



Somerset's Future Transport Plan 2011 - 2026

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WELCOME TO THE SOMERSET TRANSPORT PLAN

Transport is part of everything we do. It allows us to go to work or school, visit the people we care about and access the things we need. However, if not managed carefully the impacts transport has can also be bad for us, our economy and the environment.

We need to help our economy to grow, whilst keeping what we love about Somerset. We need to meet the needs of a mainly rural county, whilst supporting our growing urban areas. We need to be clear about where the council needs to help, whilst providing opportunities for people when we are able.

Somerset's Future Transport Plan sets out a long term strategy for helping to deliver our priorities. For the next few years, we will not have as much money as we have had in the past. This plan explains how we will make the most of what we have now and prepares us for new opportunities in the long term.

David Hall

Cabinet Member
Strategic Planning and Economic Development





“This plan explains the things we want to do for transport in Somerset and how we will put our ideas into action.”



THE THINGS WE CAN HELP YOU DO

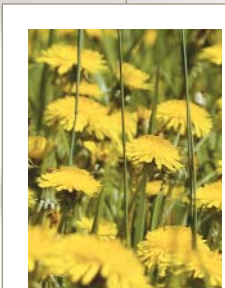
Community and partnership involvement	We will help our communities to help themselves. We will help them to make improvements to transport, allow them to shape our work and deliver improvements in partnership with other organisations.
Smarter choices	We will help people make smarter travel choices. We will provide high quality transport information and encourage organisations to develop 'Travel Plans' ¹ .
School travel	We will help people walk and cycle to Somerset's schools and make the school transport services we provide more efficient.
Road safety	We will work with partner organisations, for example, by helping drivers and riders to improve their skills.
Stay active	We will help people be more active by giving them more opportunities to travel in a healthy way, such as by walking or cycling.
Access to Health	We will talk to healthcare providers about transport plans, to help make it easier for people to access their services. We will help to develop 'out of hours' transport to healthcare services.

¹Travel Plans are written by businesses, schools and even for individual households. They help people meet their everyday needs in a way that keeps our roads working and protects Somerset's people and places.

“We will help people be more active by giving them more opportunities to travel in a healthy way.”

THE EFFECTS TRANSPORT HAS

Climate change	We will publish an annual action plan explaining how we will lead Somerset's response to climate change. Transport will have an important part to play in this.
Noise	We will manage the effect transport-related noise has on our communities at problem locations. We will assess sites according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' guidance and prioritise possible solutions.
Landscapes and biodiversity	We will protect Somerset's landscapes and biodiversity by working to minimise the effect transport schemes have on them.
Air quality	We will work to minimise the effect any changes to Somerset's transport systems have on air pollution. We will work with Somerset's district and borough authorities to improve air quality in Somerset by encouraging partnership working and sharing best practice with our neighbours.



“ We will lead Somerset's response to climate change. Transport will have an important part to play in this.”



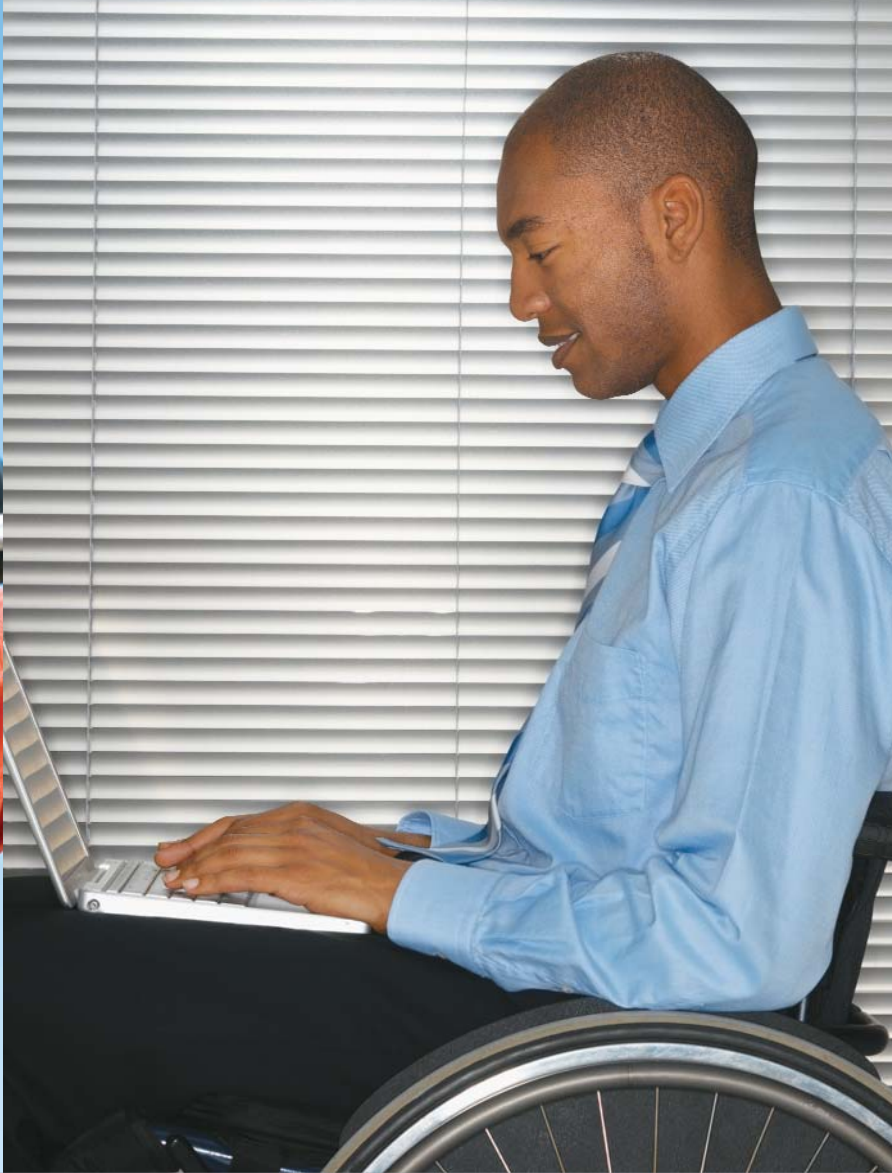
THE THINGS YOU NEED

Rights of way	We will work to maintain our Rights of Way network and improve the information available to help people use them.
Emerging technologies	We will consider how electric vehicles, responsibly sourced biofuels and other new technologies could help us meet our goals and challenges.
Sustainable development	We will work with developers to ensure they take into account the way people travel, and how people travel, to access services.
Information and communication technology (ICT)	We will promote the use of ICT to reduce the need to travel and increase people's ability to access goods and services.
Parking	We will help improve parking facilities to encourage more sustainable means of travel. We will work to improve the management of parking and help plan new developments appropriately.
Freight	We will help hauliers choose the most appropriate routes and work to improve communication between communities and the hauliers that serve them.
Maintenance	We will maintain our network in a way that makes best use of the resources available.

THE WAYS YOU TRAVEL

Bus and community transport services	We will do what we can to maintain essential services in the early years of this plan and work to improve the way services work together and provide better bus information during its later years.
Cycling	We will encourage people to cycle more by helping them to make smarter travel choices and get better cycling skills. We will support the provision of appropriate and well connected cycling facilities.
Walking	We will help people make more trips on foot and help people see the benefits of walking.
Rail	We will work in partnership with the rail industry and other stakeholders to encourage more people to travel by train. We will support better services, facilities, integration and improvements in the way people see train travel.
Car & Taxi	We will work to better manage the traffic on the roads and improve the most congested junctions and routes. We will work with developers to try and make sure new developments don't make conditions worse.
Motorcycling	We will promote safe and responsible motorcycling by working with our partners to deliver our road safety policy and helping to improve parking provision.





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PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION

This is a long-term plan and we will not be able to achieve it all straight away. We will set out how we will put these policies into action in implementation plans published every three years. These plans will explain how our resources will be allocated to help us meet our challenges.

Funding for transport investments comes from a variety of sources, including contributions from developers and other investors. However, government funding is important to delivering our plans. We expect the funding we receive from government to reduce significantly over the next few years but we cannot be sure how big this reduction will be.

Our first implementation plan is likely to try to protect funding for maintenance as much as possible, whilst making other small but high value investments, where resources allow. These investments would be in things like road safety or walking and cycling.



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“Working together for equalities”

This document is also available in Braille, large print, tape and on disc and we can translate it into different languages. We can provide a member of staff to discuss the details. Please contact 0845 345 9166



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