



## Policy focus: Transport

01/10/2009

### 1. Transport policy in Wales

Responsibility for roads and some aspects of road safety are devolved to Wales. The [Railways Act 2005](#) gave new powers to the Assembly in relation to the railways in Wales. The [Transport \(Wales\) Act 2006](#) gave Welsh Ministers new powers including a duty to develop and implement policies for the promotion of safe, integrated, economic and sustainable and services; alongside a duty to prepare a Wales Transport Strategy, setting out these policies. The Welsh Government is responsible for Trunk Roads and Motorways. Local authorities are responsible for other roads.

The Welsh Government currently has some limited powers over the provision of bus services in Wales. It operates a [concessionary fares scheme](#) for travel on buses and has provided financial support for long distance bus routes. It is also providing financial support for an air route between Cardiff and Anglesey.

For further details please see the MRS Topic Briefs on [Roads](#), [Road Safety](#), [Railways](#) and [Transport Policy](#).

Matters reserved to the UK Government include: ports and shipping; most aspects of civil aviation; some aspects of bus regulation; policing; national speed limits; road signs; vehicle construction and use regulations.

### 2. Recent developments

"Highways and Transport" is Field 10 of Schedule 5 of the [Government of Wales Act 2006](#), which allows the National Assembly for Wales to seek Measure-making powers in this area. The [Local Transport Act 2008](#) has added a Matter to Schedule 5, giving the National Assembly for Wales legislative competence in relation to pricing schemes on the strategic road network.

The proposed [National Assembly for Wales \(Legislative Competence\) \(Highways and Transport\) Order 2009](#) originated as a SUSTRANS [petition](#) in 2008. The proposed Order would extend the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales to include the development and maintenance of networks of routes for pedestrians and cyclists. At present, the Enterprise and Learning Committee is to prepare and lay a Draft Order to be discussed in Plenary later this year.

The [Learner Travel \(Wales\) Measure 2008](#) makes provision regarding the travel of persons receiving primary, secondary or further education or training to and from their place of education, and received Royal Assent on 10 December 2008.



### 3. Welsh Government information

#### 3.1 Key documents

- [\*One Wales: connecting the nation: The Wales Transport Strategy\*](#) (2008)
- [\*National Transport Plan: consultation\*](#) Closes 12 October 2009
- [\*Home to school transport\*](#) (2008)
- [\*Road Safety Strategy for Wales\*](#) (2003) (includes GB casualty reduction targets to 2010).
- The UK Government has recently consulted on a new [\*Road Safety Strategy\*](#) that includes new GB casualty reduction targets to 2020.
- [\*Trunk Road Forward Programme\*](#) (2002, 2004 and 2008)
- [\*Walking and Cycling Action Plan 2009-2013\*](#) (2008)
- [\*The Rail Forward Programme\*](#) (2008)
- [\*The Wales Rail Planning Assessment \(WRPA\)\*](#) (2007)
- [\*Wales Route Utilisation Strategy\*](#) (2008)
- [\*The Wales Freight Strategy\*](#) (2008)
- [\*Welsh Transport Planning and Appraisal Guidance \(WelTAG\)\*](#) (2008)

#### 3.2 Other Welsh Government information

[Press releases](#), [Statistics](#) and both [open](#) and [closed](#) Consultations concerning transport issues can be browsed online.

The Welsh Assembly Government homepage for **Transport** can be accessed [here](#).

Information about **Concessionary Bus Travel** is available [here](#).

The **Transport Grant Settlement 2009-2010** (transport grants to local authorities) is available [here](#).

Information about the **Sustainable Travel Town** pilot initiative in Cardiff is available [here](#).



## 4. Committee reports

### 4.1 Enterprise and Learning Committee reports

- *Report of the Enterprise and Learning Committee on Casualty Reduction and Trunk Road Management*, LD7707, 23 September 2009
- *Road Policing in Wales – Y Maniffesto 2009*, CR-LD7394, 17 February 2009
- *Report of the Enterprise and Learning Committee - Report of the Committee's Consideration of the Fuel and Road Haulage Petition*, 12 November 2008
- *Report of the Enterprise and Learning Committee - Response to Network Rail's consultation of the Route Utilisation Strategy for Wales*, CR-LD7163, 17 July 2008
- *Report of the Enterprise and Learning Committee Planning for future railway provision*, CR-LD6875, 21 November 2007
- *Report of the Enterprise and Learning Committee's scrutiny inquiry on the Draft Learner Travel (Wales) Measure*, CR-LD6874, 21 November 2007

### 4.2 Economic Development and Transport Committee (July 2003 - March 2006)

- *Draft Transport (Wales) Bill - Joint scrutiny with Welsh Affairs Committee - Final Report*, CR-LD6874, 20 September 2004

### 4.3 Committee on Rail Infrastructure and Improved Passenger Services

- *Rail Infrastructure and Improved Passenger Service Committee Final Report June 2006*, LD5757, 19 June 2006

### 4.4 UK Parliament: House of Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee

- *Cross-border provision of public services for Wales: Transport*, 17 July 2009, HC 58 08-09

Publications by the House of Commons Select Committee for Transport can be accessed [here](#).



## 5. Members' Research Service Publications

The Members' Research Service has produced a paper on the [\*Draft Local Transport Bill\*](#) which can be accessed online.

MRS Topic Briefs are available on [Roads](#), [Road Safety](#), [Railways](#) and [Transport Policy](#).

## 6. Useful sources

### 6.1 Regional Transport Consortia

There are four **regional transport consortia** in Wales, whose responsibilities include the development of regional transport plans aimed at encouraging greater use of public transport:

- [SWITCH](#) (South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium)
- [TAITH](#) (North Wales)
- [Mid Wales Partnership \(TRACC\)](#)
- [SEWTA](#) (South East Wales Transport Alliance)

### 6.2 Trunk Road Agencies

There are three **Trunk Road Agencies** in Wales responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the strategic road network on behalf of the Welsh Government:

- [North Wales Trunk Road Agency](#)
- [Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency](#)
- [South Wales Trunk Road Agency](#)

### 6.3 UK Parliament

UK Parliament's [Topical issues](#) webpages bring together some of the current parliamentary research material available in a wide range of areas, including Standard Notes, briefing papers on current legislation and the latest Early Day Motions put down by MPs. [Transport](#) is one of the topics currently covered.



## 6.4 Other useful links

- [Arriva Trains Wales](#)
- [Association of Train Operating Companies](#)
- [Confederation of Passenger Transport](#): bus and coach industries
- [The Department for Transport](#)
- [European Commission: Transport](#)
- [First Great Western](#)
- [Freight Transport Association](#)
- [Network Rail](#)
- [Passenger Focus Wales](#)
- [Road Safety Wales](#)
- [SUSTRANS](#)
- [Traffic Wales](#): Wales Traffic Information Service
- [Traveline Cymru](#): public transport information
- [Virgin Trains](#)
- [Wales Transport Research Centre](#), based at University of Glamorgan

For further information, please contact please contact Graham Winter,  
Members' Research Service ([Graham.Winter@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Winter@wales.gsi.gov.uk)), 029 2089  
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