



# Transport Activists' Roundtable North West

www.nwtar.org.uk

## NW TAR CORE GROUP

### Convenor:

#### LILLIAN BURNS

Director, TravelWatch NorthWest/  
CPRE NW Regional Group  
25 Heybridge Lane,  
Prestbury, Cheshire, SK10 4ES  
t: 01625 829492  
f: 01625 828015  
e: BrLlIn@aol.com

### Members:

#### DAVID BUTLER

CTC Right-to-Ride representative  
10 Gladstone Grove  
Stockport, SK4 4DA  
t: 0161 432 4611  
e: dsbutler@ntlworld.com

#### PETER COLLEY

Federation of Cumbrian  
Amenity Societies/ NW ACTs  
Friends of the Lake District  
12 Rawes Garth  
Staveley Cumbria LA8 9QH  
t: 01539 821629  
e: colleygarth@btopenworld.com

#### JANET CUFF

Ramblers Association/ CPRE  
33 Tatton Road North  
Stockport SK4 4QX  
t: 0161 431 7654  
e: Janet.Cuff@talktalk.net

#### ADRIAN DUNNING

NW Association of Civic Trusts  
11 Crombouke Fold, Worsley  
Manchester M28 1ZE  
t: 0161 790 9507  
e: ajdunning@gmail.com

#### SANDRA DUTSON

NW TAR Treasurer/ Road Peace  
12 Queenscroft,  
Eccles, M30 9QQ  
t: 0161 707 3546  
e: smdutson@btinternet.com

#### HELEN RIMMER

North West Campaigner,  
Friends of the Earth  
60 Duke St Liverpool L1 5AA  
t: 0151 707 4328

### Webmaster:

#### GRAEME SHERRIFF

e: graemesherriff@googlegmail.com

Transport for Greater Manchester,  
2 Piccadilly Place,  
Manchester,  
M1 3BG.

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Dear Team,

## RESPONSE TO TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER CONSULTATION ON THE GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2040 – OUR VISION

**The North West Transport Roundtable (NW TAR)**, which operates under the auspices of the Campaign for Better Transport, promotes sustainable transport, sustainable land use and healthier lives. Amongst other things, we espouse the ethos of 'Smart Growth' which seeks to direct as much new infrastructure as possible to previously developed land. We want to see high quality improvements to public transport and the public realm, smart choices delivered as a priority in order to achieve modal shift and better spatial planning that reduces the need to travel.

### Our comments

In November 2014, the North West Transport Roundtable (NW TAR) responded to the first consultation (on the evidence base) that was carried out into the Greater Manchester (GM) Spatial Framework. Commenting on the Vision for that spatial planning document, we said it would benefit from improvement and it should:

- promise to prioritise the regeneration of those areas most in need
- endorse 'Smart Growth' principles and commit to improve the 'liveability' of urban areas
- agree to reduce the need to travel through the establishment of sustainable communities
- adopt sustainable transport policies/commit to better active travel facilities
- recognise that all citizens deserve access to open spaces, countryside and clean air
- re-endorse GM's commitment to reducing carbon emissions

These commitments should be cross-cutting and apply to the TfGM Vision and, in addition, there needs to be better cross-boundary working with adjoining local authorities and improved cross-boundary public transport services.

NW TAR also responded to the scoping study consultation on the GM Spatial Framework in August this year, asking for more focus on air quality. We are pleased to note the references to this in the Transport Strategy Vision document. However, rather than emphasis being placed on technical advances, it should be on reducing car travel.

It is contradictory to aspire to have a low emission city region that is more resilient to the effects of climate change on the one hand but, on the other, to be very accepting of “high levels of reliance for many journeys to work”. And the transport strategy document sees as inevitable an increase in highway capacity and in the use of air travel. The issue of environmental capacity does not feature at all and there needs to be much greater recognition of the downsides of providing more and wider roads such as induced traffic, severance and more noise.

Also, no account whatsoever has been taken of the phenomenal growth in home working. Over 12% of the people in employment in the North West now work from home all or part of the time and the graph continues to rise steeply (ref. Office for National Statistics). There is a presumption that most people will continue to need to travel in order to work and shop when in fact the trends are going in the opposite direction and there has been an explosion of internet shopping.

Predictions are made in the document about journeys that people will be taking in the next 25 years and there are also assumptions that people are looking for faster journeys. Yet, in survey after survey (by Transport Focus and others) the top priority for the travelling public is reliability for their journeys, not speed.

There needs to be a much greater emphasis on achieving modal shift and much greater effort needs to be made to obtain decent rail rolling stock and to improve railway stations and access to them. We also want to see more quality bus provision.

We are pleased that cycling has come higher up the agenda in Greater Manchester than it used to be, but it still has a very long way to go - both in the urban areas and outside of them. There is a need for much more cycle parking at railway stations and road maintenance is a perpetual issue. Drivers when asked, as well as cyclists, invariably place highway maintenance top of their priority list. ‘Visions’ are all well and good but the average person on the street, on a bike or in a car is far more likely to be pre-occupied with the number of pot holes they have to contend with than anything else.

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity afforded by this consultation to make a plea for organisations such as ours to be allowed a greater say on transport issues in the conurbation now that the Combined Authority of Greater Manchester has so much more control over its future and budgets. There is a need for a balancing voice speaking up for sustainable transport and raising environment concerns as a counter balance to the roads lobby.

We trust our comment have been of some value.

Yours sincerely,

**LILLIAN BURNS, Convenor, North West Transport Roundtable**

**(E: BrLlln@aol.com)**