



Transport Board

Date/time	30 th September 2025, 9:30am – 12:00pm
Location	City Hall, College Green
Co-chairs	Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council; Melanie Watson, Transport Focus
Meeting Attendees:	
Members	Arthur Girling, Bristol City Council; Darron Hamilton, Bristol City Council; Fraser Reid, WSP; Graham Parkhurst, UWE; Judith Langdon, Bristol City Council; Karen Llewellyn, Bristol Health Partners; Mark Li, Foot Anstey; Randall Rickabaugh, Enterprise Holdings; Rob Pymm, First Bus; Sean Walsh, Highways England; Steve Bluff, Visit West (on behalf of Kathryn and Tom); Tom Smithenbank, Bristol BID.
Observers	
Invitees	
Apologies/absent	Andrew Ord, Bristol Port Company; Amy Roberts, Unite The Union; Dan Okey, GWR; John Boughton, National Express; Louise McBride, WECA; Mark Brown, Motability; Neil Havill, Priority Express; Sado Jidre, Black South West Network; Simon Whitehead, Zedify; Stewart Cundy, NHS.
ITEM	
1) Welcomes & Apologies	
<p>The chairs welcomed all members as well as encouraged members to try to attend meetings in person preferably.</p> <p>Those who cannot attend, please give apologies.</p> <p>Graham Parkhurst, UWE - Brief update of nighttime economy</p> <p>A successful workshop was held with 8 participants in July.</p> <p>Results paper of this workshop has been written and given to attendees for their approval.</p> <p>Next step is to write up findings of the workshop and have discussions with colleagues regarding the outcomes.</p> <p>Graham noted it was interesting what most people regard as a nice nighttime economy</p> <p>The board advised there is a need for better understanding of what this is; keen to establish where Bristol would like to be, what identity it wants to promote – does it intend to be cultural e.g. Belfast or more entertaining e.g. London.</p> <p>The board also highlighted that people that work at night need to be acknowledged. An increase of nighttime buses, however, some areas do not have any at all.</p> <p>The board touched on the issue of Bus Ticketing – Some tickets end at 2am or 4am.</p> <p>People that work would require a 24 hour ticket.</p> <p>Neil Havill of Priority Express reported –</p> <p>A new fleet of 6 cargo bikes, replacing 2 vans in BS3 area</p> <p>Priority Express will have 6 bikes operating between BS1, BS2 and BS3 –delivering freight to customers/ local businesses as a part of their commitment to decarbonise their fleet.</p>	

Priority Express hope to continue expanding - the company is currently training riders.
This is currently confidential and not for wider communication.

Rugby World Cup:

Ashton Gate saw 96,000 spectators - both international and regional spectators; Many visitors were interested in the development work that is taking place in Bristol.

The workplace parking levy consultation is coming soon.

The chair advised creating a stakeholder group, including key stakeholders such as Business West, BID hoteliers association, the hospital and the university, is needed to work with board directly.

Map of EV chargers in city - is there any work taking place on these?

Expansion of EV chargers is scheduled.

Board members advised there should be clarity on the cost of EV chargers. If price information was publicly accessible as well as just information as to where these chargers are located - very beneficial for public.

ACTION: Darron Hamilton to investigate EV chargers queries with City Leap.

Sean Walsh, Highways England:

SW advised that there is a new draft for National Highways Road Investment Strategy – this will be the first estimate at how much funding National Highways will get.

National Highways currently receive funding in 5 year instalments and central government outlines funding and goals.

National Highways focus is likely to be on maintaining and renewing old infrastructure

SW advised on the repairs to M32 motorway, scheduled to begin in 2026/2027

The motorway repairs may take place for up to 6 years, with 2 lanes in each direction to be repaired - motorway will NOT close.

SW advised that there is a lot of work going around the city, you will begin to see localised improvements

M32 repairs will take time as they need to ensure the motorway stays open

Big emphasis by National Highways on safety, renewal and maintenance.

2) Changing Roles on The Board

One co-chair, Melanie Watson of Transport Focus, has stepped down after today's meeting.

ACTION – Ed Plowden to become sole chair

Melanie reported:

MW shared some thoughts:

- In the recent years, a new emphasis around buses.
- 50% of the bus sector is funded by the public
- Currently a big investment in buses – still a lot to deliver the public; the public have higher expectations of the bus
- Congestion has not been solved in 8 years as per One City plan
- It was noted that some members believe the issue of congestion will not be solved, and that it is better to assess approach Bristol's congestion problem - we can cut journey times of buses and cars however this will not resolve issue of congestion

Vacancies and membership

Board members advised that when people collaborate to achieve a shared goal is when we see change

There is an emphasis to align thinking on a political level, align stakeholders with policy, build trust and be delivery focused to see success.

It was noted by members that there is a need for political stability in Bristol

Some members on list have not attended a recent meeting, JL to see if people are still committed.

ACTION – JL to enquire to board members to confirm their interest in continued board membership

ACTION – City Office to advertise for new vacancies (Chair & Members). JL to make explicit in advert that attendance is required, advertise internally and externally

The board advised there is issue with the timing – allowing members to join to refresh 9 months later may be a turn off.

The board stressed the need to make clear to new applicants that there will be a presumption (though not an obligation) of continued membership into the next term.

There is an aim for the board get a new chair to replace Melanie by January

The board aims to have a balance of stakeholders - transport group is both public and private sector; not a need for just transport experts, but a need to involve organisations that affect transport demand.

JL stressed the need for transparency and inclusivity on Transport Board, and advised that members of other boards can be invited to join as observers

ACTION – If members are aware of any good additions to the board, please advise them to apply

The board noted that Transport issues coincide with other boards, such as Health & Wellbeing, Children & Young People, etc.

Members questioned can boards cooperate and look at issues and have meetings together?

Both Bristol universities can support these meetings via the Civic University Agreement for Bristol - can they also support the board's work with research?

Board looking to appoint new members for 9-month period until scheduled refresh, at that point the board will consider what it looks for in a member.

ACTION – City Office to write a new terms of reference

City Office found that post-refresh attendance is good on other boards

Board members to consider: what representation does the board need? What group does the board need more of?

3) One City Updates

Judith Langdon of One City reported:

The City Office was approached 6 months ago by Oxford University, over a research project from Norway called Inclucity; Inclucity revolved around supporting the development of the '15 minute city', with a specific lens on children and young people

Niotia has joined One City Team as a Business Administration Apprentice

The One City refresh has been completed and the Governance board has approved of the refresh.

Members have been advised to sign up for an invitation to the One City Breakfast on the 22nd of October at Burgess Salmon, where City Office will be launching the new plan.

City Office advised that within the new plan, there is a new emphasis on implementing and delivering missions; all boards are being asked to re-orient themselves to all of the 4 missions, not just one.

It was noted that the aim of the refresh is to make what was previously implicit, explicit

ACTION – All boards to develop action plans to support the delivery of new One City missions

It was noted that One City is looking for visible efforts from the Board, as well as the new understanding that the One City plan is now a 5 year plan instead of 2 years.

The new One City plan has a new emphasis on collective influence, what can the Transport board specifically influence and enable?

Things for members to consider:

1. What does the board need from One City that would help when the Board creates an action plan?
2. What are the top 3 needs apparent in Bristol?
 1. How do the boards cooperate to act on these needs?
 2. What are Board members doing/what can they do?
 3. As a collective, what do board members bring to the table?
 4. What can we as a board do to ensure this?

JL advised there needs to be a specific focus on policy as well as from an organisation level.

The board highlighted the need for Cross-fertilisation:

What are the challenges; How do we get that greater engagement?

Board members explained that the Transport Board is a facilitator and requires other boards cooperation to ensure our goal for transport can be met; it is impossible for the Transport Board to do this in isolation,

The board notes a need to bring members of other boards together, as noted by the co-chair - transport is connected to all boards in some way.

Members theorised what is the potential for the collaboration with other boards to enhance and improve?

One example of cross-board issues impacting the average citizen is getting children to school:

Some people cannot afford public transport; many affluent families never use public transport

JL agreed that there needs to be a process of bringing together, as boards in isolation working does not work

ACTION – City Office to circulate template to be completed by all members. Members are to give short summary as to how their company or organisation is participating in mission delivery, what they contribute as well as how they plan on participating in mission delivery.

PLEASE RETURN BACK TO CITY OFFICE

4) Update on Liveable Neighbourhood projects

James Morven of Bristol City Council reported:

The main Objectives of Liveable Neighbourhoods:

- Putting people first – less traffic and lower vehicle speeds; all properties will still be accessed by vehicle
- Prioritise health, physical fitness – people utilising buses, cycling or walking

Across Bristol, School Streets projects mean roads are closed to through traffic

Some are timed closures for 45 minutes, where no cars are allowed and children can play on the street

Some have Modal filters – road closed to traffic but are open to cyclists and pedestrians

This is due to a push for getting people out of cars and onto public transport, cycling or walking.

Residents' feedback found what they find challenging and how the resident would want to see change; we are currently analysing the data, going through consultations to see what is permanent - this will be decided Spring 2026.

South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood:

Residents had comments on pedestrian safety, greenery and public spaces improvements, vehicle management and cycling infrastructures.

Phase 1 – Totterdown and Southville

There are proposed residents parking measures across South Bristol, (Southville and Bedminster have them already)

The council are asking residents that do not currently have RPS if they would like one - residents in Totterdown for example commented about the lack of parking, as well as residents around Ashton Gate re match days parking

Focus on school and local centres, concerns on safety of children leaving and going to school as well as opportunities around local centres and businesses.

Some concerns by residents on displacement of traffic and will have to drive further however, all addresses will continue to be accessible by car, by different routes in many cases.

In Totterdown, there is a new bus gate and focus on local centres

There are drop-in centres in South Bristol until the end of October to get resident feedback to shape these designs

Bristol City Council aim to launch measures in 2026 – 2027

The council is currently sat on draft 1 for the Liveable Neighbourhood scheme - public and private input is appreciated, aim to provoke resident feedback

The board noted that GPs, such as Charlotte Keel GP, advised they were really in support of the East Bristol Neighbourhood Scheme

A board member noted that there is a lot of negativity towards Neighbourhood Scheme – is it worth having a media blitz to improve public perspective, as well as ensuring faith leaders, GPs are provided with information to ensure that the comms are given to residents in these areas?

A member explained that in East Bristol – wealthy people can walk and cycle and have the option and poor people have to use cars and have less choice on where they live, is this a real concern?

Another member advised people are time poor, and are unable to sit and read liveable neighbourhood benefits.

Additionally, people are not informed so they will not know the benefits of liveable neighbourhoods

Action – Board members to consider how do we successfully inform the public of the benefits of liveable neighbourhoods?

5) Focus Group research on Messaging

Juliet Gardner of Bristol City Council reported:

38 participants; Two focus groups on liveable neighbourhoods; Two on disruptions & road works; Two on disruptions & road works (business focused)

Consider how does the board approach the public?

- It was noted by members that the board must appeal to everyone in the general public - ensuring that the message isn't too wordy or middle class.
- Members stressed the emphasis on encouraging message to the public that are going to be affected – i.e improving the day to day life for “you” - the public

It was highlighted by members that business needs for public transport are similar to the public's needs for public transport - the public would need the public transport to attend the business or get to work for the businesses

Board members discussed how social media companies get the attention of the public and how to target the specific market, i.e if it's about saving money, how do they appeal to the audience that is poorer and would benefit from it the most.

Board members noted public sector isn't good at targeted marketing

As political landscape changes, words like money/safety needs to be specified

Board members questioned the fairness of these neighbourhoods - Is it fair that these poorer areas are affected by affluent people driving through to get to their destinations?

6) “Bristol On The Move” Update

Darron Hamilton of Bristol City Council reported:

Bristol On The Move Website will be launching at the end of the month

Bristol On The Move has 3 Specific Projects:

- *City Centre Project*
- *A4 Portway*
- *Bus Route 2*

In the New Year, the website will contain a lot of information regarding what is going on across the city, pertaining to these projects; improving buses and journey times as well as walking and cycling

Website will talk about the big ideas and plans for the city, as well as going into specifics regarding the projects and how they plan to execute them.

There is now an option for specific newsletter or updates on specific projects.

The aim is that, using the website, these can be updated as things/plans change.

There is a new journey planner for walking/bus routes, with inspiration taken from a map that they do in Southampton – highlighting the air quality of your route, cycle routes and designated clean air routes

ACTION – DH to circulate website and members to provide feedback

7) AOB

No additional business