

## Travelling in the West of England

We want to ensure that alternatives to the car are a realistic first choice for the majority of local journeys

Congestion is having a negative impact on how we live and work. If we do nothing it will get even worse.

We need to provide rapid, reliable, frequent and punctual alternative forms of transport to the car, for both long and short journeys, reducing congestion so that traffic can flow again, allowing drivers to go about their business.

We want to ensure that alternatives to the car are a realistic first choice for the majority of trips, both long and short.

We want to offer real travel choices that meet both rural and urban needs for all sectors of the population.

Together the four councils in the West of England (Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire) have developed a series of travel and traffic improvements to:

- Tackle congestion
- Improve road safety for all users
- Improve air quality
- Improve access to job opportunities
- Help us get to work and school efficiently
- Strengthen the local economy
- Improve our quality of life

### Next steps

This will all take time to happen, but we already have £70 million to invest in improving the areas bus network, and £54 million on a package of transport improvements in Bath. Further funding has been earmark to support six more schemes., plus there is the £22 million Cycle City funding for Greater Bristol.

Some of the plans are at a very early stage; others are progressing to the detail design stage; and some, like the bus network improvements, have already started.

Keep your eye on the local press for more information about travel over the next few months and years.

At least **£350 million** a year is lost to our economy each year due to time spent in congested traffic. This is expected to rise to almost **£600 million** by 2016.



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## Our Vision

We have already made positive progress in bringing forward major transport schemes over the next ten years.

The four councils of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire realised they had to do something to get the area moving again, and to keep it moving for future generations. Together they developed a vision for our future transport aiming to

- tackle congestion
- improve road safety for all road users
- improve air quality
- improve access to job opportunities
- help us get to work and school efficiently
- improve our quality of life

We have already made positive progress in bringing forward major transport schemes over the next ten years. Eight schemes in the West of England area, costing over £350 million, have been identified as priorities across the South West region.

**Bus network improvements** work is in progress on a package of bus priority and other improvements on ten sub regional corridors benefiting over 70 services.

### The Bath Package

a range of measures aimed at improving alternatives to the car by providing a modern, integrated and easy-to-use public transport system.

### The Weston Package

a range of measures aimed at supporting sustainable development in the town and immediate area.

### Rapid Transit routes

featuring segregated sections on parts of the route to provide rapid, reliable and frequent journey times.

### The South Bristol Link Phases 1 and 2

improved orbital access in South Bristol and to Bristol International Airport, to support regeneration and deal with traffic growth.

### Callington Road Link

reducing traffic queues and improving journey times along the A4 for both buses and cars, and improving access to enhance regeneration and development opportunities in South Bristol.

These schemes, together with the broad range of improvements including supporting walking and cycling, local safety schemes and measures to improve the efficiency of the transport network as outlined in the Joint Local Transport Plan, represent positive progress.



Eight schemes in the West of England area, costing over **£350 million**, have been identified as priorities across the South West region.

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## Improving your local bus services

Buses will have priority over other road users resulting in faster and more reliable bus journeys

The Greater Bristol Bus Network will bring improvements to the local bus network on the area's most congested roads, resulting in shorter travelling times and a more accessible and reliable public transport system.

The improvements will complement existing 'showcase' bus routes on the A38 and A420, and proposed bus network improvements in Bath and Weston-super-Mare.

£70m, received from the Department for Transport, First and local developers, will be spent on enhancements to benefit bus users, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

### Improvements will include:

- | Service punctuality and reliability
- | Links with rail, coach, and park and ride services
- | Safety and comfort
- | Accessibility for all
- | Passenger information
- | Better maintained bus stops
- | Road layouts for buses which will also benefit cyclists and pedestrians
- | New bus priority measures, such as bus lanes, and intelligent traffic lights that extend a green light or quickly turn a red light to green when a late-running bus is approaching
- | New bus shelters with raised kerbs, improved lighting and seating
- | New low-floor, low-emission buses
- | New bus information displays that tell passengers when the next bus will arrive.

The construction works will cause some local delays. The authorities responsible for the works will do their best to keep traffic moving and will be liaising with those affected by the works before they start.

This process has already started and regular updates will be published to keep people informed of progress.



**Bus information** displays will tell you when your next bus will arrive.

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## Bath Transportation Package

The package contains measures to increase Park & Ride capacity, enhance public transport and improve pedestrian and cyclist access

The Bath Transportation Package was given approval in 2007 at £54 million to make travel throughout Bath easier.

It contains measures to increase Park & Ride capacity, enhance existing public transport facilities and improve pedestrian and cyclist access into and around the City.

The Bath Package aligns with housing and employment projections and is designed to tackle congestion, both in the immediate and long term future.

Bath & North East Somerset Council intends to submit planning applications in late 2008 and the scheme will be funded by a grant from Government with contributions from the private sector once all statutory approvals and tenders are in place.

The Bath Transportation Package includes:

- | Creation of a new Park & Ride (P&R) to the east of the City
- | Expansion of three operating Park & Ride sites
- | A Bus Rapid Transit route linking the P&R to the west of the City and the new P&R in the east, via the City centre
- | Improvements to 10 local bus routes, including real-time signage and bus shelters
- | Traffic restrictions during peak hours in some areas of the City centre
- | Enhanced pedestrian and cyclist access
- | Improved traffic signage on major routes into the City

The Council is currently consulting widely on various elements of the scheme and will submit four separate planning applications later this year which include comprehensive environmental impact assessments. If approved, the Bath Package will be delivered within a five year period.



The **Bath package** is designed to make travel throughout Bath easier

For general enquiries about this project please:

**Call:** Bath & North East Somerset Strategic Transport Project Team on 01225 394129

**Visit:** [www.bathnes.gov.uk/bathpackage](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bathpackage)

## The Weston Package Phase 1

Congestion in the Bristol area is already a problem with the UK's lowest average car speed — just 15mph.

North Somerset Council is bidding for £20 million worth of government funding for transport improvements that will make movement in, around and out of Weston-super-Mare easier for residents and visitors.

If successful, the money will fund much needed transport improvements and lead to increased investment from businesses and more local jobs.

The package of works include:

- improvements to M5 junction 21 to reduce queuing off the motorway
- building a link road to the airfield development site between the A371 and Winterstoke Road
- a new bridge over the railway line to help buses and other traffic get to the town centre from the new airfield development
- a park and ride site serving the town centre

- improvements to the A370, including widening Marchfields Way to allow two-way traffic
- better facilities at Worle Station including a new car park on the south side, bus stops on both sides, extended and/or new bus services to the station, improved cycle and motorcycle facilities and improved passenger facilities.

### Next Steps

This is a long and complicated process, but we are quite hopeful of success.

Our first bid will be made early in 2009 and we are then likely to be asked many questions by the Department for Transport.

If we pass the first stage, we then have to make sure we have the land, get planning permissions and so on and then resubmit our bid – probably during 2010.

The government could then grant us conditional approval allowing us to confirm costs by issuing tenders for the construction work.

These firm costs then have to go to back for full approval. And, if all goes well, we expect construction work to start in 2011.



The Weston Package is a **£20 million package** of transport improvements in the town.

For general enquiries about this project please:

**Call:** North Somerset transport team on 01934 426 920

**Visit:** [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/transport](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/transport)

## Rapid transit

Hassle free journeys linking shopping, work and residential and leisure areas

Congestion is having a negative impact on how we live and work – and with a rise in the number of people living in the area expected, if we do nothing it will get even worse.

As part of a package of travel improvements the West of England councils are looking at a rapid transit system.

Rapid transit is a form of public transport completely new to the area that is designed to offer a real alternative to the car for longer distance journeys that are not always practical for cycling or walking.

There will be fewer stops and off board ticketing will mean you buy your ticket before your journey, reducing delays. There will be more rapid transit vehicles on a route to cope with demand – possibly one every 5 minutes during peak commuting times.

The vehicles will provide a high quality ride with level boarding for easy access. New routes built for the rapid transit network will have high quality cycle and pedestrian walkways alongside.

### Benefits

- Rapid, reliable and frequent
- Modern, accessible, high quality, low emission vehicles
- High quality cycle and pedestrian routes as part of any new routes
- Off board ticketing, reducing delays
- Segregated from other traffic where possible, helping reliability
- High quality infrastructure and stops
- Real time journey information

### Next steps

The first rapid transit line is being planned in Bath from Newbridge Park& Ride in the west, into and out of the city centre to the new Park and Ride to the east.

The second route, with a journey time of about 15 minutes, is proposed to run from Ashton Vale into Bristol City Centre and on to Temple Meads. Other longer distance routes are at an early design stage including to Hengrove, Emerson's Green and the north fringe of Bristol.



**Rapid transit** off board ticketing means you can buy your ticket before your journey and get on to the vehicles more quickly.

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## Better links in southwest Bristol

Changes are needed to deal with existing congestion and cope with expected growth in the area

As part of the package of travel improvements we are looking at ways of improving travel movement in and around southwest Bristol. Changes are needed to deal with existing congestion and cope with expected growth in the area.

The South Bristol Link project is considering both road and public transport options to connect the Long Ashton bypass with Hartcliffe roundabout.

There are two parts to the project; the first is to link Long Ashton bypass with the A38, and the second links the A38 with Hartcliffe roundabout.

At this early stage of the project we are still examining a number of alternative routes and different combinations of road and public transport and are taking into account how any link would affect communities on the routes and any wildlife that may be disturbed.



In order to qualify for government funding we have to show the potential costs and likely benefits in economic as well as social terms.

### A new South Bristol link would

- Reduce congestion, cutting journey times and making them more reliable
- Improve access to jobs and other facilities for residents of southwest Bristol, including the new development at Hengrove Park
- Help the regeneration of south Bristol
- Cut the 'rat running' on unsuitable local roads
- Provide links for residents and business in the new development expected in the area.

### Next Steps

Various options are being considered and the pros and cons of each option investigated and costed.

Once we have some firmer ideas we will be holding exhibitions and asking for feedback from local residents.

These ideas will then be investigated further and more concrete proposals drawn up before any decision is made.



Improve access to **jobs, schools** and **new leisure facilities**  
Help regenerate south Bristol

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## Callington Road Link

The new link will reduce congestion and provide an improved cycle and pedestrian route to the city centre

The A4 Bath Road through Brislington suffers from heavy congestion as a result of traffic on the A4 merging with South Bristol traffic using the A4174 Airport Road and Callington Road.

The Bristol Local Plan has a safeguarded link from the 'Tesco' roundabout northwards along a disused railway line towards St Philips Causeway at Arno's Vale – about a mile long.

### This link will

- Tackle congestion reducing traffic queues and delays in the area
- Help improve air quality
- Improve journey times along the A4 for buses and cars
- Improve road safety
- Help us get to work and school more efficiently
- Provide an improved cycle route to the city centre

### Next steps

We are currently investigating possible options including public transport, a road, a cycle route and improvements to nearby junctions.

We need to assess engineering options, environmental and other impacts before we know what is feasible. We will then be seeking views on our proposals.

We expect to put in a bid for funding to government in 2010. And, if successful, construction could start in 2013.



**Tackling congestion**  
and delays and improving air quality and safety

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## Our Future Transport

Congestion in the area is already a problem with the one of UK's lowest average car speed of just 15mph

There are eight schemes helping to tackle congestion in the West of England area, including

- bus network improvements
- a package of measures in Bath and Weston-super-Mare
- rapid transit routes
- links in south Bristol

Together, these schemes costing over £350 million, have been identified as priorities across the whole South West region to get the region moving again and keep it moving for future generations

Even with this increased level of investment in transport there is still a gap between what we can do through existing funding sources and the 20 year transport vision for the area as outlined in the Joint Local Transport Plan and "Our Future Transport".

One way we could close this funding gap is via an application to the Government's Transport Innovation Fund (TIF).

This provides a potential funding source for an extensive congestion reduction package of transport improvements linked to road pricing including

- bus rapid transit routes
- new and expanded Park & Ride
- new and improved bus and rail services
- new highway schemes, and
- measures to support walking and cycling

Thanks to development funding from the Department for Transport, the West of England authorities are investigating whether a TIF package of realistic and deliverable transport measures can be identified which provide congestion reduction and support the area's wider transport objectives.

Any bid will need to be approved by Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils and would involve an extensive period of public and stakeholder engagement and consultation.



At least **£350 million** a year is lost to our economy each year due to time spent in congested traffic. This is expected to rise to almost **£600 million** by 2016.

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## The West of England Partnership

Our vision is of several schemes that depend on each other in order to make the whole a success - remove one part and the whole becomes less effective.

The West of England is a prosperous area with an excellent quality of life and a growing national and international profile. However, rapid growth means that the area faces increasing pressure on its infrastructure, and it is still the case that there are too many neighbourhoods which do not share in this prosperity.

The West of England Partnership was formed in response to these opportunities and challenges. It consists of four unitary authorities - Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire - and a range of social, economic and environmental partners working together for the future well-being of the area.

The partnership is driving forward action to sustain prosperity and quality of life and to enhance the confidence of public and private investors.

Particular attention is being given to transport, planning, waste, appropriate housing supply, economic competitiveness and inclusion, and culture, leisure and tourism.

### The West of England has bright future.

Our strong economy is set to continue to grow bringing more opportunities and more jobs. This prosperity is good news but it has led to greater car ownership, which means greater demands on our roads.

We need to think now about how to manage the growing problem of traffic congestion to ensure that our economy, our quality of life and our environment are protected for the future.

We want to ensure that alternatives to the car are a realistic first choice for the majority of trips.

We want to offer public transport options that are

- real travel choices
- rapid, reliable, frequent and punctual
- affordable, safe and secure,
- simple to use
- available to all
- meeting the needs of both rural and urban population.



Our strong economy is set to continue to grow bringing **more opportunities** and more **jobs**.

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