



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Ms Carolyn Donnelly

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Your reference: XXXX
Our reference: CORR-1912-2021
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Dear Ms Donnelly

PUBLIC REALM PROJECTS

Thank you for your email dated 11 November 2021 in which you have requested an update on the above.

The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) will be developed in a collaborative manner with the five relevant councils. Early engagement between the Department's officials and council representatives has taken place and they soon intend to reconvene the Project Board previously used to develop the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Study (BMTS).

The city centre will be the initial focus for the BMTP and early in the New Year, along with supporting consultants, the intention is to commence the detailed work of considering changes to walk, cycle, public transport and road networks to meet the shared objectives of the Department and the council.

The BMTS, which the council inputted to, reviewed the existing transport conditions. The Minister is happy for your committee to meet and work with the Departmental

BMTP team at the start of the process. Departmental officials will contact you to organise this meeting/ workshop which hopefully can be held in January 2022.

The Department is currently developing plans for the delivery of phase 2 of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The option for BRT2, which the Department has recently consulted on, recommends two-way operation of Glider along Donegall Place and Royal Avenue.


Penetration of the city's main retail and commercial thoroughfare by public transport is vitally important for the economic vitality of the city and to enable accessibility for those who are less mobile. Such an approach would be consistent with most vibrant cities.

If the aspiration of significant modal shift to sustainable transport is to be achieved, public transport must be made more attractive than car. Pushing public transport to the fringes of the city centre would be counter to this.

Establishing clear and effective priority for public transport services into and across the city needs to be at the forefront of future planning, however, transport for the city needs to be considered holistically, if it is to be successful in meeting the desired outcomes. Consequently, considering public transport in advance of the BMTP could result in a relatively narrow view that does not integrate sustainable transport modes nor provide the solutions necessary to meet the future needs of a cleaner, more attractive and more accessible city.

In addition to delivering significant enhancements in the city through development of the Belfast Transport Hub and Yorkgate Station, Translink is engaging on The Bolder Vision, Streets Ahead and BRT projects, with the aim of finding the optimum layout for roads and public realm, balancing place-making aspirations and transport needs.

Given the work outlined, I would encourage the council to continue to engage proactively to ensure the best outcomes for public transport and the city.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K MCFERRAN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KATHRYN MCFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister