

Accessibility Strategy – Consultation Questionnaire Results

Accessibility planning is all about tackling the problems of getting around. Making it easier to get to work, to college to the local health centre or hospital.

Accessibility issues arise for many groups. People without the use of a car, low incomes, people living in isolated areas and those with disabilities. Not meeting these needs can significantly impact on their quality of life.

Accessibility is at the heart of all transport provision. Improved accessibility to public transport is crucial in helping to reduce traffic and the high dependence on car use. In turn this will reduce the impact of congestion, improve air quality and road safety.

This is why accessibility is a key part of the provisional Joint Local Transport Plan and why the general public and stakeholders have been asked to get involved and give us their views and opinions, which have been tabulated below.

Q1) Problems and Needs

Background

We've been talking to individuals, groups and organisations and building partnerships to find out what their needs are and what they think are problems for people getting around.

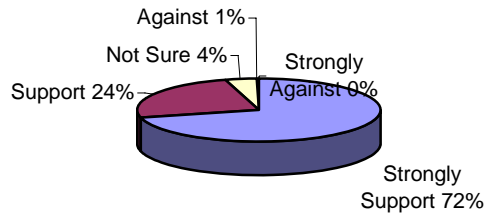
These included; an Accessibility Forum workshop that was set up in November 2004, with health, education and employment sectors and links were formed with existing groups concerned with transport including Pathfinder Groups, Job Centre Plus and Connexions. Strategic level contacts were also established with a range of bodies including Local Strategic Partnerships, 16-19 Transport Partnerships and the Rural Transport Partnership and a Strategy Group set up with representatives from health, secondary and further education, training and employment sectors across the JLTP area.

We came up with five main problems and needs from the above research and these provided the basis for formulating Q1.

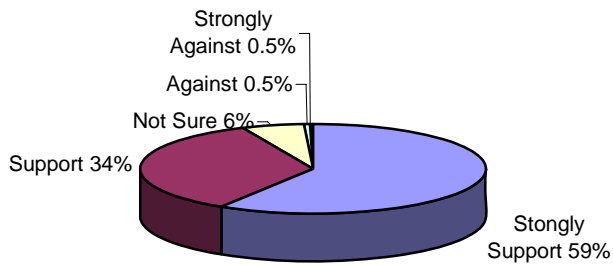
Question

How do you feel about the problems and needs that are emerging from the Accessibility Strategy work? For each issue choose the statement that best describes your views.

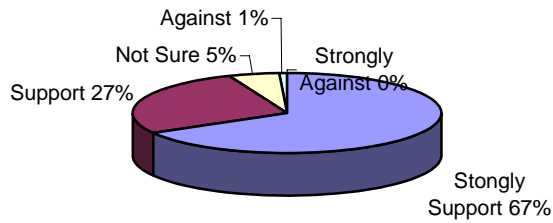
Improve Access to Hospitals and Health Centres for Staff, Patients and Visitors



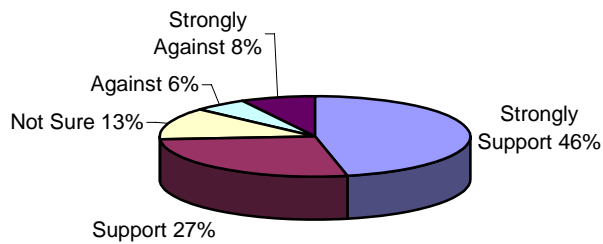
Improve Public Transport Information

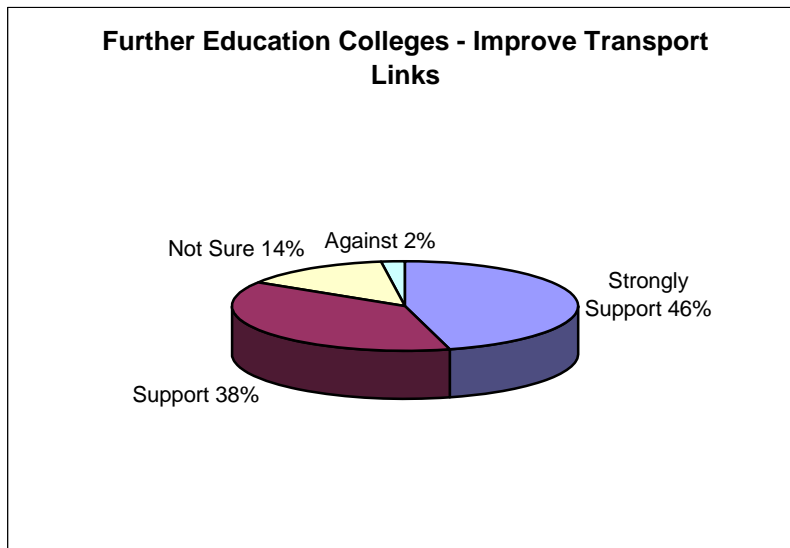


Improve Public Transport to Major Employment Sites



Bristol International Airport - Improve Transport Links





Analysis

The results demonstrate that improvement to hospitals and health centres and major employment sites were by far the most strongly supported. All statements had at least a 70% supporting vote, few people were against the statements, apart from the case of Bristol International Airport transport links where a 14% vote was cast against.

Q2) Objectives and Priorities

Background

Analysing the response from the Problems and Needs (as discussed above), provided us with the necessary information to formulate the three objectives listed below.

Objective 1: Improve accessibility across the Joint Local Transport Plan area by reducing congestion and improving public transport facilities for cycling and walking.

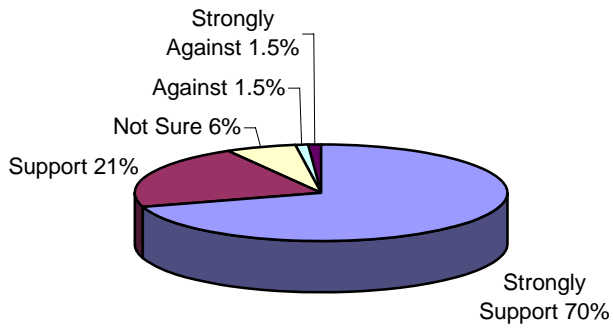
Objective 2: Improve access to key services and facilities, particularly for people who experience mobility constraints. These include health, education and employment.

Objective 3: Extend the operation of accessibility planning and influence the location of all future land use developments and facilities.

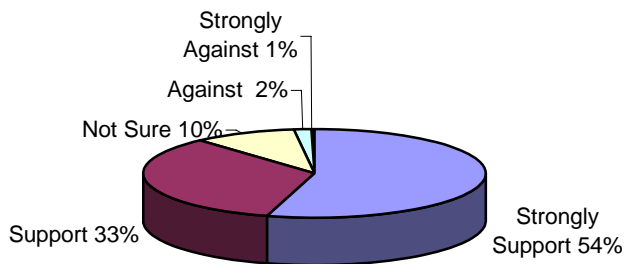
Question

How do you feel about our Objectives and Priorities?

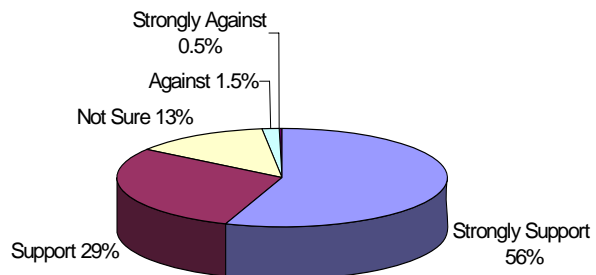
Objective One



Objective Two



Objective Three



Q3) Action Plans – achieving our objectives

Background

Based on the list of problems and issues, objectives and priorities identified above, we drew up a potential list of Action Plans for tackling accessibility. These provided the basis for the question below.

Question

Listed below are some of our ideas for Action Plans. Whilst we need to develop all of them we need to prioritise resources. This section seeks your views. From the list below please select the three that are the most important to you.

Bristol Health Service Plan

Assess the impact on staff, patients and visitors of the Bristol Health Service Plan proposals for developing a number of community hospitals. Identify and implement measures for improving accessibility.

Royal United Hospital, Bath

Improved public transport services to the RUH are needed. Focus on drop off points, better services from Keynsham and Chew Magna and for staff living in North Bristol, particularly out of office hours.

Bristol Royal Infirmary

Identify and implement improvements to public transport and better links to Bristol Royal Infirmary especially from rural areas but also within the site and to the bus station, Bristol Temple Meads and park and ride.

Public Transport Information Improvement Package

Improve quality, format and availability of information especially for people with learning difficulties.

Aztec West, Almondsbury and Eagleswood business parks, Cribbs Causeway and Avonmouth

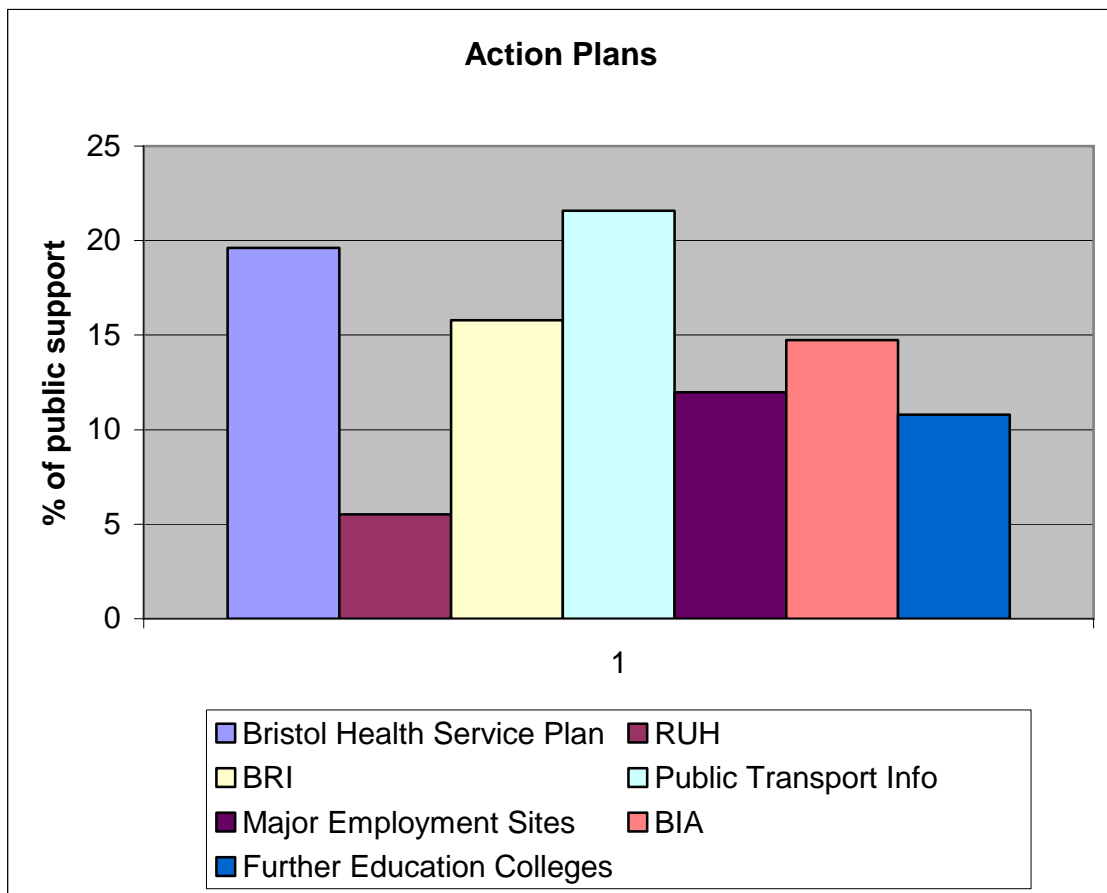
Identify and implement public transport improvements for workers to access major employment sites. Include proposals for shift working and off-peak services.

Bristol International Airport

Identify and implement public transport improvements for passengers and staff to Bristol International Airport. Focus on access from South Bristol and North Somerset villages, shift working and off-peak services and use of demand responsive services.

Further Education Colleges

Consider solutions to improve public transport access from rural areas of Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset to a range of colleges. Investigate timing of bus services to suit course times, flexible bus routes and community transport.



Q4) Challenging Ideas

Background

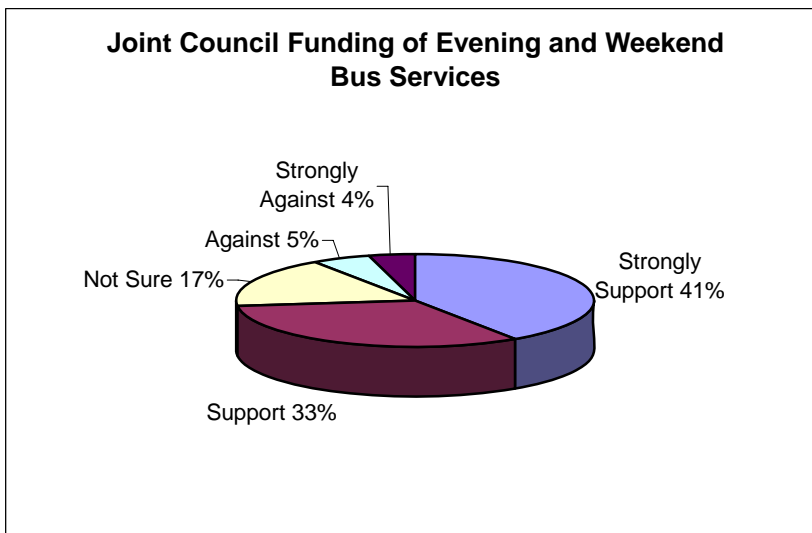
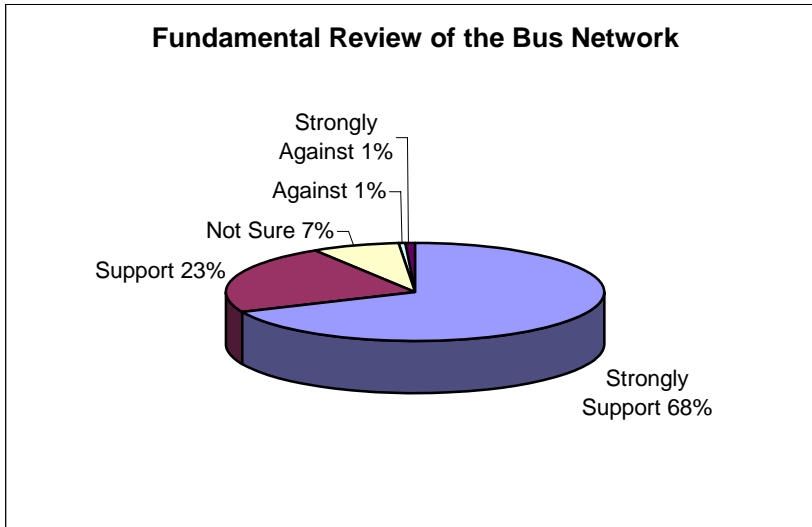
We've set out a wide range of Action Plan proposals for tackling accessibility but are we going far enough? Do we need a more challenging approach, more radical and far reaching ideas? This question provided the opportunity for the general public and stakeholders to make their own suggestions.

Below are some ideas to think about:

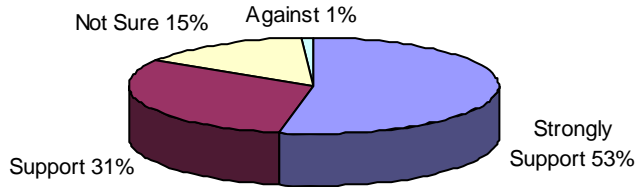
- Fundamental review of the existing bus network. Direct services to best match demand and accessibility needs rather than historical routes.
- Four Councils come together to jointly fund and organise evening and weekend bus services. Avoid duplication of services and link into reviewed bus network as above.
- Unified and simplified ticketing system for buses and trains.
- Linked network of community transport services across the whole of the Joint Local Transport Plan area.

Question

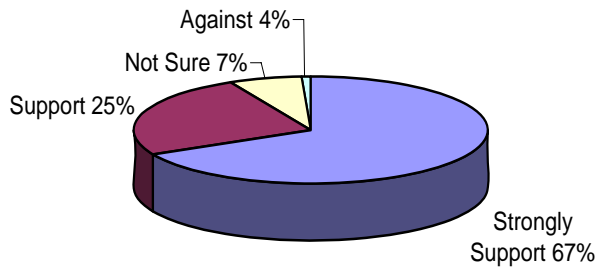
How do you feel about our list of challenging ideas? Please tick only one box for each idea.



Linked Network of Community Transport Services

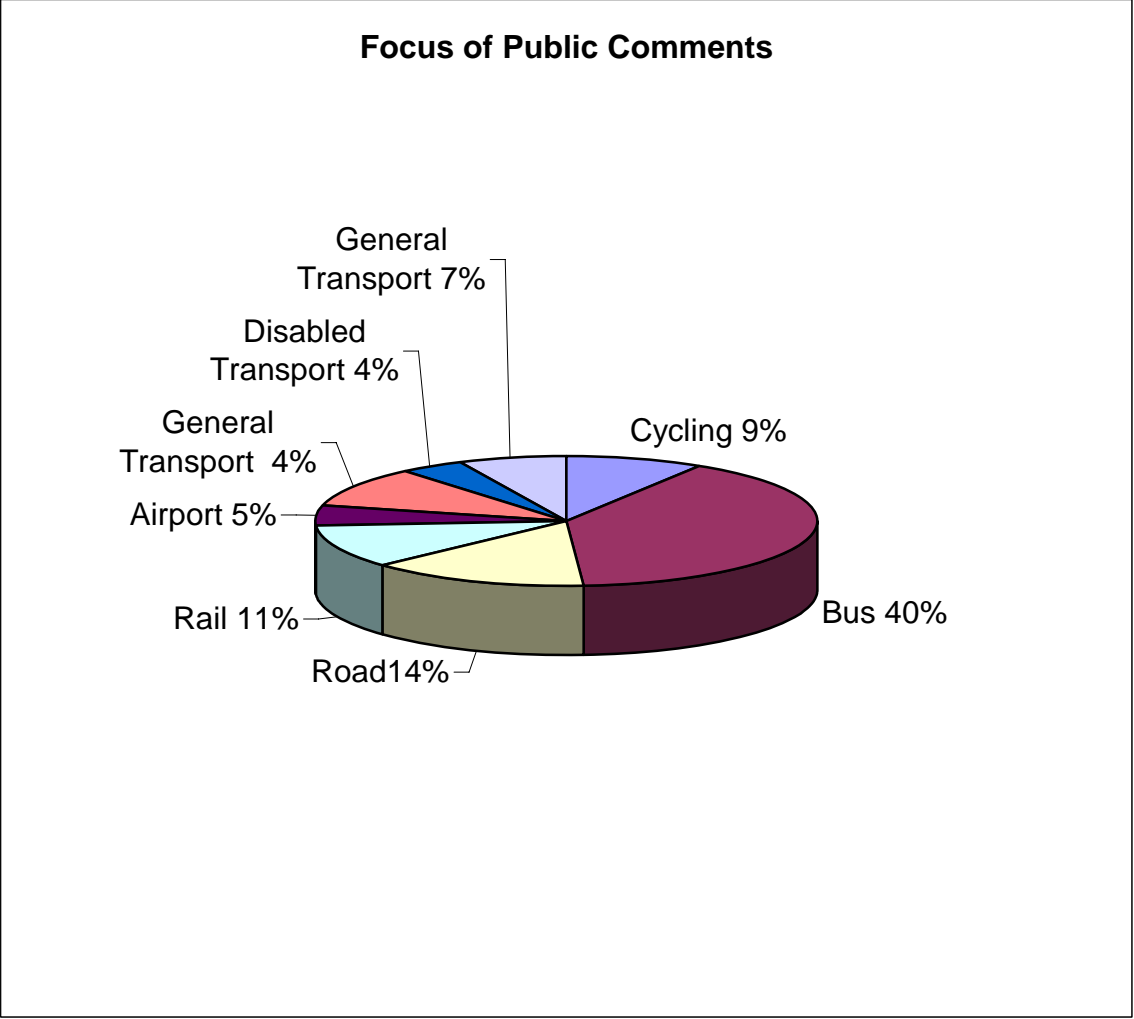


Unified and Simplified Ticketing System for Buses and Trains



Q5) Any Other Comments

For the purpose of the study, all comments from each section have been combined. The pie chart below demonstrates that the main focus of public concern was connected with buses, with road and rail issues not far behind.



To help enhance the above results, the table below highlights the key issues raised by the public.

Cycling Focus
Improve cycle path network
Cycling and walking needs to be a priority in the JLTP
Bus Focus
Provide more evening buses
Improve public transport infrastructure in rural areas
Provide better bus services to and from the hospitals
Bus fares are far too expensive
Provide all weather bus shelters
First bus services are poor providers
Provide cross-country links between Yate and Thornbury
Provide bike racks on buses
Provide better services to Bristol schools
Road Focus
Improve the quality and network of roads

Implement congestion charging
Restrict car access in towns
Promote a reduction in car use
Rail Focus
Improve local train stations and re-open closed stations
Provide a rail link to Portishead
Provide more train services
Provide Light Rapid Transit
Airport Focus
Worried about noise and pollution
Improve transport links to Bristol airport
General Public Transport Issues
Provide a seamless link for all modes of transport
Introduction of travel cards
Disabled Focus
Little consideration for wheelchair users on public transport
Provide a better range of transport solutions for disabled people
General Focus
Environmental / Sustainability concerns

How Consultation has helped shape the Accessibility Strategy

In November 2005 20,000 Accessibility Consultation booklets and questionnaires were distributed across the JLTP area. This informative booklet pulled together work on partnership working, problems and priorities and suggested a list of potential Action Plans. In effect it was the draft Accessibility Strategy but built around a series of key questions and bullet points. “Are there any problems missed?” “Do you agree with our objectives and priorities?” and “Do you agree with our list of Action Plans?” were all questions posed.

Results from this consultation revealed:

- Overwhelming support for improving access to healthcare, major employment sites, Bristol International Airport, Further Education Colleges and for better public transport information;
- 80%+ support/strongly support the three accessibility Objectives;
- Highest priority for the public transport information Action Plan; and
- Action Plans for the Bristol Health Service Plan and Bristol Royal Infirmary 2nd and 3rd priority.