

■ Improving buses by becoming an Integrated Transport Authority and taking on more bus powers

There is wide agreement that this area suffers from an inadequate bus service with high fares which discourage the use of public transport. High car use leads to congestion and more pollution.

Millions invested by local councils in Showcase bus routes have resulted in only a small increase in bus patronage. More radical change is urgent.

An Executive covering the whole West of England's travel to work area is needed. It would plan, integrate and improve local bus, rail and Rapid Transit services by sharing resources and funds and developing local expertise that councils now pay consultants to provide.

The Executive staff would be supervised by Local Councillors as members of a new Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) which can take on more bus and rail powers. A list of those powers is on our website.

The ITA would replace the current weak public transport governance under the West of England Partnership (WEP).

ITAs already exist in the major urban areas outside of London including Manchester, Birmingham and Sheffield.

■ Improving rail instead of road building

Government funding should be spent on improving public transport rather than new road building which simply encourages more car travel, leading to more congestion, air and noise pollution and greenhouse gases. Major new roads impact adversely on community interaction and safety.

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We oppose the proposed South Bristol Link (combined new road and Bus Rapid Transit – BRT) because it undermines the possible use of the BRT and opens up the North Somerset Greenbelt to development. It is due to be given the funding go ahead in Spring 2010 (called programme entry).

We also propose the WEP brings forward the Portishead rail line reopening project instead with new stations at Portishead, Pill and Ashton Gate.

■ Introducing a tram

We are also campaigning for an ultra light tram which would be a more attractive and sustainable alternative to the guided bus with its invasive concrete infrastructure or the bendy bus which has already gone out of fashion in other cities.

■ Who are we?

TfGB is an alliance of 22 transport and environmental groups. More details of our campaign and full manifesto are at www.tfgb.org.uk.

Individuals and groups are welcome to join our campaign at monthly meetings



Dear Executive Member for Transport

I support the creation of an Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) for the West of England and ask the West of England Partnership to spend Government transport funding on rail improvements and new rail stations and a tram rather than new road building in the Greenbelt. Please:

1. Support a review under the Local Transport Act 2008 which would assess the benefits of becoming an ITA and taking on new powers over bus and rail services.
2. Bring forward the Portishead rail line reopening project with new stations at Ashton Gate, Portishead and Pill for programme entry for Government funding in April 2010 instead of the Combined South Bristol Link Road and Bus Rapid Transit .

Name

Address

Postcode

Signed

Please add more comments below.

Please detach this card and send it to the Executive member for Transport for your area.

Fed up with local public transport?

Support the Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance's campaign to establish an Integrated Transport Authority, improve bus, rail and introduce a tram



Transport for Greater Bristol Alliance
 Campaigning for Integrated Transport

www.tfgb.org.uk



What you can do

1. Complete this card, address and send it as soon as possible (by end of Jan at the latest) to the Executive member for Transport for your area.

• Bristol - **Councillor Jon Rogers**,

The Council House, College Green, BS1

jon.rogers@bristol.gov.uk (he supports an ITA).

• South Gloucestershire - **Councillor Brian Allinson**,

Council offices, Castle St, Thornbury BS35 1HF

brian.allinson@southglos.gov.uk

• Bath and North East Somerset - **Councillor Charles Gerrish**,

The Guildhall, High St, Bath, BA1 5AW

Charles.gerrish@bathnes.gov.uk

• North Somerset - **Councillor Eftan Ap Rees**,

The Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Rd

Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 1UJ

Eftan.ap.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk

- Attend one of our forthcoming public meetings to discuss transport and set up pro ITA groups outside Bristol
- Kingswood** Friday 22nd Jan, Kingswood Civic Centre, 7.30pm
- Bath** Thurs 28th Jan St Michaels Church, Broad St, 7.30pm
- Yate** Tues 16th Feb, Parish Hall, Station Rd, 7.30pm
- Contact us for more postcards at info@tfgb.org.uk. You can join TfGB by emailing the same address.
- Go to our website www.tfgb.org.uk to the impossible journeys page and let us have your horror stories about local journeys which you cannot make due to lack of public transport, high fares or multiple connections.

Executive Member for Transport

Please affix stamp here

www.tfgb.org.uk

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