



## Bristol Walking Alliance

campaigning to improve Bristol's walking environment

# 50 Ways to Better Walking progress review 2024-2026

October 2026

Bristol Walking Alliance is a consortium of organisations and individuals campaigning to improve the walking environment. We want to create an environment for pedestrians that is welcoming, safe, and convenient for all. To join BWA and receive regular updates on our activities, please:

Visit our website: <https://bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk>

Email: [enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk)

## Introduction

The aim of this report is to summarise the current situation and progress made since the last review of 50 Ways to Better Walking ([bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk](https://bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk)) by Bristol Walking Alliance (BWA) in November 2023. Where possible we include relevant policies, some examples of provision. Links to further information are at the end of the report.

A traffic-light system is used to grade progress: Green for good progress; Amber for some progress, and; Red for little or no progress identified. Grading reflects a combination of progress towards an 'ideal' position and achievements since BWA launched 50 Ways to Better Walking.

The 50 measures proposed by BWA provide more detail for 10 walking-related actions outlined in the Bristol Transport Strategy 2019. These are summarised below, with more detail on the following pages. Significant progress has been made in a number of areas which we hope will continue.

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| ↑ | 1. Identify and enhance walking routes.                                    |
| ↑ | 2. Adopt design standards that are inclusive.                              |
| ↑ | 3. Develop walkable communities.                                           |
|   | 4. Connect walking to public transport.                                    |
|   | 5. Count, monitor, and share information about walking.                    |
|   | 6. Reduce obstructions to walking and implement enforcement measures.      |
| ↑ | 7. Make walking safe.                                                      |
|   | 8. Make walking pleasant and comfortable.                                  |
|   | 9. Provide walking information.                                            |
|   | 10. Support walking through travel planning and enabling behaviour change. |

| 1. Identify and enhance walking routes |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|                                        | Action                                                                                                                                                            | Progress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                        | 1. Identify and promote key walking routes into the city centre and between neighbourhoods using clear, consistent signage                                        | Bristol City Council (BCC) has not focused on additional navigational signposting for pedestrians in recent years and relies primarily on the pre-existing Bristol Legible City pedestrian wayfinding system. Upgrades have mainly focused on digitally refreshing the system and adapting materials for backlighting to support the night-time economy. BCC has conducted workshops as part of a review of Legible City to inform the development of a new Wayfinding Strategy. BCC is also developing a Transport Infrastructure Plan that will provide an evidence base for walking improvements across the city.                                                                                                                                                               |
| ↑                                      | 2. Incorporate 'pedestrian priority' design features at side-road junctions as part of road improvements e.g. continuous pavements, road markings, road narrowing | Some pedestrian priority design features have been incorporated at side-road junctions, including continuous footways and junction narrowing. These measures are implemented through major transport schemes, local safety projects and Liveable Neighbourhood initiatives. An implied zebra side-road trial is being undertaken on North Street, Bedminster from autumn 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ↑                                      | 3. Provide safe, convenient pedestrian crossing points along key routes and at least every 400m along main roads                                                  | Since 2024, Bristol City Council has delivered upgrades to pedestrian crossings along several strategic routes including: Park Row and Marlborough Street; Canons Road and College Green Junction; Victoria Street Corridor; Portway and Hotwells Strategic Corridor; Crews Hole Road; West Town Lane. Improvements to South Liberty Lane during 2026 include nine new pedestrian crossings with dropped kerbs and tactile paving.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ↑                                      | 4. Adjust the timing of light-controlled crossings to minimise pedestrian delays                                                                                  | Following a review of timings of stand-alone push button crossings across Bristol (n=163), 53 are now set to give almost instant green lights when the button is pressed, and a further 87 have been updated to a maximum waiting time of 20 seconds. Bristol City Council transport officers have committed to looking at additional crossings fixed by the SCOOT system, as a follow-up exercise to the Pre-Timed Max project. Motorised traffic tends to be prioritised where the aim is to manage congestion across an entire network.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                        | 5. Conduct an audit of pedestrian underpasses across the city; identify and repair drainage problems                                                              | Work has been undertaken to address flooding issues at Lawrence Weston roundabout underpass. Subway drainage has been repaired but gully gratings are still prone to blocking with debris.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ↑                                      | 6. Audit and upgrade pedestrian routes across the Feeder Canal, River Avon, River Avon New Cut and the Floating Harbour                                           | Gaol Ferry Footbridge has been fully refurbished and opened in 2025. New Brislington Bridge on Feeder Road was strategically repaired in 2024. Langton Street Bridge has been restored and reopened June 2025. Refurbishment works on Bath New Bridge were completed December 2025. Refurbishment works on Sparke Evans Park Bridge including a new access ramp were completed May 2026. Following refurbishment, Vauxhall Bridge is due to re-open December 2026. Bathurst Swing Bridge closed for repairs in Spring 2025 and reopened August 2026. Work on Bedminster Bridges is due to take place throughout 2027. Netham West Bridge is due for replacement late 2026 with completion March 2027. Pero's lifting footbridge is being refurbished and is due to reopen in 2027. |

| 2. Adopt design standards that are inclusive |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|                                              | 7. Adopt and publicise clear design standards for the pedestrian environment                                                                                                     | The Healthy Streets approach was formally adopted by the Transport and Connectivity Committee in May 2026 to be included in future scheme designs, engagement and delivery. Bristol City Council civil engineering and street improvement projects include evaluation of surrounding pavements to meet Environmental Access Standards. Bristol Transport Development Management provides guidance for developers including Designing for Walking and Crossing Facilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                              | 8. Ensure footways are wide enough to provide safe and convenient access for people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and walking aids, and people with pushchairs            | Some corridor schemes incorporate widened footways including: Park Row and Marlborough Street; Victoria Street; A4 Portway; Bedminster Green and Malago Road. Opportunities are constrained by existing narrow streets and pressure for space from other transport modes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                              | 9. Audit walking routes, providing dropped kerbs where they are missing, alternatives to steps where possible, and handrails where there are steps                               | Bristol City Council (BCC) has not conducted a city-wide audit of walking routes, but has incorporated accessibility upgrades into new development schemes and major corridor redevelopments. The West of England Centre for Inclusive Living reviews technical drawings, crossings, and footways for BCC. Since May 2026, the quality assurance process includes Healthy Streets audits as standard which captures dropped kerbs and pavement defects. Local Area Committees may identify accessibility issues and pass them to the highways team for action as budgets allow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                              | 10. Work with visually impaired people to audit pedestrian routes and crossings, ensuring compliance with national guidance for audible beeps, rotating cones and tactile paving | Bristol City Council works with West of England Sight Loss Council to include the perspectives of blind and visually impaired people in transport scheme development and regeneration projects. The West of England Sight Loss Council worked with BCC to create audio-described diversionary routes during repairs to Gaol Ferry Bridge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                              | 11. Work with equalities groups when developing transport schemes and making changes, including temporary changes, that affect the pedestrian environment                        | Bristol City Council works with West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL), West of England Sight Loss Council, and The Disabled People Strategic Transport Advisory Group with the aim of embedding the lived experience, expertise and perspectives of disabled people in transport scheme development. These groups continue to highlight areas needing improvement for disabled accessibility across Bristol.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                              | 12. Undertake a programme of work to ensure train stations and transport interchanges are fully accessible                                                                       | Most bus stops in Bristol are accessible with raised kerb platforms. Bristol City Council aims to review the remaining stops without a raised kerb using inclusive mobility guidance. Ashley Down station (opened September 2024) has lifts for step-free access to both platforms, and can accommodate a variety of ramps to enable wheelchair users to board and alight. Bristol Brabazon station (due to open autumn 2026) has accessible footbridge, and walking distances to accessible parking bays were considered as part of the design. Lawrence Hill station is scheduled to be step-free by March 2027. Feasibility studies, to achieve step-free access and accessibility improvements, are ongoing for Bedminster, Clifton Down, Parson Street and Stapleton Road stations. Bristol City Council is working with the Mayoral Combined Authority Station Accessibility Working Group to identify a future pipeline of station accessibility improvements. |

| 3. Develop walkable communities |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                                 | 13. Recruit and enable officers with the skills and expertise to implement the Healthy Streets approach in transport and planning schemes                                                                         | The Healthy Streets approach has been adopted by Bristol City Council (BCC) with staff recruited to specialized roles including the Road Safety & Healthy Streets Officer and Healthy Traffic Engineer. Staff across various sectors, including urban design, planning, and road safety, are tasked with embedding Healthy Streets principles into major projects. Wider training is offered to officers throughout the Highways and Transport services. The Healthy Streets Design Check tool was used for projects at Princess Victoria Street and Cotham Hill. The 2026 area committee schemes are prioritising 'Healthy Streets'.                                          |
|                                 | 14. Develop and implement Liveable Neighbourhood schemes in consultation with local people                                                                                                                        | Liveable Neighbourhood schemes are being implemented in East Bristol and South Bristol. Both schemes have experienced difficulties with local people and organisations expressing concerns about the consultation process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                 | 15. Implement School Street measures to restrict motor vehicles during school drop-off and pick-up times                                                                                                          | There are 17 permanent schemes. Additions in 2024-26 are: Ashton Gate Primary, St Werburgh's Primary, Oasis Academy Bank Leaze, Headley Park Primary, Shirehampton Primary and Blaise Primary & Nursery. Four new schemes are proposed: Glenfrome Primary, May Park Primary, Oasis Academy Marksbury Road and Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary. South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood plans include school street improvements at Ashton Gate Primary and Southville Primary. The West of England Transport Vision (February 2026) aims for 10 more school street projects by 2028.                                                                                            |
|                                 | 16. Enable and actively encourage residents to report street maintenance issues including lighting, drainage, and potholes; monitor problems reported, resolved, and outstanding to improve maintenance processes | Residents can report street maintenance issues through FixMyStreet Bristol. Following an upgrade in 2025, the process is more effective in resolving straightforward issues but more complex issues can face delays or rejections. Bristol City Council's 'Local highways maintenance transparency report' (27/06/2025) indicated a focus on reactive maintenance for footways, notably modular paving. About 25% of highway reactive maintenance each year is carried out on footways. A priority is to increase preventative maintenance in line with national best practice, and the majority of funding is allocated to preventing roads and pavements from deteriorating. |
|                                 | 17. Require walkability assessments in the planning process where developments affect the pedestrian environment                                                                                                  | Bristol City Council requires Transport Assessments for developments that affect the pedestrian environment, and expects walking and wheeling infrastructure to be maintained or improved. Developers must meet standards for accessibility, safety and permeability. Transport Development Management guidance provides details of the design and accessibility requirements for walking and wheeling environments. Footway improvements have been delivered through developments at Trinity Road, Avon Street, Silverthorne Lane and Clark Street.                                                                                                                           |
|                                 | 18. Audit and improve the provision of accessible toilets for public use at main transport interchanges and areas of high pedestrian footfall                                                                     | Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway train stations, and Bristol Bus Station, have fully accessible toilets but there are none at local train stations. Bristol's main shopping centres, major entertainment venues and visitor attractions have accessible toilets. Funding has been approved to improve accessibility at MShed including a Changing Places toilet (scheduled for 2028). An accessible toilet and baby change facility is planned for St Nicholas Market (March 2027). Bristol City Council has allocated £270,000 to audit the condition of closed public toilets.                                                                                       |

| 4. Connect walking to public transport |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                                        | 19. Ensure everyone is within a 10-minute walk of a frequent public transport service                                                                                                                    | Inner city areas and major transport corridors are fairly well-served by bus and by some rail services. But many people, especially in suburban areas and peripheral housing estates, are not within a 10-minute walk of a frequent, reliable public transport service. The West of England Transport Vision (February 2026) includes an ambition that 100% of people will be within a 10-minute walk of a public transport stop. The m1 Metrobus route is currently being extended including upgrading six bus stops (completion Autumn 2026). Ashley Down train station opened 2024. Additional stations are part of the MetroWest Programme: Bristol Brabazon is expected to open 2026, and Henbury Station has planning permission and aims to open 2028.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                        | 20. Ensure bus stops are appropriately spaced and located to meet the needs of pedestrians, are well lit, have seating and shelters wherever practicable, and provide accurate real-time bus information | The spacing and location of bus stops in Bristol generally aligns with national UK accessibility targets, but there are significant localised gaps in the network. The West England Mayoral Combined Authority awarded Bristol City Council funding from the Department for Transport Bus Stop Grant. Bus stops along South Liberty Lane are being upgraded to include new raised kerbs, yellow bus stop road markings, paved passenger waiting areas to make the bus stop more visible, and two bus stops will receive new posts and flag signs. Using the Bus Grant the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will fund over 250 new and upgraded screens, including 225 Real Time Information screens at bus stops and stations including 18 screens at Bristol Bus & Coach Station, 21 'e-paper' digital displays to replace conventional printed timetables, three new solar-powered screens at bus stops, and 10 indoor information screens at key public places including Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol Parkway Station and Southmead Hospital. |
| ↑                                      | 21. Provide clear signage for people walking to and from public transport interchanges                                                                                                                   | Bristol City Council has not focused on navigational signposting for pedestrians since the Bristol Legible City pedestrian wayfinding system lost funding in 2023. Plans to provide clearer signage and wayfinding for pedestrians are integrated in regeneration frameworks across the city and are overseen by Bristol City Council and the West of England Combined Authority                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| ↑                                      | 22. Provide walking maps and information at public transport interchanges                                                                                                                                | Some walking maps and information are available at transport interchanges, but greater emphasis is placed on online resources. It is likely that de-funding Bristol Legible City in 2023 has had an ongoing impact. Public transport passenger information is the responsibility of the West of England Combined Authority, and Bristol City Council works with the combined authority where possible to enable improvements to bus passenger information.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| 5. Count, monitor and share information about walking |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                                       | 23. Identify walking as a separate mode of transport in travel reports, policy documents and transport planning; do not conflate 'walking and cycling' or subsume walking in 'active transport' | <p>Bristol Walking and Cycling Index has separate walking and cycling as distinct modes for some of its reporting since 2022.</p> <p>Bristol City Council Transport Strategy (2019) identifies walking as a separate mode of transport within a broader context in which walking and cycling are often conflated as 'active travel'.</p> <p>The West of England Transport Vision predominantly refers to 'active travel' or 'walking, wheeling and cycling' in line with Active Travel England which frequently conflates 'walking, wheeling and cycling' but sometimes provides mode-specific information.</p> <p>Bristol City Council is developing a Transport Infrastructure Plan which recognises walking and wheeling as being distinct from cycling. The plan will set out an evidence base, new policy commitments and areas of focus for improved walking infrastructure.</p> |
| ↑                                                     | 24. Monitor and count pedestrian movements with the aim of improving the provision, standard and safety of pedestrian routes                                                                    | <p>Bristol City Council (BCC) follows an annual traffic monitoring programme, and also conducts ad hoc monitoring for specific projects using AI sensors, manual counts on site or by video survey, and surveys.</p> <p>BCC collects continuous pedestrian counts at 86 sites using AI video sensors (VivaCity). Temporary pedestrian counts are undertaken as part of traffic surveys on an ad-hoc basis to support transport projects. Locations of continuous and temporary traffic survey locations can be viewed at BCC's Traffic survey explorer website. Recent monitoring has included East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood, Bristol Bridge, and South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhoods.</p> <p>BCC is procuring an upgraded Urban Traffic Control system with improved ability to monitor pedestrian movements.</p>                                                             |
| ↑                                                     | 25. Include questions about walking in travel surveys, planning consultations and quality of life questionnaires                                                                                | <p>TravelWest collects data through its Bristol Travel to Work survey. In 2025, 7% of respondents were commuting by walking, up from 16% in 2024.</p> <p>The Bristol Quality of Life Survey includes questions about walking, and indicates 34.6% of respondents say it is convenient and pleasant to walk in their neighbourhood compared with 62.4% in Bristol as a whole. Walking and cycling were conflated in the report to indicate that 36% of people use "active travel" (walk or cycle) to get to work.</p> <p>Bristol City Council partners with Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans) to release The Walking and Cycling Index. The most recent index (published 2025) found 62% of residents walk or wheel at least five days a week.</p>                                                                                                                             |
|                                                       | 26. Set ambitious targets to increase walking and report progress on an annual basis                                                                                                            | <p>Bristol City Council (BCC) has no specific target to increase walking. BCC and the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority aim to increase 'active travel' or 'walking and cycling'.</p> <p>The UK government, in the third Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS3), conflates walking and cycling as 'active travel' and has set national targets for: 55% of all short journeys in towns and cities to be walked, wheeled, or cycled by 2035, and; 60% of children (aged 5-16) to walk or cycle to school by 2035.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                       | 27. Designate and monitor separate budgets for walking                                                                                                                                          | <p>Budgets for walking have been unclear and often subsumed in 'active travel'. However, Local Highway Maintenance Transparency Reports were introduced in 2025 by the Department for Transport and provide important information about expenditure on footway maintenance.</p> <p>These show the following budgets for footway maintenance: £1,653,000 (2024/25), £1,552,000 (2025/26), £2,061,000 (projected, 2026/27). A depreciation model guides investment decisions on bituminous footways using programmes such as Slurry Seal to maximise lifespan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| 6. Reduce obstructions to walking and implement enforcement measures                |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                                                                                     | 28. Implement a London-style pavement parking ban                                                                                                                                        | <p>The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations for local transport authorities (e.g. West of England Combined Authority) to impose an area-wide ban on pavement parking and to allow local authorities (e.g. Bristol City Council) to take enforcement action. Secondary legislation and statutory guidance are expected by the end of 2026.</p> <p>In early 2026, Bristol City Council proposed a standalone pavement parking ban at Gordon Avenue, Eastville, along with new traffic-calming measures.</p> <p>Civil enforcement officers can already enforce pavement parking where there is a signed restriction supported by a TRO, and on pavements behind double yellow lines. If there are no restrictions, responsibility for enforcement currently lies with the Police, although that is expected to change.</p> |
|                                                                                     | 29. Monitor and improve enforcement of controls against footway obstructions including bins, A-boards, scaffolding, fly-tipping, e-scooters and overgrown hedges                         | <p>Footway obstructions can be reported on FixMyStreet. There is a high volume of enquiries, and some take time to address. Bristol City Council has worked with FixMyStreet to improve the reporting system and will be undertaking a procurement exercise for a new public reporting tool with the aim of responding to reports more quickly and effectively. Bristol City Council monitors and enforces licences for hospitality outdoor table and chairs with a preferred clear pavement width of 2m.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                     | 30. Clarify and publicise the responsible organisations and enforcement processes in relation to footway obstructions e.g. Bristol Waste, Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol City Council | <p>Where possible FixMyStreet reports are triaged and sent to the responsible organisation, which may be external. This can work well but may also lead to lack of clarity about which agency is dealing with the issue.</p> <p>Vehicles in contravention of parking restrictions can be reported via the Parking Services contact form. Requests for new parking controls in areas with persistent nuisance parking can be made online using the Bristol City Council 'Tell us about a road safety concern or street improvement' form.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | 31. Monitor complaints received, and actions taken, in relation to nuisance parking including on pavements, double yellow lines, and across dropped kerbs                                | <p>Nuisance parking can be reported on FixMyStreet but it is difficult to find an accessible summary of complaints received and actions taken. Bristol City Council does enforce some parking on double yellow lines and across dropped kerbs where they form a crossing but enforcement is patchy. (Unless a loading ban is in force, vehicles are permitted to undertake loading activity from double yellow lines. Blue badge holders are permitted to park for up to 3 hours where they are not causing an obstruction.)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                     | 32. Re-purpose parking bays to remove pavement obstructions e.g. on-street bin collection points, electric scooter parking hubs, electric vehicle charging                               | <p>Bristol City Council's Parking and Kerbside Strategy Task and Finish Group (established 2024/25) will continue in 2026/27. There has been limited progress in allocating kerbside space for e-scooter and e-bike parking: 40 on-road parking bays have been installed over the past year, and 200 are planned before March 2027. On-street bin collection points have been criticised as attracting fly-tipping and being poorly maintained.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                     | 33. Position street furniture such as benches, signs and lampposts, to maximise the useable footway width and remove redundant street furniture                                          | <p>Bristol Transport Development Management Guidance acknowledges street furniture and telecommunication equipment as integral to the streetscape, while aiming for a reduction in street clutter. Bristol City Council has successfully opposed the large-scale rollout of BT's large, illuminated digital advertising screens.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| 7. Make walking safe |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|                      | 34. Segregate pedestrians from bicycles and e-scooters on key walking routes                                                                                                                                             | Recent focus has been on cycling infrastructure through which pedestrians may also benefit. Physical segregation on major corridors has included Old Market Gap, Park Row, Perry Road and Upper Maudlin Street, Temple Way to the Friary, Victoria Street, and Bedminster Green & Whitehouse Lane. E-scooters and bicycles on footways continue to present problems for pedestrians. Bristol City Council follows Active Travel England (ATE) guidance such as 'Worth Every Step', ATE's delivery plan 2026 to 2030.                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                      | 35. Enable pedestrians to report collisions and near misses with bicycles and e-scooters, and produce annual summaries                                                                                                   | Non-emergency collisions or near misses can be reported via the Avon and Somerset Police Road Traffic Incident Form or by calling 101. Serious collisions should be reported through 999. Dott is the current trial provider for rental e-scooters and e-bikes. Incidents involving a rental vehicle with a visible identification number can be reported through a Dott online report form. A collision or near miss due to unsafe road layouts, blocked visibility, or poor infrastructure can be flagged on the Bristol City Council Street Improvements Reporter or FixMyStreet. Clear summaries of the data are difficult to find. Near misses are likely to be underreported by pedestrians. |
| ↑                    | 36. Adopt a Vision Zero approach to road safety, with the aim of eliminating all deaths and serious injuries through improvements to street design and robust enforcement of motor traffic restrictions and speed limits | The Vision Zero approach was adopted by Bristol City Council (BCC) in 2023. A Road Safety Taskforce (dedicated Task and Finish Group of councillors) was established in 2025 to steer the development of a new road safety strategy, with the outcomes reported to Transport Committee in March 2026. This strategy will set out how BCC aims to achieve vision zero, supported by an action plan. BCC aims to publish the strategy in 2027. A consultation has been undertaken on proposals for additional 20mph limits on around 100 of the city's most dangerous roads.                                                                                                                         |
| ↑                    | 37. Ensure key walking routes are well-lit with sufficient oversight, including measures to prioritise 'active frontage' in planning applications                                                                        | Planning policies require new developments along primary and secondary pedestrian routes to feature active frontages. At the pre-application stage, plans are scrutinized to ensure buildings address the public realm directly rather than turning blank walls towards primary walking paths. Bristol's £12m LED street lighting upgrade project was completed in October 2025. Solar lighting is being tested for routes where traditional street lighting is problematic. Local Area Committee funding can be used for lighting.                                                                                                                                                                |
|                      | 38. Implement a citywide programme to replace existing pedestrian underpasses with street level crossings                                                                                                                | Bristol City Council maintains and monitors a network of around 40 pedestrian subways and underpasses. The Redcliffe Hill subway has been permanently closed and the pedestrian crossing above ground improved. A scheme to boost visual appeal and perceived safety of Temple Way Underpass has been recommended for withdrawal because a new at-grade street crossing is being installed nearby. At the M32/Easton Way underpass, public safety issues are being evaluated as part of the Frome Gateway Regeneration.                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                      | 39. Set and enforce tight limits on air pollution across the city                                                                                                                                                        | Six sites within Bristol's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) exceed the legal NO <sub>2</sub> limit of 40µg/m. Further mitigations may be introduced at key sites such as Colston Avenue, Rupert Street and Bond Street. Bristol City Council is currently developing a Healthy Air Strategy and Action Plan which will recognise that legal compliance with UK air quality standards does not guarantee healthy air.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| 8. Make walking pleasant and comfortable |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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|                                          | 40. Protect and plant street trees to improve air quality, provide shelter and enhance biodiversity                                                                         | Bristol's Highways and Landscapes Tree Planting Programme (2025-2028) aims to increase the number of trees in the city particularly on highways. New street trees are delivered via the TreeBristol programme and initiatives such as 'Trees for Streets'. The Bristol City Council Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy 2026-2030 highlights the importance of street trees but acknowledges that new road layouts and competing priorities can lead to the removal of mature trees. Bristol Tree Forum are concerned that Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting through the planning system fails to secure adequate local tree replacement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                          | 41. Deal promptly with seasonal and weather-related problems affecting the pedestrian environment including flooded underpasses, puddles, icy pavements and slippery leaves | <p>Bristol City Council's Winter Service team uses advanced weather forecasts from October to April to direct Bristol Waste gritters, treating major priority roads, bus routes and emergency routes first. Pavements are generally not treated in accordance with the Winter Maintenance Plan. The city maintains about 800 grit bins, primarily located on steep hills and near footbridges, for residents to treat local footpaths themselves.</p> <p>Maintenance teams undertake a proactive inspection and street cleansing programme, and also clear blocked or overflowing gullies reactively when reported or inspected. Environmental crews increase leaf-clearing operations during autumn high-fall periods Residents can report hazardous blocked roadside drains or accumulations of leaves via FixMyStreet.</p> <p>Some underpasses continue to flood.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | 42. Provide and maintain green infrastructure such as parklets and grass verges, and develop a network of 'green' pedestrian routes across the city                         | <p>The Bristol City Council Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy 2026–2030 is largely descriptive but includes some limited Urban Greening commitments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore funding and delivery mechanisms for the delivery of policy 'GI A: Open space for recreation' within regeneration and development management processes.</li> <li>2. Engage communities and parks groups and enable park quality improvements in areas of greatest need. Consider the best use of existing green spaces to deliver optimised multi-functionality of the BGI network (balancing food growing, tree shade, recreation, biodiversity).</li> <li>3. Embed blue green infrastructure considerations and requirements into relevant transport policy and plans, such as the Transport Movement Plan and the Kerbside Strategy.</li> </ol> <p>Increased use of kerbside space for green infrastructure such as street trees is incorporated in Liveable Neighbourhood schemes. Street trees are also encouraged through the planning process.</p> |
|                                          | 43. Work with communities, developers and businesses to improve streetscapes by providing benches, lighting, interpretation boards, and public art as appropriate           | <p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding collected through new developments is distributed directly to the council's local Area Committees. Community groups and residents can bid for funding, including to improve local streetscapes.</p> <p>Section 106 agreements enable Bristol City Council (BCC) to secure binding commitments from developers during the planning application process to fund public realm improvements.</p> <p>BCC's public art officers ensure public art is considered in public realm design processes where appropriate, contributing to projects such as at Filwood Broadway, EQ Building, Glassfields.</p> <p>Through Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) the Council co-funds and co-delivers street transformations alongside city business groups. A notable example is the Bristol BID improvements to the city centre.</p> <p>The City Centre &amp; High Streets programme has invested in small scale improvements in Broadmead, Park Street, King Street and Old City.</p>                                            |

| 9. Provide walking information |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | 44. Supply walking information including maps for residents and visitors to the city at public transport interchanges, on the TravelWest website, and through Visit Bristol | The Travelwest Go platform provides walking advice and maps. Bristol City Council also partners with the Go Jauntly navigation app. The Visit Bristol website indicates that it is possible to view and download a free map of Bristol city centre and the surrounding neighbourhoods and districts, but maps cannot be sent by post.                                                                                                                        |
|                                | 45. Provide maps and walking information at key venues such as libraries, museums, council offices and community buildings                                                  | Although the Bristol Legible City map is still available at key venues, greater emphasis is now placed on online resources.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                | 46. Include walking destinations and timings on information panels at key points in the city centre and in neighbourhoods, building on the work of Bristol Legible City     | Much of the original physical infrastructure of the Bristol Legible City project remains visible across central Bristol, including "orientation monolith" map totems, fingerpost signs, and Harbourside panels. However, many units show age, have been weathered or damaged, have been partially superseded by digital navigation or show some outdated information.<br>Legible City is under review through the development of a Wayfinding Strategy/Plan. |

### Why '50 Ways to Better Walking'?

BWA produced a booklet '[50 Ways to Better Walking](#)' to highlight ways in which the walking environment in Bristol could be improved.

It is intended to persuade politicians, council officials and others that much more could be done to encourage and enable more people to walk as their first choice for local journeys.

The booklet provides a range of measures that require policy commitments and funding from central, regional and local government, as well as support from businesses, the voluntary sector and communities.

We use 'walking' and 'pedestrian' to include all people moving at walking speed, including those who use wheelchairs, mobility scooters or other aids to movement.

### To join BWA

Visit our website: <https://bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk/>

or Email: [enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk)

Membership is free and is open to organisations and individuals who support the aims of BWA. Members receive an e-bulletin with updates of BWA activities and other related issues.

| 10. Support walking through travel planning and enabling behaviour change           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     | 47. Identify those who experience barriers to walking and what those barriers are; adopt an evidence-based action plan for addressing the barriers                                                             | <p>Bristol Quality of Life survey 2025 indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47.3% of residents in the most deprived areas think street lighting is a problem compared with the 31.9% city average</li> <li>• 21.7% full-time carer, 25.9% Muslim, and 18% single-parent respondents think street lighting is a serious problem compared with the 9.8% city average</li> <li>• Topics with an increased number of comments include access issues (including dropped kerbs) and concerns around pavements (including maintenance and keeping clear of bikes, scooters and parked cars)</li> <li>• 27.5% of Disabled people can walk, wheel or cycle to local shops or services, compared with the 58.5% city average. Issues can be reported on FixMyStreet. Action to resolve issues varies, involving different Council departments, budgets, and outside agencies.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
|   | 48. Encourage and support public bodies, businesses, schools and other relevant organisations to include walking routes, distances and times in workplace travel plans                                         | <p>Bristol City Council Travel Plan Guide for New Developments, 10 June 2026, includes 'Promotion of Walking' through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory: Appropriate well-lit and signed footpaths</li> <li>• Compulsory: Adequate site pedestrian access points</li> <li>• Promotion of health benefits</li> <li>• Personal alarms for staff walking to the site</li> <li>• Road safety improvements</li> </ul> <p>Travelwest has been working with businesses to provide sustainable travel information and maps for employees, and has created Travel Information Packs on behalf of developers to promote sustainable travel, including walking, for residents moving into new homes. Journey planners can be used free on any organisation webpages, including information on air quality.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                     | 49. Promote and support walking initiatives in the city including Walk to Work, Walk to School, and Bristol WalkFest, as well as walking groups that encourage and enable walking for health and active travel | <p>Bristol City Council (BCC) is a principal funder of Bristol WalkFest that runs annually throughout May. This year the 33-mile Bristol Ring circular walking route was launched. BCC provides road safety resources for schools including classroom education resources, 'Show You Care, Park Elsewhere' and Safer Routes to School. The School's Active Travel Team behaviour change programme provides free activities in schools to help increase the rates of active travel using Modeshift STARS to recognise schools' achievements and to measure impact in changing travel behaviours. The West (Travelwest) website supports Walk to Work Day with information and maps. Grant funding through the Active Travel Community Fund supports community groups to run walking activities across the city in 2025-26, including Steppin' Sistas, St George Strollers, and Blaze Trails CIC Bristol Parent and Toddler walking group. In 2025, an Active Travel England pilot project produced a map of walking routes in Knowle West</p> |
|  | 50. Appoint a 'walking commissioner' to raise the profile of walking and champion improvements to the pedestrian environment                                                                                   | <p>Bristol does not have a 'walking commissioner'. However, local councillors from each political party have accepted BWA's invitation to be a 'walking champion'. A National Active Travel Commissioner, Chris Boardman, is based at the government agency, Active Travel England, which tends to conflate walking, wheeling and cycling. The current West of England Mayor, Helen Godwin is an advisor to Active Travel England.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Useful links

### Projects and schemes

Bristol Bid Transport Projects 2025-2028 <https://www.bristolbid.co.uk/projects/transport-projects-2025-2028/>

Bristol Clean Air Zone <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz>

Bristol School Streets <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/road-safety-in-schools/bristol-school-streets>

Bus stop improvements <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bus-stop-improvements>

Bus service improvement plans: local transport authority allocations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bus-service-improvement-plans-local-transport-authority-allocations>

East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/liveable-neighbourhoods/east-bristol-liveable-neighbourhood>

King Street Pedestrianisation <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/transport-plans-and-projects/king-street-pedestrianisation>

Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan/>

MetroWest <https://travelwest.info/projects/metrowest/>

Proposed traffic calming measures in the Gordon Avenue area <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/ask/find-consultation-engagement/270>

Pedestrian priority at stand-alone push button crossings in Bristol

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s107539/01%20-%20Committee%20Report%20-%20Rollout%20of%20PTM.pdf>

Public art <https://aprb.co.uk/?s=bristol>

South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/liveable-neighbourhoods/south-bristol-liveable-neighbourhood>

The City Centre and High Streets recovery <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/high-streets/city-centre-and-high-streets-recovery>

Transport plans and projects <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/transport-plans-and-projects>

### Policies and guidance

Active Travel England <https://www.activetraielengland.gov.uk>

Bristol on the Move <https://bristolonthemove.com>

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/West-of-England-Combined-Authority-CRSTS.pdf>

Designing for Walking <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/4255-03-3-2-walking/file>

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/23>

Healthy Streets [www.healthystreets.com](http://www.healthystreets.com)

Outdoor hospitality: licences and guidance <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/roads-and-highway/licences/outdoor-hospitality-licences>

Parking and Kerbside Strategy <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s102053/Non-key%20Committee%20Report%20-%20Parking%20Kerbside%20Strategy%20TF%20group.pdf>

Pavement licences: guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pavement-licences-guidance/pavement-licences-guidance>

The third cycling and walking investment strategy (CWIS3)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-the-third-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy-cwis3/the-third-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy-cwis3>

Transport, West of England Combined Authority <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/>

Transport Development Management Guidance <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/transport-development-management-tdm/design-guidance>

Walk, Travelwest <https://travelwest.info/walk/>

West of England Transport Vision <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/about-us/our-strategy/transport-vision/>

## Worth Every Step - Active Travel England's delivery plan 2026 to 2030

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/worth-every-step-active-travel-englands-delivery-plan-2026-to-2030>

### Maintenance

Department for Transport funding <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/highways/road-maintenance/department-for-transport-funding>

Highways <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/highways>

Local highway maintenance transparency report <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/11519-local-highway-maintenance-transparency-report-2026/file>

Restoration of New Cut bridges, Bristol City Council <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristol-harbour/restoration-of-new-cut-bridges>

Road maintenance <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/highways/road-maintenance>

Roads and pavements in severe winter weather <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/highways/road-maintenance/roads-and-pavements-in-severe-winter-weather>

Upgrading to LED street lighting, Bristol City Council <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/transport-plans-and-projects/upgrading-to-led-street-lighting>

### Reporting

FixMyStreet <https://www.fixmystreet.com>

Parking Services contact form <https://digital.bristol.gov.uk/parking/parking-service-contact-form>

Problem with a tree, hedge, leaves or grass <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/report-a-street-issue/trees-hedges-leaves-or-grass>

Report a street issue <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/report-a-street-issue>

Report a road safety concern <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/tell-us-about-a-road-safety-concern>

Report a road traffic incident or collision <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/road-traffic-incident-or-collision/>

Report Dott e-scooter or e-bike issue <https://ridedott.com/report/>

Tell us about a road safety concern or street improvement

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/tell-us-about-a-road-safety-concern>

### Safety

Adopt a Vision Zero Approach to Eliminate Road Deaths in Bristol

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/b32317/Altered%20Golden%20Motion%2011%20July%202023%20Full%20Council%2011th-Jul-2023%2018.00%20Full%20Council.pdf?T=9>

Road safety plans <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/transport-plans-and-projects/road-safety-plans>

Road safety and active travel in schools <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/road-safety-in-schools>

### Accessibility

How to get a dropped kerb installed <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/dropped-kerbs>

Making rail travel easier for everyone <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/rail/rail-accessibility/>

Public toilets <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/public-toilets>

West of England Centre for Independent Living (WECIL) <https://wecil.org.uk/about-wecil/>

West of England Sight Loss Council <https://www.sightlosscouncils.org.uk/meet-the-councils/west-of-england/>

### Trees and greening

Bristol's Highways and Landscapes Tree Planting Programme (2025-2028)

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/museums-parks-sports-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/trees-and-meadows/tree-planting-programme>

Bristol Tree Forum <https://bristoltreeforum.org>

The Bristol City Council Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy 2026-2030

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s124677/Appendix%20A%20-%20Blue%20Green%20Infrastructure%20Strategy%202026.pdf>

Trees for Streets <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/museums-parks-sports-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/trees-and-meadows/trees-for-bristol>

### **Monitoring and surveys**

Bristol Walking and Cycling Index <https://www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk/the-walking-and-cycling-index/bristol-walking-and-cycling-index/>

Bristol City Council Traffic Survey Explorer website

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b993ac20b62a42cf8956c80348abc986>

Quality of life in Bristol <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council/statistics-census-information/quality-of-life-in-bristol>

Traffic monitoring <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/transport-plans-and-projects/traffic-monitoring>

Travel to Work Survey <https://travelwest.info/for-businesses/travel-to-work-survey/>

### **Walking support and activities**

Active Travel Community Match Grants <https://travelwest.info/for-communities/active-travel-community-match-grants/>

Bristol WalkFest <https://www.bristolwalkfest.com>

Go Jauntly walking app <https://www.gojauntly.com>

Modeshift STARS programme and accreditation scheme

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/road-safety-in-schools/modeshift-stars-programme-and-accreditation-scheme>

Sustainable travel advice and support to Businesses in the West of England

<https://travelwest.info/for-businesses/>

Travel Plan Guide for New Developments <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/2701-travel-plan-guide-for-new-developments/file>

Walk to Work Day <https://travelwest.info/walk/walkfest-walk-to-work-day/>

### **Walking groups and organisations**

Blaze Trails Parent and Toddler walking group <https://www.blazetrails.org.uk/walkinggroups>

Bristol Walking Alliance <https://bristolwalkingalliance.org.uk>

Bristol Steppin Sistas <https://www.bristolsteppinsistas.co.uk>

Living Streets <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk>

St George Strollers <https://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/strollers/>