

Why it's important for you to respond

Transport for the North (TfN) covers the whole of the north of England and is responsible for drawing up a [transport strategy](#) for the region. That strategy guides investment and that investment will determine, to a large degree, what happens in your local area.

Having agreed its [strategy](#) in 2019, TfN is now fulfilling a commitment to produce a [decarbonisation strategy](#) which will determine which projects will help it meet its carbon reduction targets and which ones won't and therefore shouldn't go ahead. That's why it's critical that you get involved. If you don't, you risk getting the wrong sort of development (such as new roads) coming to a place near you. That will bring more traffic and more pollution and make your job promoting sustainable transport in your area even harder.

We've produced some bullet points to highlight what we think are the critical issues to raise. Please use your own words – expand, omit or add points - where you can, as then your response will be taken more seriously.

- Welcome the draft strategy and its emissions reduction pathway to net-zero – it's important that TfN now strengthens the strategy to deliver the cuts in carbon emissions required
- Good to see the importance of bus, rail and active travel acknowledged but it needs stronger commitment to rail electrification, to buses, and to moving freight by rail
- It's too focussed on electric vehicles and new roads and it's not clear how emissions from new local road schemes are considered
- Needs more on reducing car use through things like; pricing car travel, including parking charges, and making space for buses, walking and cycling
- Misses an opportunity to link to inequality, public health and other benefits that arise from less traffic and cleaner air
- Although 15-20min neighbourhoods are promoted, the interaction with Local Plans to reduce the need to travel is unclear - too much development is car based and getting worse
- Active travel is integral and key to every strategic public transport journey - need more strategic oversight from TfN but strategy delegates action to local authorities

To respond to the strategy, you can use the [online consultation page](#), or you can send your comments in by **post**: FREEPOST: Decarbonisation Strategy (yes that's really all you need to put!), or by **email**: response@tfndecarbonisationstrategy.com which will allow you to say what you want in the way that you want.

Deadline for responding is 12 noon, 31 August, 2021