



Bristol City Centre Transport Changes - Engagement report summary

Bristol City Centre is set to change in the coming years, with major new housing developments and leisure and retail facilities planned. This will help the city to tackle its housing crisis and sustain the vitality of the central area.

To prepare for around 5,000 more people living in and travelling around Broadmead, we are proposing changes to transform some of our public spaces and surrounding roads to make the city centre more welcoming and people friendly.

The consultation proposed changes in five following areas:

1. Broadmead area
2. Bedminster Bridges
3. Redcliffe Roundabout
4. Temple Way
5. Bond Street

The proposals include transforming public spaces in the Broadmead area and changing bus routes and bus infrastructure across the whole project area along with making active travel safer and easier.

These changes would improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes, benefit existing bus services, and support our long-term goal to create a segregated rapid transit route from the southwest to the northeast of the city.

The council ran the Bristol City Centre Transport Changes consultation from 12 August to 30 September 2024 so everyone could find out more about the plans and give their views.

The project is being funded by the UK Government as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, which is administered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

The project team created a suite of literature and marketing products to support the consultation, including an online survey (with a paper version available on request), letters, digital adverts, posters, bus shelter digital screen adverts, postcards, lamppost wraparounds and organic and promoted social media posts.

The team encouraged everyone to get involved by:

- Putting up around 70 lamppost wraparounds around the city centre so that people living in the area or using the route could see that engagement was taking place.
- Putting up posters and a digital advert inside First Bus buses so that bus users could see that engagement was taking place.
- Posting letters to 14,498 local properties to raise awareness of the survey and encourage engagement.
- Dropping into every business in Broadmead to raise awareness and encourage representatives to take part in the survey.
- Contacting local groups and key stakeholders, including the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), to help raise awareness of the survey.
- Promoting the survey on social media channels – on X (Twitter) we got 24,600 views; Instagram 5,400 views; Next Door 5,588 impressions; and via Facebook we got 146,651 impressions and 10,430 link clicks.
- Holding nine drop-in sessions across different areas and times of day including weekends.
- Holding seven active travel roadshow and Dr Bike events across the project area to promote active travel behaviour change.

Engagement results overview

The full report will be published in early 2025. There has been an extensive response from the public and stakeholders. We are reviewing this feedback to see what changes need to be made and have already been able to make improvements to the proposals based on the feedback.

There were 2,120 responses to the survey and 5,389 free text comments about different aspects of the scheme that are being read and categorised.

We received 21 formal responses from 21 stakeholder groups made up of major employers and business groups in the city and various other emails with responses to sections of the proposals.

We are reviewing the responses along with emails and comments received from drop-in sessions.

The overall survey showed majority support for all areas of the scheme, with more than 50% agreeing (range 50%-63%) and no more than 35% disagreeing (range 26%-35%) to changes in each area, including the new rapid transit route, pedestrianisation in the Broadmead area, and changes to Bedminster Bridges, Redcliffe Roundabout, Temple Way and Bond Street. When we look at individual elements support was as much as 66%.

Of the key changes proposed:

- 59% of respondents agreed with pedestrianising Horsefair and Penn Street.
- 60% of people agreed with new walking and cycling routes over Bedminster Bridges.
- 56% of people agreed with the changes at Redcliffe Roundabout.
- 66% of people agreed with new crossing across Temple Way.
- 58% of people agreed with new bus priority on Bond Street near Newfoundland Circus.

Results were filtered to highlight key response groups.

Disabled respondents were the one group where the responses were significantly different to the average response. There were more respondents disagreeing with changes. This is due to a number of factors. Agreement with the proposals ranged from 34% to 45% while disagreement ranged from 38% to 56%. This additional insight in to how the proposals could affect different user groups is helpful as we continue to develop the project.

Further analysis has been done based on the reasons for travel to or through the area, including people who live in the affected areas, travel to or from work, or travel for leisure or social reasons. All these groups have majority support ranging from 51.4% to 64% in agreement and 18.4% to 32.4% in disagreement.

In addition to the multiple choice questions, we also asked for comments. We received more than 5,300 individual comments. We are taking our time to make sure we fully understand all these comments. From the analysis so far, we have seen a lot of support for the scheme. We are also getting a better understanding of concerns with specific details.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation and gave their views.

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