Northern Ireland’s Road Safety Plan to 2020
Summary

EasyRead version of:
2020 Vision: Driving Road Safety Forward
What is in this paper

A few words from the Minister for the Environment 1

About the Road Safety Plan 4

What we want our roads to be like 5

What we need to change 6

What we will do to change things 8
It is my job to make using the roads in Northern Ireland safe.

A lot of people have helped give us ideas for this road safety plan and I would like to thank them.

We had another plan but need a new one because the last one has now finished, and too many people are still being killed or hurt on our roads.

This plan will help us use new ideas and technology to make sure everyone is safer.
Some people and places will need extra help.

These include:

- country roads
- poorer areas
- younger drivers.

We have already started to use some of the ideas to help us start saving lives.

The plan asks everyone who uses roads to think about how they can make them safer.
If we all work together our roads can be as safe as anywhere else in the world.

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for the Environment
About the Road Safety Plan

The plan talks about:

- what we want our roads to be like
- what we need to change
- what we will do to change things.
What we want our roads to be like

We want to make it as safe for everyone to use roads in Northern Ireland as it is anywhere in the world.

We will make sure everyone who can help us do this:

- has good information

- shares ideas about how to do things

- works together to agree what needs to be done.
What we need to change

We need to:

- make sure fewer people are killed or hurt on roads
- make country roads safer
- keep young drivers and motorcyclists safer
- stop people breaking the law by driving dangerously or when they have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs
- get better at asking people how to make roads safer.
We looked at the number of people killed or hurt in road crashes between 2004 and 2008.

By 2020 we want to try to stop this happening to at least about half as many people.

This will save money as well as lives.
What we will do to change things

When we wrote the plan we thought about:

- roads
- vehicles
- people who use roads.

We will:

- check whether we teach people everything they need to know about road safety
- find new ways to help young people use roads safely
- find better ways to test new drivers and make sure they keep learning about road safety

- ask people about our ideas for different rules for new drivers

- give training to more drivers who break the law

- find different ways to punish people who break laws about road safety

- decide whether roads would be safer if we made drivers go more slowly
• work with the rest of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to make vehicles and roads safer

• set up groups of people to plan how to make different types of travel safer

• make sure services in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland work together to save people who are hurt in crashes.

We have already asked what we can do to stop people causing crashes by drinking and driving.
We are going to change the law so:

- drivers are allowed to drink less or even no alcohol when they are driving
- we can check more drivers to see if they have been drinking
- we can give tougher punishments to drivers who drink and drive.

We must also stop people taking drugs and driving and might have a new law about this.

When we are making any new laws we will also look at and think about what is happening in the rest of the UK.