Local transport plans (LTPs)

WHAT ARE LTPS?
- 5 year plans for transport in an area, setting out a council’s targets, policy priorities and spending plans
- These are second LTPs, covering 2006 - 2011

WHO WRITES THEM?
- Transport authorities in England (county councils, unitary authorities)
- Scotland & Northern Ireland = different system
- Wales = different timetable
- London = written by the Mayor
- Joint plans in metropolitan areas, city/county (e.g. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council)

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?
Opportunity to:
- Influence transport policy in your area
- Make contacts / build links with other organisations (transport, environment, social justice, others)
- Get local profile on an issue that affects you
- Get across messages / build awareness on key issues eg climate change

TIMETABLE
- Draft guidance = August 2004
- Final guidance = November 2004?
- Councils at work now – requirement to consult
- Government promising ‘engagement’ with all councils
- Deadline for submission = end July 2005
- Decisions announced December 2005
- Funding starts April 2006
- Still requirement for Annual Progress Reports

KEY PRINCIPLES
Councils should
- Set transport in a wider context
- Identify best value-for-money solutions
- Set locally-relevant targets
- Set trajectories for key targets (annual milestones to help performance monitoring)

PRIORITIES
First LTPs had 27 criteria for assessment
This time “the Department now expects all authorities to focus on delivering a smaller set of key outcomes, reflecting the shared priorities agreed between central and local government”
- tackling congestion
- delivering accessibility
- safer roads
- air quality
Still required to consider a wide variety of modes / solutions

Other quality of life issues
“the Department wants to see authorities take every reasonable opportunity to improve other aspects of quality of life in their communities”
but
“the Department does not expect local transport strategies and LTPs necessarily to be aimed at dealing with these issues as key priorities”
- climate change
- public spaces and streetscapes
- community safety, personal security, crime
- healthy communities
- neighbourhood renewal and regeneration

CONGESTION
- Not a problem for every area - if not a problem, don’t need detailed proposals
- Councils to think about making best use
- Strategies could include
  - Congestion charging / road pricing (local schemes in next few years)
  - Parking pricing and restraint
  - Travel planning (schools, workplaces)
  - Buses (seen as key)

SAFER ROADS
Start by identifying key concerns
- children?
- disadvantaged groups?
- urban?
- rural?
All councils to prepare a road safety strategy
- for all users
- looking at a range of interventions

AIR QUALITY
- Priority where air quality problems already identified
- Link with action plans (Local Air Quality Management)

ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING
“Focuses on promoting social inclusion by tackling the accessibility problems faced by those in disadvantaged groups or areas. These might include the availability, affordability and accessibility of public transport and the design, location and delivery of non-transport services. It focuses on access to those opportunities that are likely to have the most impact on life chances: employment, education, health care and food shops”
What do councils have to do?
- Identify priority areas / groups / issues for action – look at where services are, look at transport provision i.e. bus routes, walking times)
- Work with partners (Jobcentres, health service etc) to develop an action plan
  - Transport measures (availability, cost, accessibility)
  - Other services / areas (e.g. location and delivery of services)
- Set targets and monitor

WHAT ISSUES YOU CAN WORK ON?
- Buses – “at the heart of all LTPs”, “central to efforts to reduce congestion and pollution”
- Rail – can be bid for this time
- Light rail – but concern about value for money
- Demand management / behavioural change – e.g. road-user charging, parking policy, travel plans, personalised marketing
- Cycling / walking
• Road safety
• Freight
• See ‘Paying for Better Transport’ for more details -
  http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/paying_for_better_transport.pdf

MAJOR SCHEMES
• Usually roads in the past, but also big public transport schemes
• More bids expected, less money available so smaller proportion to be funded = less road schemes?
• Targets set by councils should not assume major schemes will go ahead
• Still £5 million minimum cost to qualify as a major scheme, but Government will consider smaller
  schemes (cost over £2.5 million) to avoid ‘gold-plating’

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?
Different options, different skills and effort needed
• Basic lobbying
  o Respond to consultations
  o Write to key councillors and officers
  o Media work
• Inside track
  o Get involved in the detail
  o Meet councillors and officers
• Build a local coalition
  o Local ‘Way to Go’?
  o Write a local manifesto
  o Get support from local organisations (transport, environment, social justice, unions,
    churches, schools)
• Pick your issues
  o focus on the one/two things you really want to get in the LTP
  o focus on a ‘cause célèbre’ e.g. oppose a road the council wants to build

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
• Contact the council – tell them you want to be involved
• Contact other transport / environment groups in your area, arrange a meeting to plan work
• Think about what your priorities are
• Discuss at next group meeting
• Come to training days (Manchester 30/10/04, London 06/11/04)
• Sign up for action guide