

# Transport Prospectus | Summary

Right now, our transport system just isn't working for the people of Stoke-on-Trent. Too many of us are facing damaged roads, unattractive cycling options and not enough buses and trains where and when we need them. This isn't good enough. It fuels inequality and stops Stoke-on-Trent from reaching its full potential, but we can change things.

Our six clear priorities aim to fix transport because everyone deserves safe, reliable, and affordable transport - whether or not you own a car. We're keen to hear your voice. Tell us what matters to you so we can build a fairer, greener, and better-connected city for everyone.

To read the full transport prospectus, visit [www.stoke.gov.uk/transportprospectus](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/transportprospectus)



## Priority One: Public Transport That Works for Working People

**The Problem:** The bus doesn't go when or where people want; and doesn't link in with trains. The bus is seen as unreliable due to congestion and poor road conditions and fares feel too costly for the distance travelled.

**More Information:** Other cities have shown that when buses are quicker and reliable, more people choose to use them. We support a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that will benefit everyone, which gives buses priority, they will run more frequently and have priority on the network. Other improvements include better stops and contactless tap-on/tap-off payment method

**Our Proposal:** By 2026 we will have more BRT features on the bus network linking key destinations across the city and North Staffordshire. A full BRT network will take longer and we'll consult and adapt as we go. BRT is easier to install and more flexible than tramlines. We'll keep pushing for funding and better value for all.



## Priority Two: Fix the Roads, Smooth Your Journey

**The Problem:** We know how frustrating and hazardous broken roads and pavements are. Sadly, many of our roads are in poor condition and we're often left re-patching the same spots. Fixing potholes is expensive and doesn't last. Right now, we have 3,749 known road defects and a repairs backlog valued at c.£68 million.

**More Information:** Between 2020 and 2024, we spent £50.1 million maintaining roads and pavements. Many streets are past saving with quick fixes. Preventing problems before they start saves money and improves safety, but we've been locked in a cycle of reactive repairs. Better maintenance would also support walking and cycling, improve fuel efficiency, and reduce the risk of flooding - especially with more extreme weather and heavier traffic.

**Our Proposal:** Our goal is simple: safer, smoother, more reliable roads and pavements for everyone in our area. With long-term investment over the next decade we could halve repairs and keep roads in better shape and invest in technology to help spot avoidable problems early and prioritise works fairly.

## Priority Three: End the Gridlock, Clean Up our Air

**The Problem:** Our roads weren't built for today's traffic resulting in delays, congestion, and frustration. Standing traffic contributes to poorer air quality and make our roads less safe for everyone, whether driving, walking or cycling.

**More Information:** Simply building more roads doesn't always fix congestion, it just attracts more vehicles causing extra noise and pollution in our neighbourhoods. Our focus is on the worst pinch points, targeting improvements to make things flow better with clearer signs, better markings, using road space more efficiently and ensuring developers don't overload the local roads.

**Our Proposal:** We plan to invest in key areas that need attention the most - from Burslem and Hanley, to Joiner's Square and through to the A50 and A34. These upgrades will improve daily journeys across the city and connect us better with the wider region. They'll also cut emissions and help make Stoke-on-Trent a safer, healthier place to travel in.



## Priority Four: Build Streets for People, Not Just Cars

**The Problem:** Walking and cycling should be easy and enjoyable ways to get around our city - but at the moment, too many people feel unsafe or unsupported when they try. Whether it's the fear of cycling alongside fast-moving traffic or the struggle to find a safe place to cross the road, these barriers put people off making healthier, greener choices.

**More Information:** We want to change that. We're reviewing the city's existing routes to see which need upgrading or extending. We're also listening to residents and using transport tools so we target improvements where they'll have the most impact. A full plan, called the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), will be shared for public consultation in Summer 2025.

**Our Proposal:** We want to grow our network of greenways and blueways, and where needed, add safe cycle lanes along main roads. We'll include more dropped kerbs, better crossings, and safer places to park bikes and work with communities to make streets more attractive to walk along. Improvements range in cost, but even small changes - like giving more time at a pedestrian crossing - will make a big difference.

## Priority Five: Make the Green Option the Easy Option

**The Problem:** Vehicle air pollution is damaging our health and harming where we live and work, especially near busy roads and congested neighbourhoods. With a national ban expected on new petrol and diesel cars, we know we need to act now to clean up our air and cut emissions.

**More Information:** We're greening our own fleet and supporting people to switch to greener ways to travel but change needs to happen faster. In the city 30% of people don't have a driveway, so charging an electric car is harder. There aren't enough public charge points across the city. And it's not just about private cars - we also need cleaner buses, taxis, vans and lorries.

**Our Proposal:** We'll invest in more charging points and help fund charging facilities for people without driveways. We'll work with bus companies, taxi drivers and energy providers to switch to greener vehicles. We'll also explore bike storage, e-bike subsidies, and cleaner public transport - all to help residents make greener, healthier travel choices every day.



## Priority Six: Rebuild Rail for the Many

**The Problem:** Rail travel could be a brilliant way to get around our area and beyond - but right now, it's underused, inconvenient, and doesn't meet people's everyday needs. East-west rail links are limited and smaller stations only have one train per hour or less, and large parts of the city don't have easy access to any station at all.

**More Information:** Stoke-on-Trent sits in a great spot on the national rail map, with good links to places like Manchester and London. But the local rail offer doesn't reflect this potential. We want to change that - by improving services, station access, and connections with buses and cycling. We're also backing proposals that could bring better, faster connections and local electrification projects.

**Our Proposal:** We will continue taking up opportunities to contribute to business cases for building stations at Etruria, Meir and the south of the conurbation. We want all stations to have at least two trains per hour. We'll also improve links between buses, trains, and walking or cycling, making rail travel a reliable, safe, and convenient choice.