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Easy Read: Eastern Transport Plan 2035

Consultation Draft October 2026



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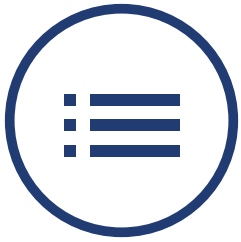
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You can also read it on our website

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-engagement-eastern-transport-plan-etp-2035-belfast-city-centre-and-belfast-metropolitan-area

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In this document ‘We’ refers to the Department for Infrastructure



A Few Words From The Minister For Infrastructure

I am delighted to introduce to you the draft Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035.

The ETP sets out our vision for a transport network in the eastern region of the north of Ireland that is better for the environment, works for everyone, and can cope with future challenges.

The Plan was developed by working with five local councils. It supports Local Development Plans and aims to improve connections between communities while helping businesses grow and protecting the environment.

The Eastern Transport Plan puts people first. It encourages more people to walk, wheel, cycle, and use public transport. The Plan aims to cut pollution and create healthier, safer, and more accessible places where people can live and work.

The Plan has been developed using feedback from local people and organisations. It is a long-term plan to improve transport and provide better travel options for future generations.

Liz Kimmins

Minister for Infrastructure



What Is The Eastern Transport Plan

The Eastern Transport Plan is about how people travel.

It looks at:

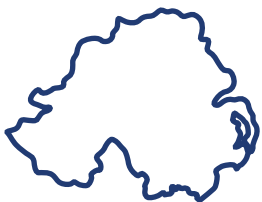
- Walking
- Wheeling
- Cycling
- Buses
- Trains
- Roads

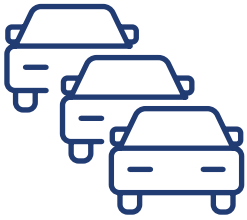
It covers these five council areas:

- Belfast
- Antrim and Newtownabbey
- Ards and North Down
- Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Mid and East Antrim

It provides a guide for transport investment decisions up to 2035.

This first version of it focuses on Belfast City Centre and the wider Metropolitan Area. Plans for the remaining areas are expected to be developed over the next two years.





Why do we need a transport plan

More people will live and work in these areas.

This means:

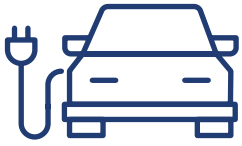
- More journeys
- More traffic
- More pressure on roads and buses

At busy times, traffic can:

- Be very slow
- Cause delays
- Make air quality worse

Building more roads is not always the answer especially in towns and cities where there isn't enough space.

The plan looks for better, more sustainable, ways to travel.



What does “sustainable travel” mean

Sustainable travel is travel that:

- Is better for the environment
- Uses less space
- Helps people stay healthy

Sustainable travel includes:



- Walking
- Wheeling (for example using a wheelchair or pushchair)
- Cycling
- Bus and Glider
- Trains

These types of travel:



- Reduce pollution
- Reduce traffic
- Improve health



What is the plan trying to do?

The Eastern Transport Plan wants to:

- Give people more travel choices
- Help communities feel connected
- Make journeys safer
- Support the economy
- Protect the environment

The plan aims to make travel:

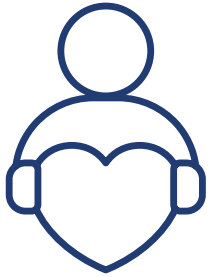
- Easier
- Cleaner
- Fairer
- Healthier



The vision for transport

The plan's vision is to create a transport system that:

- Works for everyone
- Supports communities
- Is safe and accessible
- Reduces carbon emissions
- Improves air quality



The vision puts the needs of people first.

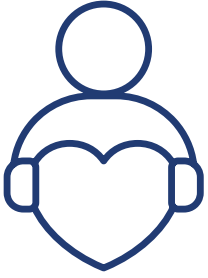


The main goals of the plan

The plan has seven main goals.

The goals are to:

1. Help people travel shorter distances
2. Reduce carbon emissions
3. Support healthy and active lives
4. Reduce unnecessary car journeys
5. Improve air quality
6. Make transport safer and more reliable
7. Support jobs, services and the movement of goods



Managing and enforcing changes

Some changes may include:

- More city centre streets with no cars
- New cycle lanes
- New bus lanes
- New Glider routes
- Review of Parking rules
- More streets with 20mph speed limits
- More one-way streets

The aim is to design streets so that:

- Rules are clear
- Most people follow them easily
- Enforcement is a last resort

In summary

The Eastern Transport Plan is about:

- Better journeys
- Healthier communities
- Cleaner air
- Safer streets
- More choice in how we travel

It aims to make transport work better for everyone, now and in the future.



How You Can Respond To This Consultation

Tell us what you think about the draft Eastern Transport Plan.

Online – <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-1/eastern-transport-plan-engagement-survey>

Email - TPMU@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

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