

## Local Transport Plan – 18 July 2022

We were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the Local Transport Plan with Suzanne Cain and Huw Jenkins on 29 June. We were pleased to discover so much common ground in our thinking particularly around the need to reallocate road space to more sustainable modes including active travel and to reduce private vehicle use. This very much aligns with Merseyside Civic Society's aim to promote better placemaking and quality of life in the city region and a strong local transport plan has a vital role to play in this.

As discussed, we hope to be able to offer our constructive support throughout the plan making process, to share our knowledge and experience, and to provide a forum for engagement with our membership, to secure an optimal outcome for our city region.

By way of initial comments on the vision and goals document we would highlight the following:

- We welcome to the direction of travel in the draft vision and goals on page 5. However, while acknowledging the political challenges inherent in producing a document of this nature, we think there is an opportunity to be bolder in articulating the ambitions behind the plan. Firstly, the vision could provide more direction and inspiration by focusing on the 'big idea' behind the plan, rather than trying to cover all bases: what do we want the city region to be and how will transport support this? Additionally, there is an opportunity to simplify the individual goals and reduce overlap. Goal 1 includes two goals, and is somewhat internally directed, and reducing emissions is referenced in goal 3 as well as goal 2, which risks obscuring the importance of modal shift in its own right, as well as the importance of places.
- We are aware that the LCR spatial plan is also being drafted and hope to see more reference to this in the next iteration of the LTP, both in policy development, for example around transit-oriented development, and in consideration of how transport can support a strong spatial vision for the city region.
- We recognise the reference to a 'London standard transport system' in the context of the national levelling up agenda, however, we think a more tangible articulation of how this might function in our city region would be valuable. We also wonder if there are better examples, such as Switzerland for public transport or the Netherlands for cycling.
- Leisure and tourism are central to LCR's economic strategy. We would like to see more consideration of how visitor experiences can be enhanced through transport interventions, for example better information and wayfinding and high quality, accessible transport options between key locations.

As mentioned above, we see this as the start of a productive conversation in support of our shared aim of a high quality, sustainable and inclusive transport system for our city region. We look forward to working with you as you continue to develop this important document.

Yours sincerely,

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