

All Party Roundtable on Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel

30th August 2023



Belfast
City Council

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Background
3. Corporate Plan
4. Belfast Agenda – Connectivity Active & Sustainable Travel (CAST) Draft Action Plan
5. A Bolder Vision
6. Eastern Transport Plan (Formerly BMTP)
7. Belfast Cycling Network
8. Key Enabling Projects / Funding
9. Opportunities / Challenges
10. Next Steps



Need for Change?

In 2020, the Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast highlighted that transport was responsible for 20% of the city's carbon emissions.



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Notices of Motion - Current Position

NoM	Date	Status
<u>Sustainable Transport</u>	03/02/2020	Closed
<u>Cycle Lanes</u>	03/02/2020	Closed
<u>Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme</u>	04/03/2020	Ongoing
<u>Opening our Streets for Everyone</u>	02/07/2020	Closed
<u>Belfast City Council Cycling Champion</u>	02/11/2020	Closed
<u>Creating Better Access into the Hills</u>	07/01/2021	Ongoing
<u>Extension of the Belfast Bikes Scheme</u>	04/05/2021	Closed
<u>Belfast Cycle Network Delivery Plan</u>	28/09/2022	Closed
<u>Belfast Cycle Network</u>	24/11/2022	Ongoing
<u>Low Traffic Neighbourhoods</u>	24/11/2022	Closed
<u>Translink Night-time Provision of Services</u>	01/12/2022	Ongoing
<u>School Streets Schemes</u>	05/01/2023	Ongoing
<u>Rosetta Way – “quietway”</u>	04/03/2023	Ongoing
<u>Department for Infrastructure - Standards of Repairs to Roads and Footpaths</u>	27/06/2023	Ongoing

Background: Strategic Opportunities

A Bolder Vision

BCC, DfC, DfI shared vision for a connected, vibrant, sustainable, people focused city centre

Belfast Agenda

Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel (CAST) subgroup Action Plan

Strong Cross-Sector Partnerships

Through ABV, CAST, BCCRIS and ongoing delivery of connectivity and active travel projects, i.e., Active Travel Hubs

ETP, Belfast Cycling Network & DfI Greenways Programme

The Eastern Transport Plan is the statutory transport plan for the city
The Strategic Plan for Greenways sets out a 25 year plan for the region

Social Change due to Covid & Climate Crisis

Attitudes towards travel and lifestyle are moving towards a more sustainable and neighbourhood focus

Large Infrastructure

Glider Extension
BCRD - Lagan Bridge
Belfast Grand Central Station
Belfast Streets Ahead
York Street Interchange



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27/09/2023

Corporate Plan

- Our corporate plan is a reflection of what people in Belfast have told us they want and the type of leadership they feel the city needs. It takes the priorities of the Belfast Agenda and sets out the ways in which the council will deliver these to grow a sustainable, inclusive economy and equitable society.
- Our priorities for 2020-2024 are:
 - Growing an inclusive economy
 - Resilience and sustainability
 - Living here
 - City development
 - Working and learning
 - Cross-cutting



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Cross-Sector Strategic & Delivery Partners

CAST Group:



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Department for
Infrastructure



Department for
Communities

we are
cycling
UK



Public Health
Agency



Additional Delivery Partners:

BELFAST
ONE DIFFERENT
DAYS



LINEN
QUARTER
BID

VCSE
Panel



BELFAST
CHAMBER

Private
Developers



The
Strategic
Investment
Board



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Improving Outcomes: Belfast Agenda

Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel (CAST): A Priority for Belfast

- The Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast highlights that in 2020, transport was responsible for 20% of Belfast's carbon emissions. If we are to achieve the target of being carbon neutral by 2050 we must address this carbon footprint.
- In order to thrive, cities must have transportation systems which allow the maximum volume of people to travel while doing the least possible harm to the environment.



In 2020 it was highlighted that transport in Belfast was responsible for 20% of the city's carbon emissions

The Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast



Belfast has committed to being carbon neutral by 2050.



Walking and cycling results in +723 serious long-term health conditions being prevented annually.
Belfast Walking & Cycling Index 2021



Everyday, walking and cycling takes up to 77,000 cars off the road
Belfast Walking & Cycling index 2021

Our Outcomes

Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing / Belfast will be vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable

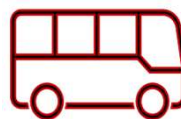


% of people who say they do not cycle but would like to:
34% - women
30% - people from ethnic minority groups
31% - disabled people
Belfast Walking & Cycling index 2021



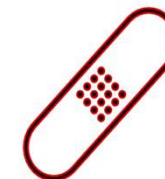
32% of people in Belfast want to cycle but don't

Walking & Cycling Index 2021



Translink aim to increase passenger journeys to 35 M per annum across the Belfast Metro and Glider Service

Translink



Safety concerns stop cycling being a genuine travel choice
For many residents
Walking & Cycling Index 2021



Shaping the CAST plan

- **General Comments:** First principle should be to **reconnect the city**, including better **connections to the city centre**. Severance, particularly at **key road junctions** is a key issue and on-going concern. People want to see **realistic targets, with recognisable, relatable, measurable actions happening in their areas**.
- **Recurrent Issues:**
 - Safety
 - Public Transport
 - Taxis
 - Accessibility
 - The potential of the River Lagan
 - Infrastructure
 - Connectivity with city centre
 - 15 minute neighbourhoods
 - Transport Poverty
 - Green space and greenways



Levers for Change: CAST



Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel

Belfast Agenda Long-term Outcome: *By 2035, Belfast will be vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable
Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and well-being*

Over the next four years, we will work in partnership to improve connectivity and active and sustainable travel options, including public transport

STRATEGIC INTENT (What are we trying to do?)	ACTIONS (How are we going to achieve it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2027?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
1. Deliver the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) which will provide the strategic framework for bringing forward our climate commitments, supporting the integration of a prioritised and modernised public transport system and a network of walking and cycling routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completion of BMTP and progress of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BMTP completed by 2027 with the Belfast iteration completed in 2025	Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure Support: Community Planning Partners



Levers for Change: CAST

2. Deliver the second stage of the Belfast Local Development Plan 2035 which supports an efficient integrated transport network offering travel choice that minimises congestion and pollution

- Adoption of the Belfast Local Development Plan 2035; the plan will encourage the expansion of green infrastructure networks for walking and cycling to encourage active travel and improve air quality and promote increased use of public transport (e.g. addressing dereliction, embedding connectivity)
- Promote and develop partnership working across the public/private and community and voluntary sector to support access to local businesses, communities and relevant statutory agencies

- In accordance with Monitoring Indicators (Appendix F of LDP)
<https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/getmedia/bba4bd89-157d-4209-8d5e-8a6eb58dd760/PS001-Plan-Strategy-Final-Web-May2023.pdf>

Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council Planning Service

Support: Community Planning Partners

3. Support projects that encourage people to use forms of sustainable travel

- Improve public transport journey times and reliability through a prioritised public transport network

- Attain 35M passenger journeys on the Metro and Glider in Belfast by 2030
- Attain 70 public transport journeys per person per year by 2030
- Undertake quality improvements on Zero Emission and Sustainable Transport (ZEST) corridors by 2027

Convening Lead(s): Translink

Support: Department for Infrastructure



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Levers for Change: CAST

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the detailed designs and business case requirements to support the delivery of Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Support: Translink</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the integrated, multi-modal Transport Hub (Weaver's Cross) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion in 2025 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Support: Translink</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of the Belfast-Dublin Transport Corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting hourly frequency of rail services and <2hour journey time between Belfast and Dublin 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council / Translink</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the timetable with a greater service in the evenings and funding for the provision of night-time services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of night-time services secured 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Translink</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>



Levers for Change: CAST

4. Support behavioural change projects that replace car journeys with walking, wheeling and cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver cycling infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the targets set out for Belfast in the BMTP 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council, Sustrans</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the delivery of greenways in the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop greenway feasibility and identify potential routes 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives to help alleviate transport poverty by encouraging active and sustainable travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a scoping study that identifies affordable and flexible cycle hire • Better promotion and communication of inclusive sustainable and active transport options. • Extend the cycle docking station network across the city • Increase the number of Belfast Bikes available throughout the city 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council, Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel</p> <p>Support: Sustrans, Translink, private sector</p>



Levers for Change: CAST

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codesign place-based active travel initiatives to encourage walking, <u>wheeling</u> and cycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 2 exemplar initiatives in line with the BMTP 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council</p> <p>Support: <u>Sustrans</u>, Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel, QUB, Public Health Agency</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for the delivery of Active Travel Hubs across the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured and hubs activated 	<p>Convening Lead(s): <u>Sustrans</u></p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support health and well-being outcomes for active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of updated Public Health Agency active travel programme Delivery of schools' education programme on safe cycling, <u>walking</u> and wheeling Increase the number of public cycling workshops 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Public Health Agency</p> <p>Support: Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel, <u>Sustrans</u>, Belfast Healthy Cities, Education Authority, Belfast City Council</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in data about walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport and explore the potential for real-time data capture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap analysis undertaken 	<p>Convening Lead(s): <u>Sustrans</u></p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council</p>

Belfast Agenda Public Consultation

- The draft Belfast Agenda Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 and Action Plans are open for consultation until 2 Oct 2024
- Post consultation the Belfast Agenda and Action Plans will be updated to take account of feedback.
- The Community Planning Partnership will then sign off and we will publish the document.
- There will still be opportunity to get involved and have your say at different stages over the next year as we begin to develop and implement the Belfast Agenda actions through the Belfast Agenda Delivery Boards.



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A graphic for 'The Belfast Agenda' featuring a large white star on a red and pink background. The text 'The Belfast Agenda' is written in white, with 'The' and 'Agenda' in a smaller font than 'Belfast'.

The Belfast Agenda

continuing the
conversation



Levers for Change: A Bolder Vision

A Bolder Vision for Belfast



City Centre as an Inclusive Place to Live, Work and Visit



Embracing our Rivers



Remove Reliance on Car Travel



Community Focused Regeneration



Active and Inclusive Public Realm and Green Spaces



Vibrant and Safe Streets



Prioritise Walking, Cycling & Public Transport



Overcoming Severance with Surrounding Communities

Visioning Principles

1] Creating a healthy, shared, vibrant and sustainable environment that promotes wellbeing for all, inclusive growth and innovation.

2] Fundamentally changing the centre of Belfast to prioritise integrated walking, cycling and public transport and end the dominance of the car

3] Providing lively, safe and green streets linking inclusive shared spaces to promote resilience and enhance our built heritage

4] Removing severance and barriers to movement between the centre of Belfast and the surrounding communities to improve access for all .



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Four Key Moves for Change

A Bolder Vision for Belfast

Key Moves



Creation of a **Civic Spine**
with a focus on people



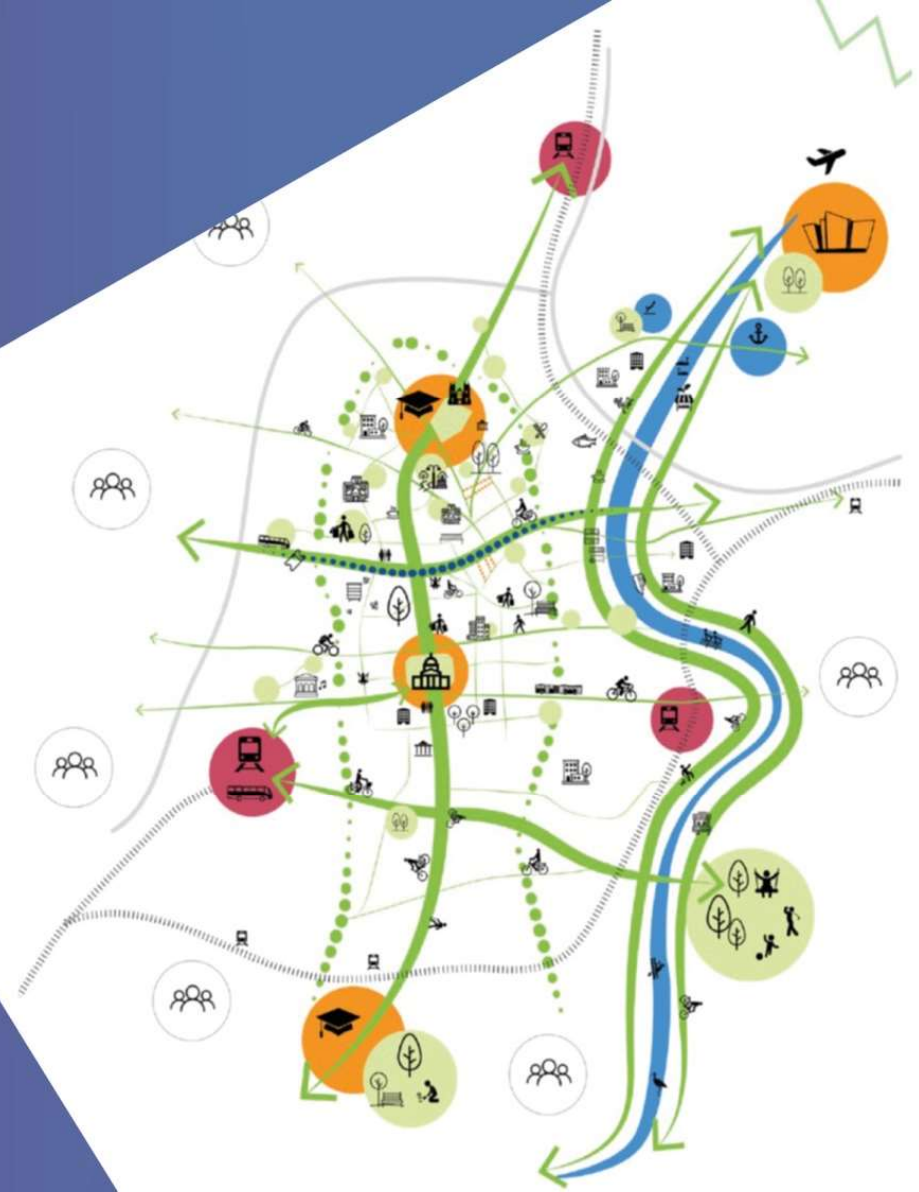
Reimagine the Inner Ring Road
and **end Car Dominance**



Promote **City Centre Living**



Embrace the **River Lagan and Waterfront**



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Active Travel Enablers



Covered Cycle Stands



Secure Cycle Parking



Active Travel Hubs



Belfast Bikes Expansion

Neighbourhood Connectivity

- Capital Programme
- Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund
- Belfast Investment Programme
- Greenways
 - Connswater Community Greenway – completed
 - Forth Meadow Greenway – ongoing
 - Lagan Gateway - ongoing
 - Sydenham Greenway - uncommitted
 - Glencairn / Ligionel Pk Greenway – uncommitted
 - Black Mountain / Upper Whiterock Greenway – uncommitted
 - Colin Greenway – uncommitted
 - Access to the hills – uncommitted
- Belfast Bikes Scheme Expansion
 - Began in 2015 and continues to grow in popularity with over 573 bikes with 52 docking stations.
 - Network expansion across the city with new docking stations installed.



Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) (Formerly BMTP)

- The Eastern Transport Plan is the statutory transport plan for the city and sets out the strategic initiatives and transport proposals for the Belfast metropolitan area.
- The plan is currently being finalised by the Department for Infrastructure in parallel with the LDP process. The first draft ETP will set out all of the key aspects associated with the transport network and local interventions, including the Belfast Cycle Network, for the Belfast City Council area and is anticipated for publication in 2024.

Major impact on delivery of large projects:

- Finalisation of A Bolder Vision
- Belfast Streets Ahead 3 & 5
- Glider Phase 2
- Belfast Cycling Network
- Junctions (Peter's Hill, Frederick Street, Clifton Street, 5Cs Public Realm)



Eastern Transport Plan Consultation

Drafting the **Vision**, **Objectives** and Guiding Principles for the Plan

Vision

Deliver an integrated Plan to enhance and re-balance transport networks in favour of sustainable, efficient modes, which connects communities creating an attractive, inclusive and safe economic region for all by delivering carbon reduction, improving air quality, enhancing the built and natural environment and facilitating healthy and sustainable travel choices over unnecessary private car travel.

Objectives

Reduce travel distances by promoting safe, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods, supported by integrated planning.

Deliver a reduction in carbon emissions by increasing accessibility for all to jobs, services and recreation by sustainable travel modes.

Promote healthy and inclusive communities by developing safe active travel options that respect the local built and natural environment.

Reduce unnecessary use of the private car by implementing effective demand management measures.

Improve air quality and the environment by encouraging the use of sustainable modes and vehicles which utilise sustainable fuels.

Enhance the resilience and safety of the transport network to support the economy and meet the challenges of climate change.

Support the efficient, sustainable movement of goods and people and enhance connectivity to regional networks including access to ports and airports.



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Belfast Cycling Network (BCN)

- DfI published 'Making Belfast an Active City – Belfast Cycling Network 2021,' in June 2021.
- This was followed by the 'Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan 2022,' in March 2022.
- The documents set out a blueprint for the development and operation of the cycling infrastructure in the city for the next ten years.
- Over 50 individual schemes were identified for delivery in the plan and the Network had an estimated cost of £100 million.
- **DfI advised Council that through ETP process they are looking at how to integrate the BCN in a multi-modal plan and there may be some displacement of the BCN as they find alternative routes.**
- **DfI has assured Council that whilst there may be changes to routes the overall principles and vision of the BCN will remain.**



Key Enabling Projects / Funding

Project	Status	Funding
Belfast Grand Central Station	Under Construction	Funded
Glider Phase 2	Business Plan near completion	Part funded – BRCD
A Bolder Vision	Final draft and action plan stage	None committed
BRCD - Ormeau Park / Gasworks Bridge	Business Plan near completion	Funded – BRCD
Shared Island Fund – Sailortown / Titanic Quarter Bridge	Stage 1-3 reports completed, submission Sept	Application Process
Waterfront Taskforce – Waterside Promenade	Report completed	None committed
Belfast Streets Ahead	Awaiting ETP; at design stage	Funded
York Street Interchange	York Street Placemaking Review underway	Part Funded
Belfast Urban Greenway (BUG)	Initial scoping work completed	None committed
Gateway Connectivity Project	Feasibility work commenced	None committed
Greenways including Forth Meadow	Project development underway	Under construction
PEACE Plus – Funding opportunity	Project development underway	Application process

Opportunities & Challenges for Delivery

- **Opportunities:**

- ABV as the agreed blueprint to deliver infrastructure & shape the future city
- CAST to set out Council's and partners' ambitions and commitments
- Developing a pipeline of shovel ready projects for future funding
- Potential to align delivery of large infrastructure projects, BMTP, Belfast Streets Ahead, York Street Interchange, Belfast Cycling Network, Glider, Junctions (Fredrick St, Peter's Hill, Clifton St) through ABV

- **Challenges:**

- Limited Council powers
- Statutory processes & timeframes for delivery
- Resourcing, Departmental budget pressures
- **In-year budgets & financial uncertainty**
- Ownership of actions
- Availability of alternative funding streams
- Dfl priorities
- Governance issues



Next Steps

1. Advocacy and Engagement

- Opportunity to feed into the ETP

2. Corporate Plan

- Priorities
- Process

3. CAST Plan

- Out for consultation – Opportunity to input politically
- Vehicle for delivery with city partners

4. Project Delivery & Joint Funding Opportunities

- Quick wins
- Long term vision



Discussion



27/09/2023

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