

Appendix 2 - Proposed Foreword to Major Roads Report

Our highways are at the heart of our communities, including as they do our footpaths, cycle ways and roads.

They are critical to a modern functioning society, connecting people and places with services and opportunities. Each and everyone of us use some part of the highway when making a journey.

An efficient, reliable and safe highway network is essential for modern supply chains: enabling raw materials to be received, finished goods to be dispatched, food stores to be supplied, office complexes to be serviced.

In the last century motorised transport revolutionised our way of life, and as we move towards the second quarter of the 21st century our highways will continue to be a fundamental part of our transport system.

However, as we look to address climate change we will need to make choices about how we use the available highway space, with greater priority given to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

New highways will continue to be built, needed to provide access to new housing and employment sites. We will continue to invest in our highways, ensuring that existing roads are maintained, and that new roads are designed and delivered in ways that minimise their impact on our environment.

And we will need to consider and agree on how we will pay for that investment and indeed on how we pay to use our roads. The electrification of road vehicles means that as a nation we will lose the revenues from Vehicle Excise Duty and fuel duty that pays for new roads. We need to do things differently but at the same time ensure that our way forward does not disadvantage those for whom travel by car is the only practical option.

If we're to have that debate then we must seize the opportunity to look at how the relative cost of motoring, bus travel and rail travel influences the choices we make. For only by looking at transport in the round will we be able to ensure that our investment choices are sustainable for the longer term.

This Major Roads Report outlines the critical role that the North's strategic roads play in enabling our residents and businesses to go about their daily lives. It sets out the scale of the challenge as we look to enhance their safety and reduce their environmental impact.

Our highways will continue to be at the heart of our communities: they will continue to be an essential component of a sustainable, connected transport system.

As the 'one voice' for the North, TfN is committed to ensuring that our roads are fit for purpose. We will work with Government and its agencies to identify a way forward that is fair and sustainable, as part of a multi-modal transport system that is truly fit for the 21st century.