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

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

Background: Strategic Opportunities

A Bolder Vision

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

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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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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:

sustrans

Translink

Belfast City Council

Department for Infrastructure

Department for Communities

we are cycling UK

Belfast A World Health Organization Healthy City

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Ulster University

HSC Public Health Agency

Additional Delivery Partners:

BELFAST ONE DIFFERENT DAYS

LINEN QUARTER BID

CATHEDRAL QUARTER BELFAST

VCSE Panel

BIG LOOP

BELFAST CHAMBER

Private Developers

maritime mile

The Strategic Investment Board

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

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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.	• Completion of BMTP and progress of implementation	• BMTP completed by 2027 with the Belfast iteration completed in 2025	Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure Support: Community Planning Partners

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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

	• Implement Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2	• Continue to develop the detailed designs and business case requirements to support the delivery of Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2	Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure Support: Translink
	• Progress the integrated, multi-modal Transport Hub (Weaver's Cross)	• Completion in 2025	Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure Support: Translink
	• Support development of the Belfast-Dublin Transport Corridor	• Promoting hourly frequency of rail services and <2hour journey time between Belfast and Dublin	Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council / Translink Support: Community Planning Partners
	• Expand the timetable with a greater service in the evenings and funding for the provision of night-time services	• Provision of night-time services secured	Convening Lead(s): Translink Support: Community Planning Partners

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Levers for Change: CAST

4. Support behavioural change projects that replace car journeys with walking, wheeling and cycling	• Deliver cycling infrastructure	• Meet the targets set out for Belfast in the BMTP	Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure Support: Belfast City Council, Sustrans
	• Progress the delivery of greenways in the city	• Develop greenway feasibility and identify potential routes	Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council Support: Community Planning Partners
	• Develop initiatives to help alleviate transport poverty by encouraging active and sustainable travel	• 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	Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council, Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel Support: Sustrans, Translink, private sector

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Levers for Change: CAST

	• Codesign place-based active travel initiatives to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling	• Develop 2 exemplar initiatives in line with the BMTP	Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council Support: Sustrans, Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel, QUB, Public Health Agency
	• Secure funding for the delivery of Active Travel Hubs across the city	• Funding secured and hubs activated	Convening Lead(s): Sustrans Support: Belfast City Council
	• Support health and well-being outcomes for active travel	• Delivery of updated Public Health Agency active travel programme • Delivery of schools' education programme on safe cycling, walking and wheeling • Increase the number of public cycling workshops	Convening Lead(s): Public Health Agency Support: Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel, Sustrans, Belfast Healthy Cities, Education Authority, Belfast City Council
	• Identify gaps in data about walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport and explore the potential for real-time data capture	• Gap analysis undertaken	Convening Lead(s): Sustrans Support: Belfast City Council

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.

The Belfast Agenda

continuing the conversation

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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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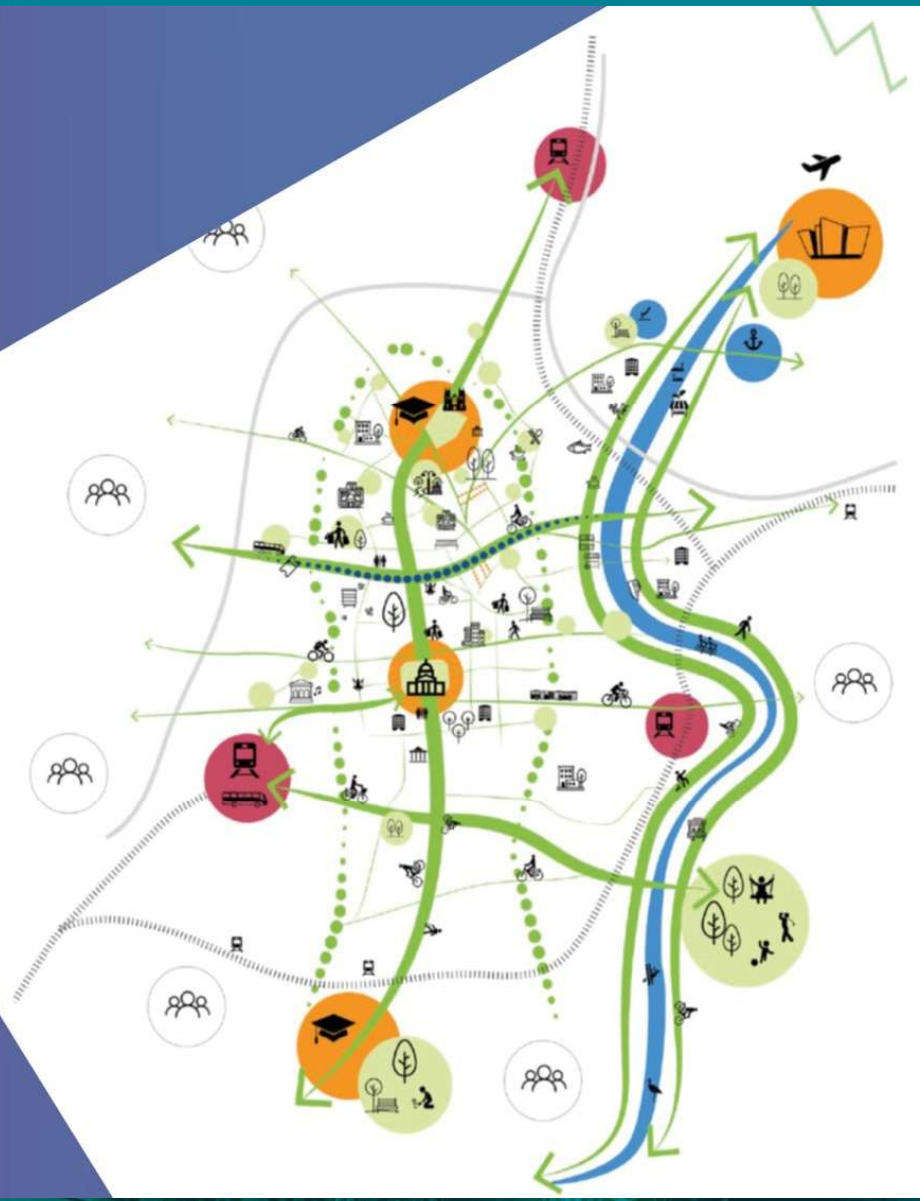
Four Key Moves for Change

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)

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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 alterative routes.**
- **DfI has assured Council that whilst there may be changes to routes the overall principles and vision of the BCN will remain.**

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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
  - DfI priorities
  - Governance issues

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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