

BRISTOL WALKING ALLIANCE

Response to West of England Joint Transport Study: Issues

Introduction

The Bristol Walking Alliance is a new consortium of organisations (listed below) committed to making Bristol the best city for walking in the world. We want to create a pedestrian environment that is welcoming, safe, convenient and inclusive. We want to build on the achievements of Bristol's designation as European Green Capital and the Good Transport Plan for Bristol.

We are pleased to be involved at the first stage of the transport study. We have responded to the consultation online, but would like to take this opportunity to express some general concerns.

Our concerns

1. We believe it is important that the outcome of the JTS delivers on the JLTP policy commitment to put the pedestrian at the top of the transport hierarchy. Walking is part of most journeys, and has the potential to be a major contributor to the shift to more sustainable travel patterns, while also delivering health and quality of life benefits. But changing patterns of behaviour will require sustained investment to improve the quality of the walking environment.
2. We believe that the JLTP/JTS objectives should be amended to more clearly recognise the health impacts of different modes of travel, and the importance of inclusive travel solutions.
3. There is a danger of over-emphasis on high profile capital projects which will not achieve the desired modal shifts or compensate for the impact of declining revenue budgets. We would support imaginative and cost-effective packages of soft and hard measures to support walking as a sustainable transport option. Such measures would include improved crossing-points, traffic calming and reduced through-traffic, advice and information, removing polluting vehicles, creating pocket parks, wider pavements, better signage, places to rest e.g. benches, and good lighting and sight lines.

Bristol Walking Alliance members: Bristol Civic Society, Bristol Ramblers, Greater Bedminster Community Partnership, Living Streets, Sustrans, SHINE (Supporting Healthy Inclusive Neighbourhood Environments Health Integration Team)

bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk

Consultation questions

What are the key transport issues facing our area?

Q: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the issues we have identified so far?

Limited travel options	Agree
Congestion, reliability, resilience, connectivity	Strongly agree
Environmental Challenges	Strongly agree
Social Challenges	Agree
Demand for housing and employment growth; infrastructure capacity	Strongly agree

Q: How would you rank these issues in order of importance?

- 1) Congestion, reliability, resilience, connectivity
- 2) Environmental Challenges
- 3) Demand for housing and employment growth; infrastructure capacity
- 4) Limited travel options
- 5) Social Challenges

Q: Are there any other transport issues that you feel should be considered?

Yes – persuading people to use more sustainable alternatives instead of their cars, including walking.

Where are we trying to get to? Our objectives

Q: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the objectives we have identified so far?

Support Economic Growth	Strongly agree
Reduce Carbon Emissions	Strongly agree
Promote Accessibility	Strongly agree
Contribute to better safety, health & security	Agree
Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment	Strongly agree

Q: How would you rank these objectives in order of importance?

- 1) Promote Accessibility
- 2) Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment
- 3) Reduce Carbon Emissions
- 4) Support Economic Growth
- 5) Contribute to better safety, health & security

Q: Do you think there are any other objectives you feel should be considered?

- 1) Contribute to people's physical and mental health by encouraging walking.
- 2) Make walking pleasurable.
- 3) Inclusive travel solutions.

How can we get there?

Q: Thinking about how these concepts relate to the issues and draft objectives, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the ideas outlined above?

		Comment
#1. Strengthen and enhance public transport corridors	Strongly agree	Not just the corridors – need more services too. And need to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists too.
#2. Extended MetroBus network	Disagree if like schemes so far	Extending rapid bus routes make good sense in principle, but we are concerned about cost-effectiveness and environmental impact. Better to improve bus services on existing routes.
#3. Extend MetroWest	Tend to agree	Fine in principle but probably not good value for money.
#4. MetroWest ++	Neither agree or disagree	As above, only more so ie fine in principle but probably poor value for money.
#5. Walking and cycling superhighways	Unclear what is intended	Unclear what is intended but we do support good quality walking routes. It is important to note that there is a comprehensive network of walking routes in the city (pavements). We would like these to be upgraded, better maintained, and free of obstructions
#6. Better connectivity	Strongly agree	Strongly agree as long as this refers to walking routes. Don't want more road-building.
#7. Pinch points and bottlenecks	Disagree	Likely to encourage more commuting by car.
#8. Strategic corridor packages	Strongly agree	Welcome, especially improved environments for pedestrians. Whiteladies Road shows what can be done to help buses and those on foot.
#9. Working better together	Agree	Seems sensible as long as individual authorities retain powers.
#10. Local Sustainable Transport Fund	Strongly agree	Hope advice would include ways to support and encourage walking.
#11. Regional connectivity	Agree in part.	Support more rail improvements, and pedestrian access to stations.
#12. Freight	Strongly agree	Important for tackling city centre air quality
#13. Travel demand management	Strongly agree	Deserves more emphasis. London and other cities show what can be done.

Q: Which of these concepts do you think would make the most difference to improving local transport? Select up to 5 options.

#13. Travel demand management

#5. Walking and cycling superhighways

#10. Local Sustainable Transport Fund

#1. Strengthen and enhance public transport corridors (and services)

#2. Extended MetroBus (using existing routes)

Structural improvement to support behavioural change, rather than more roads, to be given priority to achieve modal shifts.

Q: Are there any specific schemes you would like to see included within the concepts?

- Programme to improve infrastructure to make walking more welcoming, safe, convenient and inclusive, including improvements to pavements and road crossings ('Space for walking').
- In Bristol, priority given to Bristol's Walking Strategy
- Programme to implement guidance in the *Manual for Streets* and *Street Design for All* to make pavements more pedestrian-friendly.
- Creation of more car-free space.
- Up-dating of Bristol's *Legible City* signage.