, frequent** and **reliable** public transport service.

What type of rapid transit?

Independent consultants undertook a review of available technology (www.westofengland.org/transport) including Light Weight Tram and Tram-train to ensure the most appropriate transport mode was proposed for this route. Bus-based rapid transit was evaluated as the best solution. It delivers the benefits of other transit technologies but is more flexible, cost effective and can be delivered within the current programme and available funding from Government.

The project will investigate technologies that could replace conventional diesel buses on the core system from Long Ashton Park & Ride to the City Centre. We are committed to exploring the potential range of alternative fuels for the core service, and feeder services would need to meet quality thresholds. These would offer considerable environmental improvements with lower noise levels, fewer greenhouse gas emissions and less harmful local pollutants.

Where is the proposed rapid transit route in this area?

This rapid transit route will run from Ashton Vale to Temple Meads via Bristol City Centre linking:

- Temple Meads Station
- The new development at Temple Quay
- The new-look Cabot Circus
- The Centre
- The Museum of Bristol development at Wapping Wharf
- Spike Island / Cumberland Road
- The potential new stadium for Bristol City FC
- Long Ashton Park & Ride

Route options are currently being evaluated in the city centre to ensure a delay-free route for passengers.

Feeder services

As well as the new rapid transit vehicles, operators meeting quality standards will also be able to run services on the corridor to connect to Weston-Super-Mare, Nailsea and Clevedon. By avoiding congestion, these services would benefit from more reliable and faster journeys.

Walking and cycling

There will be an emphasis on enhancing / providing parallel walking and cycling routes. This will create a high quality dedicated vehicle-free path linking the city centre to the Long Ashton Park & Ride, building upon the Connect2 and Cycling City projects that continue to Nasilea.

What about the environment?

Protecting and enhancing our environment is an important part of the rapid transit scheme:

- Reducing congestion
- Reducing emissions
- Encouraging cycling and walking
- Protecting natural habitats

Work on an Environmental Impact Assessment has already begun. This assessment will ensure all potential impacts from construction and operation of rapid transit are understood and reduced as far as possible.

We hope you will take this opportunity to provide us with your views. Please visit one of our exhibitions to learn more about the proposals. Alternatively, provide us with your views by 1 December 2008.



Your views are valuable and will help us to refine our proposals

Consultation Dates

Your views are valuable and will help us to refine our proposals prior to submitting a funding application to Government early next year.

Exhibitions are being held in early November providing you with the opportunity to discuss and comment on our proposals.

Long Ashton P&R unstaffed displays	Wed 5 until Sat 8 November 2008	
Council House unstaffed displays	Mon 10 until Wed 12 November 2008	
Temple Meads Station staffed	Thursday 13 November 2008	7:30am - 6pm
Long Ashton Village Hall staffed	Thursday 13 November 2008	1pm - 8pm
Broadmead staffed	Saturday 15 November 2008	10am - 6pm
Create Centre unstaffed	Monday 17 November 2008	
Create Centre staffed	Tuesday 18 November 2008	11:30am - 8pm
	Wednesday 19 November 2008	11:30am - 6pm

rapid transit

Rapid transit offers fast, reliable, and comfortable services



To find out more or to comment about Rapid Transit please visit:

www.westofengland.org/transport

Alternatively, you can write to:

(no stamp required)

West of England

Rapid Transit

Freepost (BS 6529)

Bristol, BS1 5BR

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
Council

South Gloucestershire
Council

