

Mayor's Big Transport Conversation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Local Transport Plan?

All Local Transport Authorities must develop and regularly review a Local Transport Plan for their area. The Local Transport Plan is a process and a public facing document that brings together evidence and intentions to shape the future of transport in an area. It takes a long-term view: the plan will set out how we'll improve transport over the next 15 years and how we will steer investment.

Why is the Local Transport Plan being written now?

The devolution deal for the East Midlands Combined County Authority transferred the Local Transport Authority responsibilities from the four constituent transport authorities (Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council) to the East Midlands Combined County Authority. As the Local Transport Authority for the region, the Combined Authority needs to produce a Local Transport Plan, in order to set direction and guide investment decisions. This is a statutory responsibility. It is also a great opportunity to think and plan transport on a regional basis, better fitting the actual journeys many of us make.

Why is it called the Mayor's Transport Plan?

The title reflects the status of the plan and is the ultimate responsibility of the Mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority. The preparation and review of a Local Transport Plan is a Mayoral Function; these responsibilities are set out in the constitution.

What does the Mayor's Transport Plan mean for me?

We really want your views to gain an understanding of the key transport issues and challenges in the region now – and in the future – and how transport users feel they are affected by them or will be affected by them in future. This consultation is about agreeing the objectives we wish to achieve through the Transport Plan.

Will the Mayor's Transport plan aim to get more people to take public transport or active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling)?

The East Midlands devolution deal transfers public transport functions from the four constituent transport authorities to the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). EMCCA will now oversee public transport delivery, including managing contracts and partnerships with bus operators, administering concessionary fares, and providing funding and subsidies where needed.

EMCCA is already taking a leadership role, for example, coordinating the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Delivery Plan, which enabled government to release 2025/26 funding. It is essential that the BSIP aligns with the Mayor's Transport Plan, so EMCCA is working with constituent authorities and drawing on existing specialist teams ahead of the full staff transfer. Consultation questions have been included to help shape the BSIP and ensure both plans reflect community needs.

The emerging principles of the Transport Plan focus on improving public transport and active travel and creating an integrated network. We are seeking your views on these principles.

How does the new Mayor's Transport Plan affect transport policies in the region that are already underway or have been approved?

Local transport authorities should integrate current and future transport modal plans and other strategies such as the Bus Service Improvement Plans, Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan, local EV charging (charge point) strategies, Local Highways Asset Management Plan, and Rights of Way Improvement Plan under their Local Transport Plan.

We will be working to do this in collaboration with the local authorities and other partners.

Will the Mayor's Transport Plan control the transport policies and strategies that Local Authorities develop in their area?

The Local Transport Plan is a statutory plan, which means it is required by law. We are developing it in partnership with the four constituent local authorities. By producing it collaboratively we are making sure that the Transport Plan sits comfortably alongside other local policies and strategies, so they support and strengthen each other.

What is the process of putting the new Transport Plan in place and how does this consultation fit in?

We have worked closely with the four constituent authorities to develop the emerging principles of the Transport Plan as well as other partners and stakeholders.

It is a statutory process, and consultation is a key part of that process. Early engagement with the public and other stakeholders is important to help get feedback at the right time on the emerging work and to help get buy-in from communities and other stakeholders. This is the first consultation process on the emerging Transport Plan and we will be holding future consultation and engagement on the draft Plan at a later date.

How is the East Midlands Combined Authority working with the four constituent authorities to develop the Mayor's Transport Plan?

The Plan guides all local transport policy and investment across the East Midlands region, however some duties, remain with the local highway authorities. We have been working with the four constituent authorities, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for over a year to develop the emerging principles of the Transport Plan. This includes regular working groups and meeting with political colleagues, including portfolio holders and Leaders to feed into the process and help shape the emerging principles.

The constituent authorities remain the local highway authorities and will be responsible for the design and delivery of many of transport interventions.

How does this Mayor's Transport Plan development work with the Local Plans that local authorities are developing?

Each plan informs the other, with Local Plans giving direction as to where investment in transport is needed to support wider planning objectives, and the Local Transport Plan showing developers where they will need to consider investment in transport schemes to enable their proposals to go ahead.

Who will decide to adopt the new Mayor's Transport Plan?

The Transport Plan is a statutory document, and it will be a decision for the East Midlands Combined County Authority Board to adopt it. It is anticipated that we will have a draft document of the full Mayor's Transport Plan in 2026 and we will then undertake another public consultation on that draft and the supporting evidence, including an integrated sustainability appraisal.

What are the next steps in the Mayor's Transport Plan?

We will use this feedback, and particularly any concerns raised, and opportunities identified, to inform the vision and objectives of the Plan and the next stages of the Plan's development. This will help us to develop an ambitious plan that helps prioritise the right interventions to better connect communities and support inclusive growth across our region.

Why aren't we talking about specific projects that we are going to invest in?

The intention of the consultation is to identify the key transport issues and challenges affecting people's journeys in the region, and the objectives we wish to achieve through the Transport Plan. Once these are understood and people's aspirations for the network have been identified, we can start developing options for delivering these.

When are we going to talk about specific projects?

While the Mayor's Transport Plan is being developed, EMCCA and the local authorities will continue to use the funding available to us to invest in the region's network. This will ensure the status of the network is not impacted by an investment standstill until the Plan is ready.

This work will be co-ordinated through the authorities and our collective Committees and Boards where elected members represent their communities. As individual project proposals are developed they will each be taken through the relevant consultation process to make sure they match the needs of the places they are being delivered in.

How does this relate to other transport strategies and policies being developed such as rail and active travel?

The Transport Plan gives the overarching view of how we see transport as a whole developing over the plan period and how different modes of transport will work together as one. Other strategies such as for rail, active travel, etc. are there to set out in detail how policies will be implemented in practice and over what period.

How does this relate to the adoption of a Key Route Network for the EMCCA region?

There is a legal requirement for Combined County Authorities to confirm a key route network comprising of the most important roads across the region. This will inform decision-making on investment in infrastructure and guidance on the operational resilience of the network. This is particularly important for planning for periods when the network could be disrupted for whatever reason, planned (road improvements works) or unplanned events (e.g. flooding events), to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and transport users. This will include where there is disruption to other transport modes such as the rail network. We will establish the Key Route Network alongside the Highway Authorities over the next 18 months (to March 2027).

How does this relate to the adoption of a Bus Service Improvement Plan for the EMCCA region?

It is important that the BSIP and Mayor's Transport Plan are aligned. EMCCA is working with the constituent authorities to draw early on the expertise from within the existing specialist teams, to begin work on the BSIP ahead of the full transfer of public transport staff from the constituent authorities. Questions within the consultation survey have therefore been added that will help inform the development of the BSIP. This approach recognises the interaction between the two plans and ensures they reflect as far as possible the needs and preferences of our communities.

How will Local Government Reorganisation affect the plan?

The local government reorganisation is expected to create unitary authorities that will streamline public services delivery. EMCCA will still remain the Local Transport Authority. As and when the new unitary authorities are in place we will continue to work with the new local highway authorities.

How will you make sure the consultation is accessible?

We want to hear from a diverse range of groups and users from across the region to ensure broad and inclusive public and stakeholder engagement to help us understand the needs of all our communities that live, work and travel in the region. Our engagement activities are designed to minimise any barriers to take part in the process. For example:

- The questionnaire includes “About you” questions that can be voluntarily completed. We will use this information throughout the consultation period to monitor which groups of people are underrepresented with lower-than-expected response rates and then we can tailor further marketing activity to help reach those communities
- We have provided material in alternative formats such as easy read documents
- We are using a range of engagement methods to cater for different needs and preferences: questionnaires – online and printed versions, in-person events held across the region, and focus groups
- The online consultation material is designed to be accessible and compatible with most translation software.

Anyone can contact us regarding the consultation process by emailing:
transportplan@eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk

How will you make sure that the Mayor's Transport Plan meets the different needs across the diverse region?

The Plan recognises the diversity of our unique region from rural villages, towns to the two key cities of Nottingham and Derby, but also the need for the cross-boundary connections to places like Manchester and Sheffield.

We need to understand the places in our region to know how best to improve transport. This first consultation process is crucial to seek the views of our communities to help inform the further development of the Plan.

How will you ensure that the new Transport Plan benefits and protects the environment?

There are several statutory assessments required when developing a transport strategy that appraise the environmental and social impacts of the emerging plan. These are to be undertaken through a single Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. This work is being completed in a timeframe which supports the development of the Transport Plan. The purpose of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential adverse effects as well as maximising opportunities for positive impacts.

How will you consider the impact of the Transport Plan on equity and diversity and inclusion in the region, including those with protected characteristics?

The Plan needs to consider the varying needs of all users which is key to ensure accessible and inclusive travel. Reducing barriers to access is crucial to enable inclusive growth in the region and transport is critical in creating access to services and opportunities. It will be informed by the work being undertaken as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and the social impacts.

The Mayor's Transport Plan sits under the overarching Inclusive Growth Framework for the region. Inclusion will be at the centre of the Transport Plan aiming to serve the needs of our diverse communities and reducing the barriers to using transport and making access more equitable.