

Public Transport

The key to building a better, greener future for everyone

Translink - making public transport your first choice for travel today, for tomorrow

Over the next decade, public transport will play a vital role in building a better Northern Ireland, ensuring a greener and more competitive economy, a more inclusive society and delivering enhanced environmental outcomes that address regional and global climate challenges.

As a true cross cutting public service, public transport is a key enabler to the successful delivery of the Programme for Government.

Translink aims to operate a Zero Emission bus and rail fleet by 2040, and to go beyond this to be Climate Positive by 2050. This ambition, alongside a shift in attitudes and behaviours towards more sustainable travel options, will drive the change towards a cleaner, healthier society and a better quality of life for generations to come. It will however require substantial stakeholder and government support.

We've made a good start but there's still much to do, and Translink will work with all stakeholders to help accelerate our ambitious plans that put sustainability and accessibility at the heart of transport planning.

Taking Northern Ireland's public transport towards 2040:

1.

Continued investment in public transport = sustainable future

Emergency funding was essential during the pandemic to provide public transport services for essential and key workers and to support the economic recovery.

It has also been well documented that public transport in Northern Ireland has experienced decades of underinvestment and already receives a substantially lesser degree of public funding here than in any other UK region; indeed, per head spending on public transport in Northern Ireland is only around 27% of the UK average per head spend.

This needs addressed in the next 3 year budget.

2.

Decarbonise our fleet – Net Zero Emissions

Translink aims to deliver a fully Net Zero bus and rail fleet across our network before 2040 – by mid-2022, we will operate the 4th- largest Zero Emission bus fleet in the UK and Ireland. Derry~Londonderry will be the first city in these islands to have a fully Zero Emission urban bus fleet by 2023.

We are also preparing a Rail Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy, which will see us move towards Zero Emission trains in the years ahead.

3.

Rail Infrastructure upgrades to maintain and enhance the rail network

Our rail infrastructure is a £3bn asset and we have a capital investment plan to address decades of under-investment and provide a safe and reliable rail network for future generations.

We will also support the ongoing All-Island Strategic Rail Review, examining options to expand the railway network and enable additional passenger capacity.



4.

Enhance inter-city rail connections – Derry~Londonderry – Belfast – Dublin

We have plans to introduce an hourly Belfast-Dublin return service, with investment in additional rolling stock and a timetable that will reduce journey times to less than 2 hours.

We will aim to introduce a half-hourly service between Belfast and Derry~Londonderry, with the completion of the 'Phase 3' project between Derry~Londonderry and Coleraine, alongside a programme of work to enhance the rail infrastructure between Coleraine and Belfast

5.

Deliver Enhanced Bus Infrastructure

We aim to work with stakeholders to progress the development of bus priority measures in urban areas across Northern Ireland, reducing congestion in our town centres and helping to make public transport a better option for everyone.

We are also planning enhanced P&R capacity on main routes into Belfast, helping to reduce the impact of congestion on our roads.

We will also work with stakeholders to enhance rural transport options.

Glider has proven to be a huge success since its' launch in 2018 and has helped to support economic growth and regeneration. Translink actively supports the proposed North/South corridor expansion, and we will work with DfI to deliver the service along the preferred route.

6.

Deliver flexible Contactless Ticketing

We are progressing a new ticketing system across our network, which will permit contactless credit/debit card payments, as well as mobile app payments and off-board ticketing options. This will enhance choice and flexibility for our customers.

7.

Enhance facilities

We have plans to upgrade and enhance key facilities, including:

- Delivery of the Belfast Transport Hub, which is scheduled to complete in 2025.
- New train station at York Street
- Enhanced train stations at Ballymena and Lurgan
- Provision of new train station at Lisburn West
- Deliver a programme of safety improvements to our bus and rail stations across Northern Ireland.



Conclusions

There is now an exciting opportunity to transform public transport in Northern Ireland and put sustainability at the heart of decision making. Translink shares the NI Executive's aim to improve wellbeing for all, with public transport interlinked with the Programme for Government outcomes. We are ambitious for the years ahead, capitalising on technological advances to enhance services, our people, the environment, and the communities we serve.

Our 'Better.Connected' strategy for the next decade details the vital actions required to deliver fully sustainable public transport in Northern Ireland. With a clear focus on climate action and air quality, we will unlock a better, greener future helping to make Northern Ireland more economically competitive, socially inclusive and renowned as one of the top locations in Europe for sustainable transport and a healthier region for generations to come.

Learn more about Translink's Net Zero priorities:

www.translink.co.uk



Translink
Better. Connected