



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee



North Wales Regional Transport Plan

(Draft)

Easy to Read version





Tell us what you think about the changes we plan for how people can travel and get around North Wales

This document was written by Ambition North Wales. It is an easy to read version of the ‘North Wales Regional Transport Plan’.

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1. What this report is about

Transport is very important in North Wales. It connects us to jobs, schools, healthcare, shopping, and fun activities.

Transport also helps connect businesses with customers, bringing tourists to attractions, and delivering goods.

The draft Regional Transport Plan for North Wales includes policies and projects to improve travel in the region. It will help with decisions about what transport services and improvements to pay for over the next 5 years.

The draft Regional Transport Plan has been written by Ambition North Wales, which is a regional organisation that has similar powers to local councils.

Ambition North Wales represents six councils: Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, and Wrexham, as well as the Eryri National Park Authority.

Ambition North Wales is working with the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales on the Regional Transport Plan.



2. What we want to change

The changes will mean:

- Getting around by walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport will be safer. Wheeling means transport that uses pavement space at a similar speed to walking. It does not include the use of e-scooters or cycles.
- Public transport services will be more affordable
- The buses and trains will be more reliable and frequent
- It will be easier to change between different types of transport
- Buses and trains will be better for the environment
- Getting to work, school, college or university will be easier
- It will be easier to work from home and plan journeys using the internet or a smartphone



3. Our policies and projects

Policies are statements about what we want to do to make transport better in North Wales. Projects are changes we want to make to transport services and facilities.

Our policies and projects are grouped around types of transport. They are set out below.

Rail

The railways in North Wales are managed by the UK Government through Network Rail. Local authorities in North Wales have no control over rail services or facilities.

The changes we want to see include an improved:

- North Wales Main Line and Chester Station
- Borderlands Line and Padeswood
- Shotton Station Interchange
- New Station at Deeside Industrial Park
- Shrewsbury – Wrexham – Chester Line
- Conwy Valley and Cambrian Coast Lines



Trunk roads

Trunk roads in North Wales are large 'A' roads, which are managed by the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent and the Welsh Government. Local authorities have no control over these roads.

The changes we want to see include:

- Major highways maintenance and improvements to make it safer and reduce congestion and delays
- Improved connections across the Menai Strait

Bus

We want environmentally friendly buses, with low or zero emission vehicles.

We want to see more buses connecting more places, with at least hourly services between main towns from 7am to 10pm, with bus stops in all villages and hamlets.

Local bus services will connect villages to large towns at least three times a day.

We will support the Welsh Government with Bus Franchising. This is a new approach to managing bus services, where the local authority or Transport for Wales takes control of planning and operating bus routes, schedules, and fares.



Coach and Community Transport

Coach travel can be a good alternative to rail for long trips and can connect routes that buses do not cover.

Flexible transport options like community transport are important in rural areas. We support 'Fflecsi' and 'Ring and Ride' services.

We support making the Sherpa'r Wyddfa bus services permanent and better connecting them with bus and rail.

We also want long-distance coach services between towns and cities, not served by rail, making travel easier for everyone.

We will work with taxi drivers and companies to encourage them to drive low emission vehicles and reduce the impact on the environment.

Walking, Wheeling and Cycling

We want walking, wheeling, and cycling to be easy options for everyone, including those in rural areas.

By doing this it will be simple to travel to local services, schools, workplaces, and connect to bus or rail networks for longer trips.

The changes we want to see include:

- Further improving 'active travel' routes and facilities, which will make it safer and quicker to get around by walking, wheeling and cycling
- Support cycle hire, e-bike, and e-scooters in a safe and affordable way



Ports and Freight

Moving the products we buy around by sea, roads and rail is important for our economy and helps us get the things we need and want delivered to our door.

The changes we want to see include:

- Development of ports to attract jobs and make it easier to move goods around
- improvement in facilities for HGV drivers to make it safer and easier for deliveries
- Development of hydrogen facilities and support electric vehicle charging facilities to encourage low or zero emission goods vehicles
- Support to shift from road to rail for freight movements to help reduce congestion and pollution

Roads, Streets and Parking

We want people in North Wales and visitors to travel in sustainable ways.

However, we know many journeys will still be made by car, especially in rural areas.

We want well-maintained and safe roads fit for now and the future. We will make the best use of existing roads by maintaining them and encouraging lower emission travel to reduce the environmental impact of cars.



We want our streets and areas to feel safe and we will review public car parking in town centres, considering appropriate locations and costs.

We will also support car clubs and car sharing schemes because not everyone needs or can afford to own a car.

Access to Airports

There are three international airports in England close to North Wales: Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Manchester Airport, and Birmingham Airport.

In North Wales, we have Anglesey Airport, which used to have a connection to Cardiff, and Hawarden Airport, which supports Airbus operations in Flintshire.


We want to improve access to airports, focusing on improving public transport services.

Digital Connectivity

The Welsh Government wants 30% of the Welsh workforce to work away from a traditional office. This will give people more options for where they work. The aim is to help town centres, reduce traffic, and cut carbon emissions.

Better digital connectivity and remote working opportunities support sustainable travel and reduce the need to travel.

The changes we want to see include:

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- Promoting remote working hubs
 - Improving access to digital literacy education
 - Implementing digital and real time information about public transport services

Travel Behaviour

We want to make sure people in North Wales have more options for how they travel. This means creating good conditions for travel choices while thinking about the effects on our economy, environment, society, and culture.

We want to help people make more sustainable travel choices by providing people with choices about how they travel, access services and education.

We want to provide people with more choices in rural areas as well as urban areas.

We will make it easier for people to access information to make more sustainable travel choices.

We will help people enjoy our visitor attractions by public transport, supporting the tourism industry.



Integration between Modes of Travelling

Journeys often use more than one type of transport. We need to make it easier for people in North Wales to use different types of transport in one trip. This means creating a public transport network with more options to meet everyone's needs.

This will involve improving bus and rail integration with better connectivity between them, as well as improved walking, wheeling and cycling connections to stations.

We will also improve and develop park and ride, and park and share schemes.

Tickets that can be used on different types of transport, along with improved bus and rail schedules, will make changing between transport types easier.

Land Use Planning

Planning should focus on developing our city and town centres before building new sites in locations that don't have good transport links.

Considering economic development, transport, and land use planning together, will help us make better decisions about regeneration schemes and new developments. For example, we will support new housing around rail and bus stations so that people won't rely on their cars.



4. Supporting Documents

Other documents and assessments that support the Regional Transport Plan have been prepared, which provide more information about our plans. This includes our:

Regional Transport Delivery Plan

This identifies and priorities local authority schemes to help deliver our Regional Transport Plan.

We have worked with local authorities and Transport for Wales to consider 268 schemes to be delivered in the short, medium, and long term.


Funding for these projects will come from different sources, such as the Welsh Government, UK Government and other opportunities for finance.

The Welsh Government plans to make it easier for local authorities to access funding through bring together the different funding sources.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will help us track our progress in meeting our goals and outcomes. It includes specific measures with data and targets for improvement up to 2030.

We will hold regular meetings for local authorities to provide progress updates and consider any new developments or funding opportunities.



Every year we will produce a report on our performance to the Welsh Government, and every three years we will complete an in-depth review to help us consider if we need to make any necessary changes.

Integrated Well-being Appraisal

Integrated Well-being Appraisal is required as part of the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance. Our Appraisal shows how our policies will contribute to well-being, supported by the impacts assessments that we have completed to consider issues such as the environment, health, equality and biodiversity.

5. Have your say

You can view our plans and respond to our consultation by completing a questionnaire online, available in our virtual exhibition room here: <https://northwalesregionaltransportplan.virtual-engage.com/>

Or, you can download a form [here](#) and email your response to northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com.

Or, write to us and post printed copies of the questionnaire. You don't need a stamp and can simply write on the front of an envelope: FREEPOST UGC / ANW

If you'd like to speak to us about our plans, you can also call us on: 01172 405 350.

Paper copies of our draft North Wales Regional Transport Plan and Questionnaire can be provided to you on request by emailing us or leaving us a message on our telephone service using the details above.