

WESTERN GATEWAY SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY (WGSTB): A RESILIENT TRANSPORT NETWORK THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE AND IS FIT FOR THE FUTURE, HELPING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN GATEWAY TO THRIVE WHILE PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Stakeholder Briefing Note: WGSTB Strategic Investment Plan Consultation, December 2024

The Western Gateway, the sub-national transport body for Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, Bristol, Dorset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and the West of England Combined Authority, is conducting a public consultation on its 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:

- 1) Identifies regional transport proposals that are best able to deliver the aims of our Strategic Transport Plan (STP).
- 2) 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.
- 3) Maintains an inventory of regional-level schemes proposed by our partner authorities.

The SIP identifies and prioritise transport schemes and projects that reflect national and regional policies and best meet the needs of the user. The proposals included in the SIP are only those that are significant to the region as a whole and which can be started by 2035. The SIP is not intended to render judgment on the basic merit of each proposal; rather, it evaluates its capacity to contribute to the objectives of the adopted STP at a high level.

You can access the SIP on our consultation page [here](#)

CONSULTATION AND EVENTS

Our consultation on the draft SIP and the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be opened from 20 December 2024 to 2 February 2025, and we are inviting stakeholders to review the SIP and provide feedback to the Western Gateway through a short online survey that is hosted on the Participatr platform on our website [here](#)

Webinars: Western Gateway will be hosting free online webinars via MS Teams in December 2024 and January 2025 at midday and early evening, open to all individuals who are interested in learning more about the SIP. The first webinar was conducted on December 19, 2024 from 12:00 to 13:00 and 18:00 to 19:00, and second webinar will be on January 16, 2024, from 12:00 to 13:00 and 18:00 to 19:00. 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](#)

Share: Help spread the work and share our consultation with others. Please feel free to share this briefing and the link with your networks. We are also promoting the SIP via our social media platforms, and we would be grateful for your assistance in distributing the content on your own platforms.

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/western-gateway-stb/>
- X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/WestGatewaySTB>

Evidence Base: We have produced a regional transport evidence base to create a strong understanding of how the Western Gateway works and what will bring the biggest benefits to the region. Our numerous studies from our technical programme and evidence bases also provide recommendations for schemes and interventions, all of which were considered for inclusion in the SIP. Please visit this link to access our extensive technical programme:

<https://westerngatewaytransport.org.uk/our-work/>.

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 April 2025 after the local election and submit the document to Department of Transport.

To keep up to date with the work of the Western Gateway, you can join our mailing list here:

<https://westerngatewaytransport.org.uk/news/> or contact us at westerngatewaystb@westofengland-ca.gov.uk to be included in the subscription list.

ABOUT WESTERN GATEWAY STB

The Western Gateway is one of seven sub-national transport bodies in England. We work with our nine constituent local authorities to take a strategic overview of transport, helping to champion and protect the region, prioritise strategic transport interventions and work cooperatively beyond local boundaries to speak with a “single voice” on regional transport issues. Sub-national Transport Bodies were established as part of the Cities and Local Government Act 2016.

Formed in 2018, we are a partnership established to transform transport and boost economic growth for the Western Gateway region. Our role is to guide and advise government on our regional transport priorities and investment by developing and maintaining a regional transport strategy. Our work is aimed at enhancing strategic cross-boundary connectivity and complements the work of our local authorities to enhance local connectivity.

More information is available on our website, <https://westerngatewaytransport.org.uk/>, or you can contact us by emailing westerngatewaystb@westofengland-ca.gov.uk.