



INTRODUCTION

8.1 Our aim is to have more people walking, cycling, motorcycling and horse riding to improve health and to reduce adverse effects on the environment.

8.2 Walking and cycling are healthy, environmentally friendly alternatives to the car for short journeys. For longer journeys they provide the potential for transfer of trips to public transport, with cycling in particular widening the catchment of rail stations.

8.3 Motorcycling can be a quick, economical alternative to the car, particularly in congested situations. When energy efficient machines are used, motorcycling can play a role in reducing pollution levels.

8.4 Horse riding is primarily a leisure activity and riders use roads to reach bridleways and other off-road routes.

WALKING

8.5 A Walking Strategy has been developed to ensure a comprehensive approach to the promotion of walking as a sustainable mode of travel.

Objectives

8.6 The objectives of the Walking Strategy are to:

- increase the proportion of journeys undertaken on foot;
- emphasise the role of walking as part of journeys by public transport;
- improve the walking environment;
- promote walking;
- make it possible for more journeys to be made on foot by people with impaired or reduced mobility;
- ensure that actions to encourage walking and cycling complement one another.

Strategy

8.7 The main emphasis is on the improvement of the physical environment to make walking journeys more convenient and attractive.



PUFFIN crossings give longer crossing times when needed and are used at many locations in West Yorkshire.

The key measures are:

- providing safe, convenient links between homes, educational establishments, workplaces, shops and leisure activities;
- improving pedestrian links to public transport to encourage the choice of public transport in preference to the car;
- continued development and improvement of pedestrian crossing facilities, particularly at busy junctions and on busy road links;
- emphasis on pedestrian priority areas as part of town centre strategies;
- highway and planning standards that ensure that developments are accessible on foot and by public transport.

CYCLING

8.8 A Cycling Strategy has been developed to encourage cycling and to ensure a comprehensive approach to the promotion of cycling as a sustainable mode of travel.

“cycling should be a delightful means of transport not a terrifying one”

Objectives

8.9 The Cycling Strategy objectives are:

- to encourage more people to cycle more often for both utility and leisure journeys, and so help to reduce the dependency on private cars;
- to develop a safe, convenient, efficient and attractive transport infrastructure that encourages and facilitates cycling;
- to reduce the casualty rate of cyclists;
- to ensure that policies to increase cycling and meet the needs of cyclists are integrated into all appropriate Policies, Plans, Strategies and resources bids.

Strategy

8.10 The strategy is divided into three main areas.



Cycling is being encouraged by a variety of measures such as secure parking facilities and dedicated cycle paths.

Providing a cycle friendly infrastructure which enables cyclists to reach all destinations safely and conveniently by:

- the development of high quality cycle route networks including cycle lanes, cycle tracks, cycle/ bus lanes and widened near-side lanes;
- constructing lengths of the National Cycle Network to link the 5 main centres in West Yorkshire;
- traffic management including advance stop lines, changes in priority at junctions, traffic calming and speed reduction;
- the provision of secure cycle parking;
- protection of potential cycle routes from severance by development;
- giving consideration to the specific needs of cyclists in highway maintenance programmes;
- providing a road network which cyclists are able to use safely, conveniently and without fear of other vehicles.

Encouraging cycle use by:

- working with schools particularly as part of safer routes to school initiatives;
- developing cycle friendly employment practices as part of travel plans;
- publicising cycling in a way that emphasises the health, social, financial and environmental benefits of cycling.

Improving education by:

- training for both children and adults;
- making other road users more aware of the needs of cyclists.

POWERED TWO WHEELERS

Objectives

8.11 The objectives for motorcycling are:

- to encourage the greater use of environmentally friendly motorcycles;
- ensure greater safety for motorcyclists.

Strategy

8.12 We will seek to implement the objectives by:

- increasing the provision of secure parking facilities in town centres, at interchange points such as park and ride and at railway stations;
- promoting motorcycling as part of travel plans by encouraging the provision of appropriate parking facilities and lockers for storage of equipment and clothing;
- encouragement of effective training for novice and returning riders, plus support for rider improvement programmes;
- giving consideration to the needs of motorcyclists in highway maintenance programmes.

8.13 The strategy recognises that the speed and relative vulnerability of motorcyclists is likely to continue to be reflected in high casualty rates. It is important that rider safety is addressed both by riders and potential riders in the selection of appropriate machines and correct behaviour and by the motorcycle industry and local authorities in ensuring that access to good training is available.

HORSE RIDING

“Horse riders should be able to use the roads in safety”

Objectives

8.14 The objectives for horse riding and driving are:

- to reduce the casualty rate for riders and horses;
- to develop safe routes which help riders to gain access to more rural areas.

Strategy

8.15 We will seek to implement the objectives by:

- improving and extending the ‘rights of way’ network and publicising its availability;
- providing safe crossing places and facilities alongside roads, where appropriate;
- encouraging all riders to take their Riding and Road Safety Tests;
- making other road users aware of the needs of horse riders.

