

As you may know, Taunton will experience a significant amount of housing and economic growth between now and 2026 as part of its status as a national Growth Point. 'Project Taunton' is one of the largest town centre regeneration programmes in the South West, supporting the delivery of 18,000 new homes across Taunton and the generation of approximately 16,500 new jobs. Ensuring the transport network is sufficient to cope with this growth is a key part of our work and this document gives suggestions about the range of transport improvements that could be made to support future development.

Good transport links to, in and around Taunton, are fundamental to its economic and social vitality. However, congestion and its associated knock-on effects have been a concern for a number of years. Somerset County Council has been working on gathering evidence and assessing current and future traffic trends to feed into a long-term action plan to address transport issues from the present until 2026. While this may seem a long time period, it should be recognised that transport projects often take many years to plan, fund and build so it is sensible to plan this far ahead, particularly in the context of regeneration work being proposed by 'Project Taunton'.

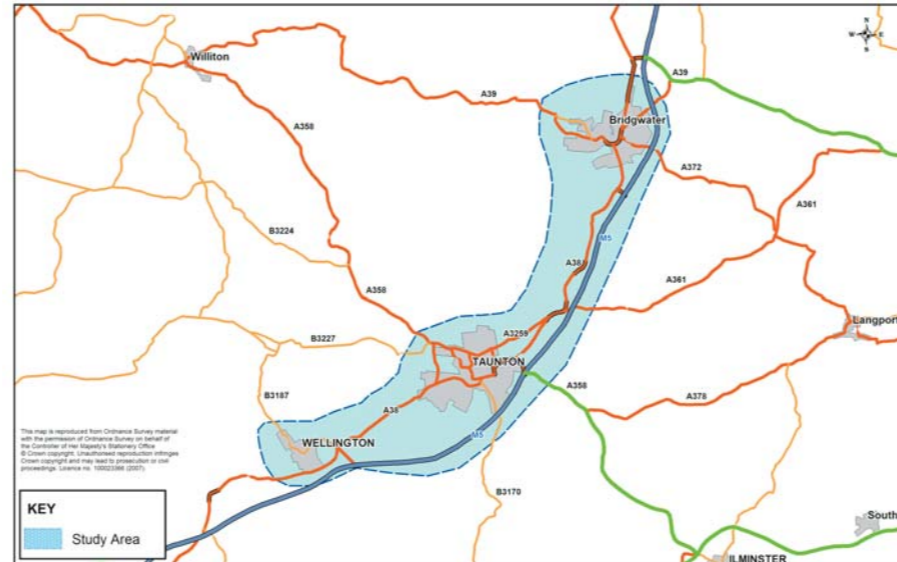
Through a detailed study of the transport trends in the three towns, the following issues have been identified:

- At the times of high demand, approximately 65% of people are making journeys for work purposes;
- There is not enough space on popular routes for all those who want to use them, so queuing and delay occurs – it is anticipated that this will worsen over time;
- Access to low cost, town centre, long-stay parking encourages people to drive;
- Over 60% of car drivers make short trips within the town;
- Perception of alternatives to the car is that they are more expensive, unreliable and poor quality;
- Air quality, particularly at East Reach and Henlade, and noise cause localised environmental problems;
- Trips made by people are not predictable so often cannot be planned into public transport routes; and
- Increases in traffic in Taunton are likely to reduce the ease with which people can access services and facilities in their community.

In order to solve the issues outlined and achieve the objectives of the project, a problem-solving exercise was undertaken to draw out all the possible solutions that could be delivered from now until 2026. It should be stressed that while some of these proposals have already been made public, others are purely conceptual and are open to debate. Please see the map and explanations as a guide.

The next steps for this project will be to consider feedback from this exercise and integrate this into further development work to outline the main transport schemes likely to be taken forward. There will be a full consultation event on these proposals during 2009.

This document is part of the Taunton Area Transport Strategy Review, which covers transportation issues in Wellington, Taunton & Bridgwater.



Key objectives of the project are:

Safety

- Reduce casualties for all users of transport
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime on public transport

Economic

- Reduce short trips by car
- Ensure future development can take place without overloading the road network
- Reduce journey times and make journeys more reliable
- Ensure the road network can cope with increases in flooding

Environment

- Address noise issues and air quality, including carbon emissions
- Improve ecological diversity
- Protect the historical built environment and improve streetscape

Social

- Increase accessibility to non-car modes of travel and improve public transport waiting facilities
- Improve personal fitness and social well-being in communities

For more information, contact TransportPolicy@Somerset.gov.uk or Telephone: 0845 345 9155



This document is also available in Braille, large print, on tape and on disc and we can translate it into different languages. We can provide a member of staff to discuss the details.

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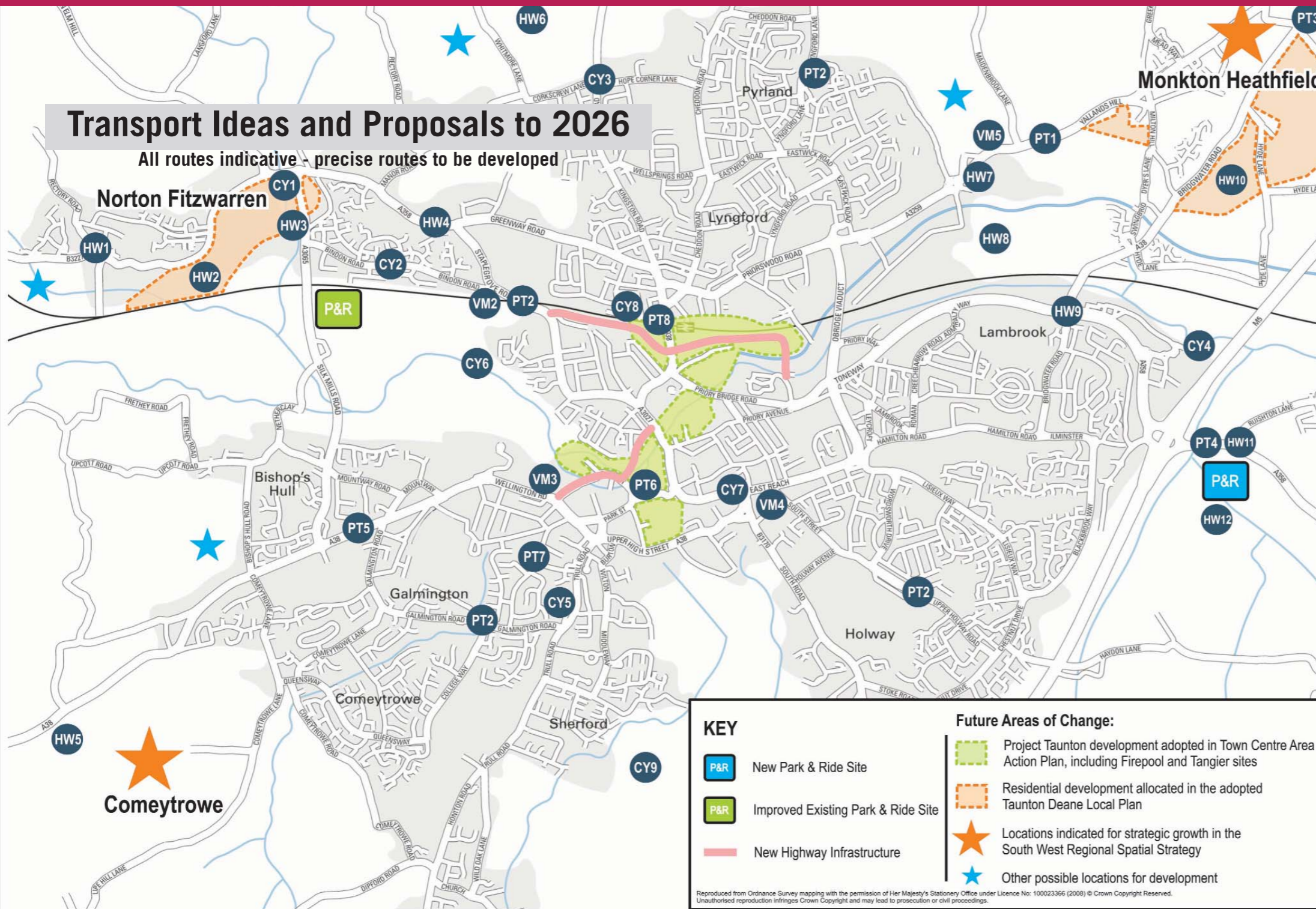


TRANSPORT IN TAUNTON: THE WAY AHEAD

Choosing your route to the future

Transport Ideas and Proposals to 2026

All routes indicative - precise routes to be developed



Potential new highways infrastructure to ease congestion at pinch points

- HW1 Improved junction on B3227 at Rectory Road in Norton Fitzwarren
- HW2 Completion of a bypass for Norton Fitzwarren
- HW3 Junction connecting new road through development south of Norton Fitzwarren with A3065 Silk Mills Road
- HW4 Improved junctions along A358 (Staplegrove Road) from Norton Fitzwarren into Taunton Town Centre
- HW5 New road from A38 to possible new housing site at Comeytrove
- HW6 New road between Cross Keys and A3259 at Bossington Drive with the potential to link to Monkton Heathfield (Northern Outer Distributor Road)
- HW7 Improved junctions along A3259 between Monkton Heathfield and Taunton Town Centre
- HW8 New road linking A3259 with A358 (Toneway) to the north of Lambrook
- HW9 Improved junctions from M5 along A358 (Toneway) and into Taunton Town Centre
- HW10 New road from Bridgwater Road to A3259 to south of Monkton Heathfield
- HW11 Improved junctions at Henlade along A358 to M5 from planned Park and Ride
- HW12 A bypass for Henlade

Potential public transport improvements to increase use and reduce reliance on the car

- PT1 New or improved bus priority route from Monkton Heathfield along A3259 to Taunton Town Centre via Taunton Railway Station
- PT2 Enhanced bus services for Pyrland, Lyngford, Lambrook, Holway, Comeytrove, Galmington and from Taunton Town Centre to Norton Fitzwarren
- PT3 New Park and Ride at Monkton Heathfield
- PT4 New or improved bus priority from Henlade at planned Park and Ride to Taunton Town Centre
- PT5 New or improved bus priority from possible Comeytrove development to Taunton Town Centre following the path of the A38
- PT6 Improved facilities at Taunton Town Centre Bus Station
- PT7 High Frequency Rapid Transit Route (Public Transport) to include Walking and Cycling Facilities from possible Comeytrove development to Taunton Town Centre
- PT8 Improved bus/rail interchange at Taunton Railway Station

Potential new or improved cycle routes to increase cycling

- CY1 Norton Fitzwarren to the junction of A358 at A3065
- CY2 A3065 along Bindon Road to A358
- CY3 West Pyrland to Taunton Town Centre
- CY4 Henlade to Lambrook
- CY5 Comeytrove to Taunton Town Centre
- CY6 Silk Mills Park and Ride to Taunton Town Centre
- CY7 Through Taunton Town Centre along East Reach
- CY8 New foot/cycle bridge over railway linking Taunton Town Centre and Lyngford
- CY9 New cycle link between Sherford and Killams

Potential locations for Variable Message Signs linked to other intelligent transport technology to help direct travellers and manage roads more effectively

- VM1 North East of Norton Fitzwarren
- VM2 Junction of Staplegrove Road with Bindon Road
- VM3 Junction of Wellington Road with Castle Street
- VM4 Junction of East Reach with South Street
- VM5 Along A3259 west of Maidenbrook Lane

