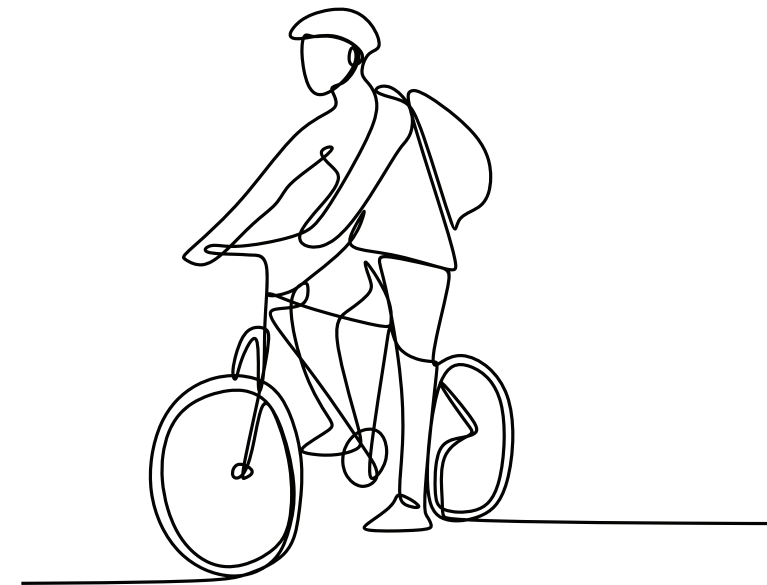


Active Travel Action Plans 2023-30

‘Make walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset’

Our Vision: To ensure that we have coherent, direct, safe, comfortable and attractive active travel networks and routes across North Somerset. This will include 'joining up' other schemes, addressing severance (stretches of unsuitable road, difficult junctions, lack of bridges etc) and providing more strategic routes.



1. We will develop an infrastructure network of high-capacity, quality cycle tracks along main road corridors as well as a plan for strategic cycling infrastructure to address missing links, pinch-points and safer cycling within neighbourhoods.
2. We want to ensure new routes and improvements identified through our suite of Active Travel Action Plans are in the locations where they can make the greatest difference, are joined-up and easy to follow.
3. Our starting point is that all scheme proposals will be considered against our Place and Movement Framework. The question is, which of the improvements required can be achieved by changes to our existing roads?
4. The first priority is for the re-allocation or re-purposing of Highway space to meet the needs of active travel. Cycle provision must also be separate to pedestrian provision, at least where there is the chance of conflict. Without following this advice the Department for Transport (DfT) will not fund schemes which put people walking/ wheeling and cycling against each other (using the same shared spaces).

5. We will use audit processes to prioritise important, quick-win and value-for-money infrastructure improvements to our existing active travel network.

- Active travel is a great investment for the climate. 42% of people consider that they could just as easily walk many of their car journeys of < 2miles (ONS, 2016).
- Physical inactivity costs the NHS up to £1 billion each year. There are additional indirect costs (such as lost working days due to poor health) of £8.2 billion (DfT, 2014).
- Walking/wheeling, cycling and horse riding are all popular leisure and tourism activities with proven economic benefits. The National Cycle Network alone contributes £650M to the economy (cyclinguk.org).
- For all these benefits to be realised, we need joined-up networks – to make as many journeys as possible by active travel a realistic and attractive option.



Where possible, highway space will be allocated to new segregated cycle lanes (example/image credit from DfT Cycle Design LTN 1/20).



Listed are just a few examples scheme proposals that we could progress subject to funding and engagement. This isn't a list of all our scheme proposals – we want to hear what you think about the proposals listed and any that you want for your area. We'll collect all scheme requests and use our new scoring and prioritisation process to help us prioritise the most needed and best value for money improvements we can make across the district. This will inform our network planning for when funding becomes available for us to bid for.



Closing off residential roads to through traffic helps create Active Travel Networks (example/image credit from DfT Cycle Design LTN 1/20).

Location	Brief issue/improvement concept	Status
Hildesheim Bridge/Station Rd, Weston-super-Mare (Weston Station Active Travel Gateway)	LCWIP Cycle Routes Weston-super-Mare 3 and 4. Continue cycle routes which stop short of the town centre. Address lack of crossing facilities at A370/ Francis Fox Roundabout.	Bidding for funding
Yatton – Clevedon	Continuous route based on former railway from Yatton Station to Clevedon connecting communities to rail network and increasing leisure and tourism opportunities.	Bidding for funding
Worle High Street	Reduce or remove through traffic to improve walking/ wheeling and cycling safety. This will encourage active travel to the High Street and to nearby schools. Improving the public realm will encourage people to spend time and money in a more attractive, cleaner and safer Worle High Street.	Outline proposal
Nailsea Town Centre to Nailsea and Backwell Railway Station	LCWIP Cycle Route Nailsea 1. Provide a direct high-quality route, segregated where possible or otherwise traffic calmed.	Outline Proposal
Nailsea – Clevedon	Address lack of cycle route. Investigate all route options including rural lanes, Public Rights of Way and possible new linking paths (missing section of National Cycle Network Route 33).	Options Assessment
New scheme proposals from communities and stakeholders	To be added following consultation – all proposals will be subject to review, scoring, prioritisation and funding being available.	Awaiting issues/requests from our communities and stakeholders



Good examples

The Festival Way: This is a direct and popular commuter route connecting Nailsea and Bristol, carrying around 280 return cycle trips per day. It includes quiet rural lanes, Public Rights of Way, new build paths, reallocation of road space (Weston Rd), quiet residential streets, and a new Toucan crossing of the B3128. It is typical of how new strategic routes and severance will be developed, using a variety of opportunities.

The Pier to Pier Way: This flagship route is due to open Spring 2023, as the key missing link in our North Somerset Coastal Towns Cycle Route. It addresses the severance caused by the M5, connects quiet lanes with new paths and Public Rights of Way, and will have high quality signing. It will serve a wide range of functions including being a commuter route, leisure route, catalyst for sustainable tourism, and enable new routes for walkers and horse riders.

Challenges to delivery

- Securing sufficient funding and staff resource to develop and deliver our initiatives and scheme proposals with our communities.
- Practical challenges – for example, severance issues are often not easy to address and why many remain unresolved. This can mean addressing the concerns of multiple landowners, government agencies and the railways.
- Competing demands for Highway space, and public acceptance that changes to how we use this are necessary.
- Changes to political priorities, both locally and nationally.

We want to hear from you!

We want your ideas about active travel interventions you want in your area.

Residents, businesses, visitors and other stakeholders – we encourage you to discuss issues local to you with your Town or Parish Council and your Elected North Somerset Councillor for your ward area.

You can also add your requests at **Widen My Path**.

Town and Parish Councils and North Somerset Council Elected Members – please use the **Highway Improvement Request Form** to submit your transport network improvement requests.

This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For all enquiries please contact the Transport Team
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