

Coleraine to Portstewart Active Travel Signature Scheme Early Engagement FAQs

What is active travel?

DfI defines Active Travel as: *“Travelling by physically active means such as walking, wheeling, or cycling”.*

Walking and wheeling refers to walking, running, or wheeling unaided, as well as using any kind of mobility aids such as electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters or walking frames. People pushing prams or buggies are also included in this definition, as well as other modes such as scooting, skateboarding, and rollerblading/roller skating.

Cycling refers to users of pedal cycles, but not motorbikes. The definition includes e-cycles and non-standard cycles, such as adapted cycles (cycles or tricycles, specially adapted for use by disabled people), cargo cycles and recumbents.

What is active travel infrastructure?

Active travel infrastructure includes facilities designed to support safer and more accessible walking, wheeling and cycling journeys. This can include footways, footpaths, cycle tracks, cycle lanes, crossings, junction improvements and bridges.

Greenways and shared use paths, lighting in urban areas, cycle parking, signage and wayfinding information are also included. We have included some example images below for illustrative purposes.

How will active travel benefit my community and me?

Improving active travel can bring a range of benefits, including:

- Safer and more accessible routes for walking, wheeling and cycling
- Better connections between communities, schools, workplaces and services
- More choice in how people travel for everyday journeys
- Health and wellbeing benefits through increased physical activity
- Reduced traffic congestion and improved local air quality
- Support for local businesses and tourism

Has the route been decided? Where are we looking?

At this stage of the project only a project study area between the settlements of Coleraine and Portstewart has been identified. Feedback received from this round of public engagement will help identify and inform appraisal of potential route options against a number of key constraints and opportunities to determine a preferred route option.

I'm a student. Will this impact how I get to university?

Many students live in Portstewart and travel to Ulster University in Coleraine.

The scheme could help improve how people travel between accommodation, the university campus and local services by providing safer and more reliable options for walking, wheeling and cycling.

It is intended to support a wide range of everyday journeys, not just student travel.

How will the project develop?

The project is currently at an early point in development. We are engaging with local communities and stakeholders to better understand existing travel patterns and behaviours to help inform the development and appraisal of future route options.

The project is expected to progress through the following steps:

Now: Early engagement to understand local needs and issues

Next: Development and assessment of potential options

Later: Public consultation on preferred option(s)

What happens now? How can I get involved?

We want to hear from people who live, work and travel in the area.

Your feedback will help us to better understand existing travel patterns and behaviours to help inform the development and appraisal of future route options. This is an early opportunity to share your views, and there will be further opportunities to have your say as the project develops.

You can:

- Complete the online survey: [Insert survey link]
- Find out more: [Insert webpage link]
- Alternatively, you can:
 - **Email:** activetravel@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk
 - **Write to:** DfI Active Travel, Third Floor, James House, 2–4 Cromac Street, Belfast, BT7 2JA
 - **Phone:** +44 7810 241864

Will this affect access to my home or business?

At this early stage in project development, as a preferred route option has yet to be determined, it is too early to determine what localised impacts there may be.

There will be opportunities for further engagement as the project progresses through the various design, planning and construction phases.

Will land be required for the scheme?

Whilst a preferred route option hasn't yet been identified, it is anticipated that some third-party land will be required to deliver the project in the future.

Any affected landowners will be contacted directly and formally consulted as part of the process.

When will construction take place?

The scheme is expected to take 2-3 years to progress through the various design and planning stages before construction can begin.

Future delivery will be subject to statutory approvals and future budget availability.

How will feedback be used?

Your feedback will help us better understand how people currently travel through the area, the challenges they face, and where improvements may be needed. This information will help inform the development and assessment of potential future route options for the scheme.

While it may not be possible to respond to individual comments, your input will play an important role in shaping the next stage of the project.