

A PLAN FOR GOOD TRANSPORT IN BRISTOL



Improve Bristol's public transport network



Establish a well connected and safe walking and cycling network



Increase use of low emission vehicles



Support children in travelling more actively and sustainably



Make sustainable transport an easy and enjoyable choice for everyone



Reduce the number of heavy vehicles on our roads



Create flexible and sustainable travel options for employees



Work with communities to improve residential streets



Create a 'living heart' for Bristol

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BRISTOL
2015 EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL



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A VISION...

Imagine a city where everyone, no matter who they are, can get around easily. A city where it is enjoyable, easy, convenient and affordable for everyone to get from A to B and where the transport network is simple to use, well connected and reliable.

Imagine a city with inspiring and vibrant public spaces, which help communities across the city to come alive and thrive; where different modes of transport work together to create an environment that's good for us and good for the city, free from congestion, as well as air and noise pollution.

A city where it's normal for everyone to travel more sustainably every day, and the culture of sustainable travel is celebrated.

We believe that this can become a reality for Bristol, with inspiring projects already happening across the city and the potential for so much more to happen: making Bristol the best place to live, work, visit and invest.

A PLAN FOR GOOD TRANSPORT

Who is this booklet for?

- Everyone – we all rely on the transport system to live our lives, and we all have a role to play in helping to deliver the vision of a more sustainable and resilient transport system in Bristol in our own way.

How did the Good Transport Plan originate?

- The plan originated from discussions within the Bristol Green Capital Partnership with members of the Transport Action Group who want to create a positive dialogue around transport in our city and create a vision of an integrated and sustainable transport network that can be shared by all.
- We were inspired by the Good Food Plan for Bristol produced by the Bristol Food Policy Council and have closely followed their model of a positive and inclusive vision for partnership action.
- Consultations with local and national organisations, businesses and communities have been made possible with funding from Bristol 2015 and will help to shape the objectives of the Good Transport Plan.

What is its objective?

- To inspire everyone to see the promise and potential in Bristol's transport future.
- To help create change in our transport system and culture by outlining proposals and aspirations that can transform our streets and make travel in Bristol more enjoyable and accessible for all.
- To call to action groups and individuals across the city to make this vision a reality, by providing innovative ideas and tangible solutions for change at every level.

CONTENTS

THE CURRENT TRANSPORT LANDSCAPE	Page 5
MAKING THE CHANGE	Page 7
A GOOD TRANSPORT PLAN FOR A CITY	Page 9
WHAT WE COULD ACHIEVE TOGETHER	Page 18

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TRANSPORT TODAY

Bristol's transport network is vitally important, getting us to the places we need to access for education, jobs and leisure. But congestion, as well as air and noise pollution, have become serious issues in the last few decades. We need to address these issues urgently to protect the health of Bristol's people, environment and economy.

Many of our streets have become unhealthy places where air pollution is damaging health, contributing to around 200 premature deaths each year across the city. Meanwhile, communities are divided by busy roads that provide little space for those that live and work there, creating inhospitable places that don't foster community interaction.

People walking and cycling can feel unsafe sharing space with other vehicles and accidents happening across the city create a perception of danger when travelling on foot or by bike.

Economically, congestion costs Bristol around £600 million a year by stopping goods, employees and people getting where they need to be on time.

With 90,000 new homes planned for West of England, an estimated population increase of 22% by 2031, and almost 70,000 new jobs across the West of England Enterprise Areas in the pipeline, new strains will also be put on the existing transport network in and out of Bristol.

BUILDING A BETTER BRISTOL

Bristol's transport systems are already changing through a number of major transport projects, which are intended to help create a better city for everyone...

MetroWest

A 30-minute metro style rail service making the most of existing rail infrastructure across the West of England, making stations transport interchanges and reopening lines to Portishead and Henbury.

Rail electrification

Across the Great Western railway route Network Rail is electrifying the line to make journeys more reliable, greener and quieter for thousands of passengers.

MetroBus

A £200 million investment in a new generation of rapid transit buses to improve journey times across the Greater Bristol area. Three new interconnected routes will be built in the Greater Bristol area.

Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone

A 25-year ambition to regenerate the area to create a new entry to Bristol and a hub for business and development. Improvements to the Temple Gate area will create more direct layouts for those walking, cycling and driving, along with better public transport facilities as well as a public square.

Cycling Ambition Fund

Knitting together infrastructure to form whole sections of a strategic, long term network in the Bristol and Bath urban area, the Cycling Ambition Fund is building new links to South Bristol and across the city, linking communities with key employment and retail sites.

Source Bristol

In a pilot project, Bristol City Council has launched a network of charging points for electric vehicles in public car parks, providing free electricity to vehicles and helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the city.

Legible City

Changes to the Old Market roundabout and the Bearpit are just some of the improvements planned for walking routes across Bristol. City ID is working to create an integrated network of wayfinding signs, helping people get from A to B and switch easily between walking, cycling and public transport.

20mph

Being rolled out in neighbourhoods across the city, these reduce traffic speeds make neighbourhoods and local high streets safer for local people walking and cycling and give the streets back to the residents.

Resident Parking Zones

These ensure that those who need access to the limited space on local streets are given priority, whilst also reducing congestion and pollution with the decline of commuter traffic within residential areas.

JOINING THE DOTS

INTRODUCING THE GOOD TRANSPORT PLAN

The Good Transport Plan will showcase the work that is already happening in Bristol and build on this to create a vision of a sustainable travel culture that puts the city and its people at its heart.

This plan will be inspired by people, organisations, communities and businesses across the city that have all voiced their priorities for Bristol's sustainable transport future.

By no means a definitive list, the Good Transport Plan is a simple tool that gives some clear and agreed aims and will help us to plan and implement real change together, by connecting up and building on existing work and acting as a stepping stone for developing new initiatives.

It identifies nine themes that Bristol needs to continue to address in order to create a more sustainable transport system. This can be done on every level from the individual on the street to strategic planning at the city scale.

These nine themes form the basis of the Good Transport Plan.

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY

The purpose of the Good Transport Plan is to enable everyone to examine how they can help to create a more sustainable and resilient transport system through changes, big or small.

The scope of this plan is ambitious and the benefits of the plan would be significant, far-reaching and create a more sustainable city for future generations.

We don't need to start from scratch. Innovative and exciting projects across the city are already in motion and helping to build a better Bristol. But no single individual, group, community or organisation can achieve this vision on their own. The Good Transport Plan aims to create a shared ambition that supports partnership working, with commitment and participation from everyone at every level who wants to see this shared vision become a reality.

Groups, individuals and organisations can all help to implement this plan, as well as use it as platform to discover areas of our transport system that can become even better.

The Good Transport Plan gives everyone a chance to contribute to the debate on the future of transport in Bristol, whether you're a champion of sustainable travel or concerned about the changes that are planned for our city.

IMPROVE BRISTOL'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

Bristol needs a public transport network that is more widespread, reliable, convenient and attractive to use to enable us to make the shift from the lowest passenger numbers in major English cities to a system that is widely used for every day journeys.

Major investment in public transport, including the MetroWest and MetroBus developments and rail electrification is intended to shorten journey times, reopen key railway stations and link previously disconnected places to the rest of the city.

Fare reductions have made buses affordable for more people. Flexible ticketing options are increasingly available across providers, including mobile and online payments that help to speed up boarding and get passengers to their destinations on time.

Improvements in reliability can be achieved by restructuring roads to include more space for public transport, including greater continuity of bus lanes and priority at junctions. More flexible integrated ticketing options can support seamless journeys across all transport types and providers. Well lit stops and stations and improved interchanges can provide facilities that make integrated journeys between bus, train and bike a reality, supported by enhanced coordination of services. Finally, existing transport corridors can be used to their maximum potential, from reopening of stations to the establishment of more park and ride services, making public transport more accessible to everyone.

FACT

If just 1 of every 25 car trips were switched to bus, then within 3 years the government carbon emissions reduction target would be exceeded by 50%.

Objective #1

Create a flexible and reliable public transport system that is integrated, simple to use and gets you from A to B on time

Objective #2
Work
towards a
comprehensive
and connected
walking and
cycling
network,
making door-to
door-journeys
a reality

ESTABLISH A WELL CONNECTED WALKING AND CYCLING NETWORK

Bristol has a number of well-established walking and cycling routes across the city. We want to make sure that these routes form an integrated network, making door-to-door journeys by foot or by bike simpler and shifting people's perceptions around the safety of walking and cycling.

Across Bristol, new walking and cycle routes are being developed to help connect our existing network. Projects like the Cycling Ambition Fund and Temple Greenways will create safer and more direct routes, connecting communities to key destinations and making walking and cycling an easy and pleasant experience.

Clear and simple wayfinding signs are being updated across the city, helping people to connect up journeys and find their route with ease.

To help more people walk and cycle, we want to improve the continuity of routes so that people of all ages can link up the different stages of their journeys and feel safe throughout. Journeys can be improved with clear, protected routes across junctions, good lighting at night, shorter waiting times at traffic lights and level surfaces at crossings. Maintaining high quality, level pavements that are clear of obstacles makes walking a more pleasurable option for everyone.

Work, school and leisure destinations can also improve accessibility and have clear foot, bike and wheelchair access points up front and centre.

FACT

Bristol has the highest combined levels of walking and cycling to work of any local authority in England and Wales

INCREASE THE USE OF LOW EMISSION VEHICLES

Every weekday, half a million vehicles cross into and out of Bristol's city centre. Our roads are already used to their full capacity and will come under increasing pressure as the city's population and workforce grows. Emissions from vehicles form a serious problem both through their contribution to carbon in the global atmosphere and locally through their contribution to air pollution. We need to ensure that low emission technologies become the norm for motorised vehicles within the city.

Transport companies are already taking steps to introduce more low emission vehicles. Our number 2 bus route now features the "poo bus" powered by bio-methane from human waste, which reduces individual vehicle emissions by 30%. Electric charging points have been established in car parks and other key locations, which make the use of electric cars easy and cheap.

Capitalising on these new technologies will help to make Bristol become a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable city. More refuelling points for low carbon vehicles can help to extend their use across the city by making them quicker, easier and more commercially viable.

Everyone can play a role in reducing emissions, from individuals using personal cars and car clubs, to businesses adopting low emission vehicles and practices in their fleet management, and transport companies making the shift to cleaner technologies which improve our air quality.

FACT

Public Health England estimate that long term exposure to air pollution is responsible for around 200 deaths in Bristol each year

Up to 70% of air pollution comes from transport and in particular diesel vehicles

Objective #3
Increase the proportion of low emission buses, cars and lorries on our roads and establish accessible charging points across the city

REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HEAVY VEHICLES ON OUR ROADS

Consolidating freight into fewer heavy goods vehicles can help to reduce congestion and make our roads safer, whilst also reducing CO₂ emissions and improving business stock flows and profits. Improvements in the design of heavy vehicles can also help to reduce their impacts and improve on road safety for more vulnerable road users travelling on foot and by bike.

Bristol has a freight consolidation centre in Avonmouth, which is increasingly being used to reduce the number of heavy goods vehicles on our roads, combining deliveries so that more sites can be serviced on one trip. Other developments, including the use of local bicycle couriers rather than traditional postal services have reduced the number of heavy vehicles, congestion, noise and air pollution.

More businesses can take part in the use of consolidation centres, helping to reduce noise and air pollution, whilst also reducing traffic. 'Out of hours' deliveries can further ensure that heavy vehicles don't enter the city during peak traffic time. Alternatives, such as bike couriers and postal services, can be utilised by local businesses for deliveries.

Companies operating heavy goods vehicle can sign up to regulatory bodies to ensure their vehicles are safe for use with more vulnerable road users. Drivers can receive cycle awareness training so that they can understand the vulnerability of those cycling on the roads, creating safer streets and giving people the confidence to explore more of the city on foot and by bike.

FACT

Consolidation centres can reduce the number of vehicles on our streets by up to 75%, saving 10 tonnes of CO₂ every year.

Objective #4
Continue
improving the
coordination
and
consolidation
of freight to
reduce the
number of
heavy vehicles
on our roads
improving
safety for all
road users

CREATE A 'LIVING HEART' FOR BRISTOL

Bristol is consistently ranked among the most liveable cities in the UK, thanks to the high quality of our urban environment and culture. Designing streets for people works both socially and economically. Customers that can reach shops on foot and by bike are more likely to visit and return, whilst shops and businesses benefit from the flexibility and attractiveness of their surrounding area.

The opening of spaces like Queen Square and College Green, which are now Bristol landmarks, have already improved the city centre and created high quality public places for people to gather and enjoy. In the Old City around Corn Street and St Nicholas Market, decreasing traffic volumes has created spaces that prioritise walking and cycling and enable local businesses to thrive. Events like *Park on Park Street* and *Keep Sunday Special* enable people to see the potential of the city's streets.

The Council's policy is to further reduce traffic in the Old City to improve the public realm and enhance important pedestrian routes. Streets and spaces throughout the city centre can be green and attractive, designed to meet the needs of people using them, rather than primarily as transport corridors. These streets can be the beating heart of Bristol where people work, meet, shop, play and celebrate.

Central locations in neighbourhoods can also be developed as destinations, helping businesses and communities to thrive. Public space can be used flexibly by cafés, restaurants and shops, producing increased foot and bike access that helps to improve their profits and Bristol's economy.

FACT

Creating public spaces that put those walking and cycling first can boost the economy, with cities across the globe finding that these people spend the most money in shops, cafes and bars.

Objective #5
Reduce
through-traffic
in the city
centre to
create a high
quality people-
centred
environment

Objective #6
Work with
communities to
help redesign
residential
spaces that
work for
everyone

WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE RESIDENTIAL STREETS

Our streets are the largest areas of community space in our cities, often making up around 80% of our shared public space. The quality of those streets has a significant impact on community life, with more interaction between residents and better social connections on streets with light traffic. Working with communities to create positive changes on their streets can help to establish a sense of community and ownership, whilst creating safer road conditions and outdoor spaces that can be enjoyed by all.

The City Council is working closely with Neighbourhood Partnerships across the city to help redesign residential spaces, using tools such as www.trafficchoices.co.uk to give communities ideas and creative solutions to improve their neighbourhood. Across the city, 20mph speed limits and residential parking zones have been implemented to help create safer, more social environments for residents.

Projects throughout Bristol are working with residents to help them improve their streets. Green Capital funding is enabling Sustrans to work with 15 local neighbourhoods to create “Street Pockets” of community space and give local leaders training to help them reclaim their streets for community use.

Community led design processes provide opportunities for residents to engage in shaping the streets they want to see. Reclaiming street space for community use can create better places to live for everyone. Neighbourhood road networks can be redesigned to reduce rat running and through traffic in residential areas and promote safer speeds.

FACT

Sustrans’ DIY Streets project in the London Borough of Haringey led to a 23% increase in traffic travelling 20mph or less and a 34% increase in residents who felt the street is a place to socialise.

CREATE FLEXIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES

Objective #7

Give employees the flexibility and facilities to work from home or travel more sustainably

Bristol's businesses can make a strong contribution to improving our city and its streets by enabling employees to travel more sustainably. Businesses are already moving in this direction, with many establishing flexible working hours and providing facilities such as cycle parking and changing rooms. In turn, business benefit from an increasingly healthy workforce and attractive working environment.

Across the region, employers are supported by Travel West to help their employees travel more sustainably. Organisations across Bristol's North Fringe have worked together with North Bristol Suscom to reduce congestion by promoting sustainable commuting options to 40,000 employees.

We can go further to support employers' efforts to make sustainable travel a real option for today's workforce. Workplaces can offer flexible working arrangements, such as home working and flexible start and finish times that give employees the option to avoid the daily commute at peak hours.

Workplaces can promote the benefits of more active and sustainable travel by organising walking meetings, cycle training and offering incentives to those who make more sustainable trips, helping to establish a culture of more active and sustainable travel in the workplace.

Establishing effective car clubs, car sharing and fleet management schemes can reduce parking pressures on businesses, whilst facilities like secure cycle parking and showers and subsidised public transport can make these options a simple and convenient choice for the everyday commute.

FACT

Those who walk and cycle to work benefit the local economy by over £38 million, as they have on average 1.3 fewer days off a year.

SUPPORT CHILDREN IN TRAVELLING MORE ACTIVELY AND SUSTAINABLY

Our vision for Bristol is a city where every child is able to travel safely to school on foot, bike or scooter and play outdoors where they live. Outdoor play and active travel to school are some of the simplest ways for children to build physical activity into their everyday lives, with enormous benefits for their physical and mental health and their educational performance.

Schools across Bristol are supporting children and parents to travel actively, with projects giving them the information and tools they need for children and Bikeability sessions to ensure that children can cycle with confidence. Urban neighbourhoods such as the Dings have been redesigned to encourage outdoor play, and organisations like Playing Out have been working across residential areas to create safe places for children to play outdoors, making them more sociable and active in the fresh air.

Building more safe walking and cycling routes to schools, improving the design of our streets and junctions, providing racks for bikes and scooters, working with children and parents to support healthy choices, and reducing speeds through the introduction of 20mph can all help to achieve this vision and build a culture of active travel and outdoor play around schools and residential areas.

FACT

The average primary school journey is just 1.5 miles, but today's children are the least physically active in history and set to have shorter life expectancies than their parents because of this.

Road safety is now the biggest cause of concern for parents, with 44% most concerned about their child crossing the road safely, compared to 28% most concerned about stranger danger.

As many as one in five cars on the road during the morning peak are taking children to school.

Objective #8
Give children
the
opportunity to
scoot, walk,
cycle and play
outdoors, and
improve their
health and
wellbeing

MAKE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AN EASY AND ENJOYABLE TRANSPORT OPTION FOR EVERYONE

It is within our power as a city to make the switch to more sustainable modes of transport through the choices we make every day. Switching trips within the city to foot, bike or public transport would have enormous benefits to our health and the quality of our environment, through reductions in congestion, air pollution and CO₂ emissions. Changing ingrained habits is not easy however and requires individuals to think about the way we travel and decide to try something different.

A number of projects across the city are helping people to make the switch through conversations, information and travel planning that shows how reliable, quick and cheap sustainable travel options can be. The Big Commuting Challenge has successfully got thousands of people over the years to change the way they travel by competing with others to see who can make the most sustainable trips.

We need to ensure that our transport networks are welcoming and accessible to all as we continue to support people in changing habits and improving the options for sustainable travel. As more and more people choose to travel in ways that are good for their health and the environment, travelling on foot, bike and public transport will be increasingly seen as the norm for all groups in society—a natural choice that is enjoyable and desirable for everyone.

FACT

At peak times in Bristol average driving speeds have fallen to just 11mph—slower than average urban cycling speeds of 12mph.

Over 4,000 commuters are taking part in the 2015 West of England Big Commuting Challenge, switching their journeys to sustainable modes that have so far saved over 50,000kg of CO₂ emissions.

Objective #9

Help change the way we travel as a city, showing that sustainable and active travel can be easy and enjoyable for everyone in Bristol

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT?

Everyone can make small changes or take big actions to make the Good Transport Plan a reality:

- **try out** Bristol's improved bus and train services, or try walking or cycling in your local area and see how **easy and convenient it can be**.
- find out what is happening in your local area. Is your Neighbourhood Partnership helping to create thriving communities and more sustainable streets? **Make sure your voice is heard**.
- **get involved in local community organisations** to implement the change you would like to see.
- **help workplaces** to implement practices that will make more sustainable commuting possible.
- work with the groups, organisations and businesses that already part of this change to **review their plans** against these objectives and see what else they can do to help deliver this vision.
- encourage **new initiatives** to start up.
- **articulate** the change that is needed at a strategic level to make the case for good transport and build support for **sustained investment in building a better Bristol**.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

We want people across Bristol to be inspired by this plan. So we are in the process of consulting individuals, communities, organisations and businesses in order to create a number of targets for the coming years that will be included in the plan.

But we need your input to make sure that this is a shared vision for the city.

If you would like to contribute to the Good Transport Plan then please complete one of the following surveys:

To complete the survey as an individual, please click [here](#)

To complete the survey on behalf of a business, please click [here](#)

For more information about how you can get involved with the Good Transport Plan, please email [Nina Gillespie](#).



The Bristol Green Capital Partnership is an independent leadership organisation whose aim is to make Bristol “a low carbon city with a high quality of life for all”

“An advanced city is not a place where the poor move about in cars, rather it’s where even the rich use public transportation”

Enrique Peñalosa, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, 1998-2001