



Executive Summary

TraCC

Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru (TraCC) is the Regional Transport Consortium for the Mid Wales region, made up of the counties of Ceredigion, Powys and part of Gwynedd (the former Meirionnydd district) and includes parts of the Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons National Parks. The Consortium seeks to work together and with partners to deliver improvements to the transport system in and to the TraCC region.

The Regional Transport Plan

The Welsh Assembly Government requires each of the four Regional Transport Consortia to submit a Regional Transport Plan (RTP). The RTP has undertaken an analysis of the movement problems in Mid Wales – passenger and freight, road and rail, it has identified a Vision for the region, developed transport policies to address identified problems and to build on opportunities. In preparing the RTP TraCC has drawn on a wide range of policy documents – One Wales, the Spatial Plan, the Wales Transport Strategy and the National Transport Plan. Other important policy documents include those on sustainability, climate change, rural health planning and the strategy for older people.

The RTP has the following structure:

- Section 1** - Introduction
- Section 2** - Transport Policy Context
- Section 3** - Analysis of Problems and Opportunities
- Section 4** - TraCC Vision, Priorities and Objectives
- Section 5** - Interventions and Option Generation
- Section 6** - RTP 5 Year Programme
- Section 7** - Related Components
- Section 8** - Longer Term Strategy
- Section 9** - Consultation
- Section 10** - Monitoring Programme





TraCC's Vision

The overall Vision for the TraCC region is:

'To plan for and deliver in partnership an integrated transport system in the TraCC region that facilitates economic development, ensures access for all to services and opportunities, sustains and improves the quality of community life and respects the environment'

TraCC's Regional Priorities

The ten priorities of the RTP are to:

- Reduce the demand for travel
- Minimise the impact of movement of the global and local environment and ensure the highest levels of protection to European Sites.
- Improve safety and security for all transport users.
- Improve travel accessibility to services, jobs and facilities for all sectors of society.
- Improve the quality and integration of the public transport system including the role of community transport.
- Provide, promote and improve sustainable forms of travel
- Maintain and improve the existing transport infrastructure (road and rail).
- Ensure travel and accessibility issues are properly integrated into land use decisions.
- Improve the efficiency, reliability and connectivity of movement by all modes of transport within and between Mid Wales and the other regions of Wales and of England.
- Deliver a co-ordinated and integrated travel and transport network through effective partnership working.

A series of Transport Planning Objectives have been derived for each of the regional priorities, which provide a set of criteria to assess the options and interventions, as well as monitor the success of the RTP.

Regional Transport Plan Interventions

TraCC has identified seven key interventions that the RTP will address to achieve the regional priorities, alleviate the identified regional problems and achieve the opportunities that will benefit residents, business and visitors to Mid Wales:

- **Intervention 1** – Reducing Demand for Travel
- **Intervention 2** – Reducing Environmental Impacts
- **Intervention 3** – Improving Safety and Security
- **Intervention 4** – Improving Accessibility
- **Intervention 5** – Encouraging Sustainable Travel
- **Intervention 6** – Improving Strategic Connections
- **Intervention 7** – Influencing Land Use Planning

The Regional Transport Plan is a Bidding Document

The RTP is a bidding document which the Welsh Assembly Government will use to assign funding to transport projects across Wales. The bid covers the five years between 2010/11 – 2014/15. The RTP guidelines recommend at least three programmes representing different funding scenarios are presented in the RTP. TraCC has prepared three programmes namely **Do-minimum** (the least preferred counter proposal), **Step-Up** (the preferred counter proposal) and **Step-Change** (the preferred option).

The do-minimum programme is based on the average level of funding over the last five years received through the Transport Grant in the TraCC region, i.e. £9m per annum. The three programmes TraCC has submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government are summarised below:

	Total Expenditure (£000)					
	2010/11	2012/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Do-Minimum	9,000	10,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	55,000
Step Up	9,000	12,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	76,000
Step Change	9,000	16,000	20,000	25,000	30,000	100,000

In order to populate the programme, a long list of projects were identified by each of the local authorities and stakeholders, as well those referenced in previous reports and strategies. TraCC undertook an initial evaluation based on the Wales Transport Strategy and the RTP's Transport Planning Objectives. The schemes gaining the highest priority from the evaluation have, where appropriate been subject to a WelTAG Stage 1 appraisal.

In addition to the funding of the Ceredigion Link Roads - **£5.58m** (a commitment) the first year of the programme - 2010/11 includes the following:

Passenger Transport Enhancements - £625,000

- Public Transport Interchanges (bus and rail)
- Development of Regional Bus Network
- New Quay Road Train
- Development of Park and Ride
- Community Transport Enhancement

Sustainable Transport Initiatives and Accessibility Improvement £1,225,000

- Sustainable Travel Towns
- Smarter Choices Promotion
- Town Cycle Network Improvements
- Cycling and Walking Schemes
- Links to Coastal Path and Visitor Attractions
- Cardi Bach Cycle Trail
- Tywyn to Brynchrug Multi User Path
- Mobile Services Feasibility Study
- Community Park and Ride / Share
- Regeneration Related Projects
- Parc y Llyn, Aberystwyth
- A486 Ceredigion Link Road Connectivity Scheme
- Port Briwet, Penrhyndeudraeth

Forward Planning and Management - £270,000

- Preliminary Development Costs
- TraCC Programme Management and Monitoring

TraCC's Long Term Strategy

As well as a five year programme, the RTP needs to set out a longer term strategy for Mid Wales for the next 30 years. Some of the issues that will need to be addressed include:

- Increasing concern for the environment, in particular climate change;
- Increasing fuel prices;
- The need and opportunities for alternative fuels (zero / low emission);
- The need to maintain strong identities for rural communities;
- An ageing population (an 228% increase in over 85's between 2001 and 2031) yet an increasingly mobile population;
- The potential to develop higher value knowledge based industries in rural areas; and
- The need to eliminate social exclusion caused by limited access to services and opportunities.

TraCC's longer term priorities will concentrate on – reducing the demand for travel, minimising adverse environmental effects, especially those affecting climate change, ensure travel and accessibility are properly integrated into land use decisions and ensuring the transport system / network in Mid Wales is efficient, reliable and improves accessibility for all.

Consultations

In the preparation of the RTP TraCC has consulted widely with local authorities, the National Parks, key stakeholders and interested parties. There has been a number of workshops, presentations and a public consultation which resulted in some 2350 responses.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Screening Report under the Habitat Regulation Assessment has been prepared in support of the RTP. As well as the main RTP document, an Appendix document has been prepared which includes the background data / information on which the RTP has been based.

A full copy of the RTP is available in Welsh and English on the TraCC website www.tracc.gov.uk and free of charge on a CD. Further information is available on TraCC's website and enquiries@tracc.gov.uk

