

## **Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body (STB) - Strategic Investment Plan Consultation (Key messages)**

### **Background**

Western Gateway is consulting on their Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The consultation will run from 20 December 2024 to 2 February 2025. The consultation can be accessed via the Western Gateway website: (insert consultation space link). We are also holding a series of webinar which will explain more about the SIP.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

#### **Western Gateway**

- Western Gateway is the Sub-national Transport Body (STB) representing Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, Bristol, Dorset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and the West of England Combined Authority.
- We provide a collective regional voice about the strategic transport and infrastructure needs of the region in order to help people and businesses thrive while protecting our environment as well as boost economic growth.
- Our work reflects national, regional and local policies and is aimed at enhancing strategic cross-boundary connectivity, complementing the work of our local authorities to enhance local connectivity.
- The Western Gateway STB works directly with the Department for Transport alongside National Highways and Network Rail

#### **Draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)**

- The SIP is a Department for Transport requirement for STBs to develop and maintain a pipeline of future schemes.
- The SIP builds on our [Strategic Transport Plan \(STP\)](#) and fulfils three important functions as outlined below:
  - Identifies regional transport proposals that are best able to deliver the aims of our Strategic Transport Plan (STP).
  - Enables us to respond to calls from the Department for Transport or other bodies to provide a prioritised list of investment opportunities in the region, in response to policy or funding opportunities.
  - Maintains an inventory of regional-level schemes proposed by our partner authorities.
- The STB's role is to bring relevant bodies together, champion the Western Gateway's transport needs and provide the vital link between national, regional and local policy.
- Western Gateway is not a decision making or funding body, and therefore the SIP is not a decision making or funding plan. The SIP is not intended to present a comprehensive catalogue of all transport schemes in the Western Gateway region. The proposals included in the current SIP are only those that are significant to the region as a whole and which can be started by 2035.
- Each proposal was assessed against 12 criteria drawn from the STP. These criteria were formulated by a series of officer and member workshops/discussions and approved by the Western Gateway Partnership Board.

- The SIP will be finalised following a public consultation to ensure it meets the diverse range of needs of those travelling within the Western Gateway region.
- Once the SIP has been adopted, it will be published and promoted following local elections in some parts of the region in May 2025

### **How can I get involved?**

- Read our draft SIP and let us know if you think it meets the transport, access and connectivity needs of the region as a whole. You can read the [draft SIP here](#) and the consultation can be accessed via the Western Gateway website [here](#).
  - We will be hosting free webinars in December 2024 and January 2025, open to anyone interested in finding out more about the SIP. You can watch the first webinar [here](#) and you can register for the second one using any of the links below:
  - [Event ticket for Thursday January 16 at 12:00 - 13:00](#)
  - [Event ticket for Thursday January 16 at 18:00 – 19:00](#)
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- Help spread the work and share our consultation with others.

### **What happens next**

- After the consultation ends, we will give time to evaluate and analyse all responses, utilizing the feedback from the consultation and the modelling result of impacts of prioritised proposals to finalize the SIP.
- The final draft will then be submitted to the Western Gateway STB Partnership Board to approve its adoption.
- If adopted, we expect to publish and promote the final SIP on our website in May 2025 after the local elections and submit the document to Department of Transport.