

To: Ken Skates MS, Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport

From: Rhian Nowell-Phillips, TAN Cymru

Date: 19 January 2026

Subject: Building a Resilient, Integrated Transport Network for Wales

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

As we look toward the 2030 milestones set out in *Llwybr Newydd*, the challenge of decarbonising our transport sector remains one of the most significant hurdles for the Welsh Government.

TAN Cymru welcomes your continued commitment to regional connectivity, particularly the focus on the Network North Wales plan. However, to meet our ambitious modal shift targets—reaching 45% of journeys by sustainable means by 2040—we believe the following pillars must be the focus going forward:

- **Financial Certainty:** Moving beyond pilot projects to consistent, ring-fenced funding for the Active Travel Fund and the full rollout of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill. A "One Network, One Ticket" system is the only way to make public transport a viable competitor to the private car.
- **A "Maintenance First" Road Policy:** We urge the continued application of the Roads Review standards. Our focus must remain on optimising existing infrastructure and managing demand rather than expanding road capacity, which historically induces further traffic.
- **The 20mph Foundation:** We strongly advocate for the retention of the default 20mph speed limit on restricted roads. This policy is the bedrock of a successful Active Travel strategy; by creating calmer, safer streets, we lower the "barrier of fear" that prevents children, the elderly, and less confident cyclists from using our roads. Maintaining this limit is a direct investment in public health and community cohesion, and we urge the Government to resist any dilution of this life-saving measure.

- Regional Equity: Ensuring that the North Wales Metro delivers the same frequency and seamless integration as the South Wales Metro, specifically regarding key hubs in Holyhead, Bangor, and Wrexham.

Better transport is more than an environmental necessity; it is a tool for social equity and public health. By prioritising "wheeling," walking, and reliable bus services, we can help connect Welsh households without access to a car to vital economic opportunities.

TAN Cymru will continue to work with you to ensure these priorities are translated into tangible improvements for the people of Wales.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your policy team to discuss how these priorities align with your upcoming departmental objectives.

Yours sincerely,

Rhian Nowell-Phillips

Welsh roads and climate campaigner TAN Cymru