

GMLTP CONSULTATION

A Summary of Consultation on Transport in Greater Manchester in 2004

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Introduction

- This presentation provides an overview of responses to consultation exercises undertaken to inform and monitor awareness of Transport Policy in Greater Manchester.

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Types of Consultation

- Consultation conducted to directly inform the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan (GMLTP) process.
- Other recent consultation of relevance to transport policy in Greater Manchester.

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GMLTP Consultation

- Transport Matters 2000.
- Transport Matters 2002.
- Transport Matters 2003.
- GMLTP Stakeholder Consultation.
- Citizens' Panels and Focus Groups.

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Other Consultation

- Best Value Surveys.
- Other Citizens' Panels.
- Quality of Life Surveys.
- Economic Regeneration Area Surveys.
- Service Planning Reviews.
- Staff Travel Plan Surveys.

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Notes on Consultation

- Some of the consultations appear to have generated a disproportionate response from public transport users.
- However, most respondents have stated that they do have use of a car.
- Many make use of different modes of transport depending on the type of trip they are making.

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Notes on Consultation

- Respondents to Transport Matters type consultations are self-selecting.
- Citizens' Panels reflect the demographic make up of each authority and provide views representative of the general public.
- Focus groups are aimed at different sections of the community such as young people or ethnic minorities.
- Stakeholders include bus operators, health authorities, businesses and transport “pressure” groups.

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Summary of Findings

- Common themes have emerged from the various consultation exercises.
- Continuing support for Metrolink extensions.
- Desire for bus service improvements.
- Increasing road maintenance concerns.
- Public opinion divided on traffic calming and lowering speed limits.

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Overview

- Responses can be grouped into broad themes.
- Public Transport.
- Pedestrian and Cycling Issues.
- Road and Traffic Issues.
- Other issues concerning the consultation process itself.

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Public Transport - General

- Great support for spending on improved Public Transport.
- Needs to be reliable, frequent, clean, safe, integrated and cheap.
- Desire for more Park and Ride.
- Concerns about safety/security, particularly from young users.

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Public Transport - Bus

- Bus services have always evoked the greatest level of response and comment.
- Most are complaints.
- Poor reliability, lack of information, lack of service provision, poor facilities and safety/security concerns.
- Mixed response to QBC's.
- However, newer low floor buses are considered an improvement.

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Public Transport - Metrolink

- Support for Metrolink is consistently strong.
- Recent consultations have attracted comments on lack of progress.
- Negative comments relate to overcrowding, high fares and safety/security concerns.

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Public Transport - Rail

- Improving rail has often been suggested as a means of public transport improvement.
- Requests for re-opening of existing lines and stations.
- There are personal security concerns.
- Lack of bus-rail interchange has been raised.

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Walk and Cycle Overview

- Most popular options for encouraging walking and cycling are improving conditions and routes.
- Respondents tend to feel that other people should be persuaded to walk and cycle (particularly school children).
- Nothing would persuade many respondents to walk or cycle.

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Cycling

- Cyclist form a small proportion of respondents to consultation.
- Cycle measures are not given high priority by most respondents.
- Most comments complaints about lack of improvements to routes and facilities.
- There are a few complaints about cyclists on pavements.

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Walking

- Respondents would most like to see better maintenance of pavements
- They are least aware of LTP measures to improve this.
- More pedestrian areas in town centres is the most popular traffic restriction measure.
- Problems with parking on pavements are raised.

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Roads and Traffic Overview

- Less consensus on road and traffic issues than on improving public transport.
- Road maintenance and congestion are the major problems.
- Public opinion is divided on issues such as traffic calming and lowering speed limits.

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Roads

- Road Safety a high priority.
- Training and increased policing more useful than advertising and publicity.
- Support for lower speeds in residential areas but traffic calming becoming less popular.
- Less support for lower speed limits on main roads.
- Road maintenance improvements becoming more of an issue.

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Traffic

- Traffic flow problems are raised for certain areas at some times of the day.
- Stakeholders seem to show more concern for traffic congestion than the general public
- Improving traffic flow by better traffic signalling is the most supported measure and the least noticed improvement.
- There are complaints about poor parking and lack of available parking but little support for parking restrictions.

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Traffic

- There is an awareness that traffic is a major contributor to air and noise pollution.
- Poor awareness of Travel Plans, particularly amongst the general public.
- Concerns over lack of adherence to the law and lack of police enforcement.

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Consultation Process

- Recent consultations show few people feel well informed about transport issues and even less feel able to influence transport policy.
- However, all consultation exercises have generated positive comments and requests for more information and wider circulation of newsletters such as Transport Matters.
- The need for more positive press coverage of transport issues has also been raised.

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