

# Somer Valley Links A37 / A362 / A367

Somer Valley Area Forum  
3 July 2023



# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project background
3. Project proposals
4. Public consultation
5. Next steps
6. Questions

# Introductions

- **Mirna Tarzikhan**

Project Manager, West of England Combined Authority

- **Nik Bowyer**

Strategic Transport Projects Manager, Bath & North East Somerset Council

# Background

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

**WEST OF  
ENGLAND**  
Combined Authority



- UK Government funding secured for better infrastructure, aiming to:
  - Decarbonise transport, promote a shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling
  - Boost economic growth by improving the public and active travel opportunities
- Delivered in parallel with funding to improve bus services



**Funded by  
UK Government**

# What could these proposals mean?

- Practical positive benefits, helping to make everyday life simpler and easier:
  - More options to travel sustainably - whether by bus or walking or cycling
  - Easier to switch from one type of transport to another
  - Buses would be more punctual and quicker, making bus travel a better experience
  - New cycle routes would make it safer, easier and more enjoyable to walk and cycle
- Some impact on local parking

# Initial engagement

- First stage public engagement (Nov 2021 - Jan 2022)
- To understand from people travelling along the A37/A362/A367:
  - What transport issues are experienced
  - What improvements are needed
- 1100 responses to the questionnaire and 22 suggestions in the interactive map
- The largest proportion of journeys & most regular journeys along the corridors are made by car (75%)

# What we learnt

## Top five issues

- Safety rated as poor along the A37/A367 corridors - 71% (cycling) and 69% (walking)
- Traffic flow along the A37/A367 - 61% rated as poor.
- Barriers to walking more:
  - Lack of pavement or poor surface - 69%
  - Do not feel safe - 63%
  - Not enough safe crossing points - 55%
- Barriers to cycling more:
  - Vehicles travelling too fast - 86%
  - vehicles passing too close - 85%
  - not enough cycle lanes - 83%
  - too much traffic on the routes - 83%
- Buses - issues rated as poor
  - Cost of using bus / bus fares - 46%
  - Bus timetables / or the time of buses - 38%
  - Reliability - 34%

## Residents want:

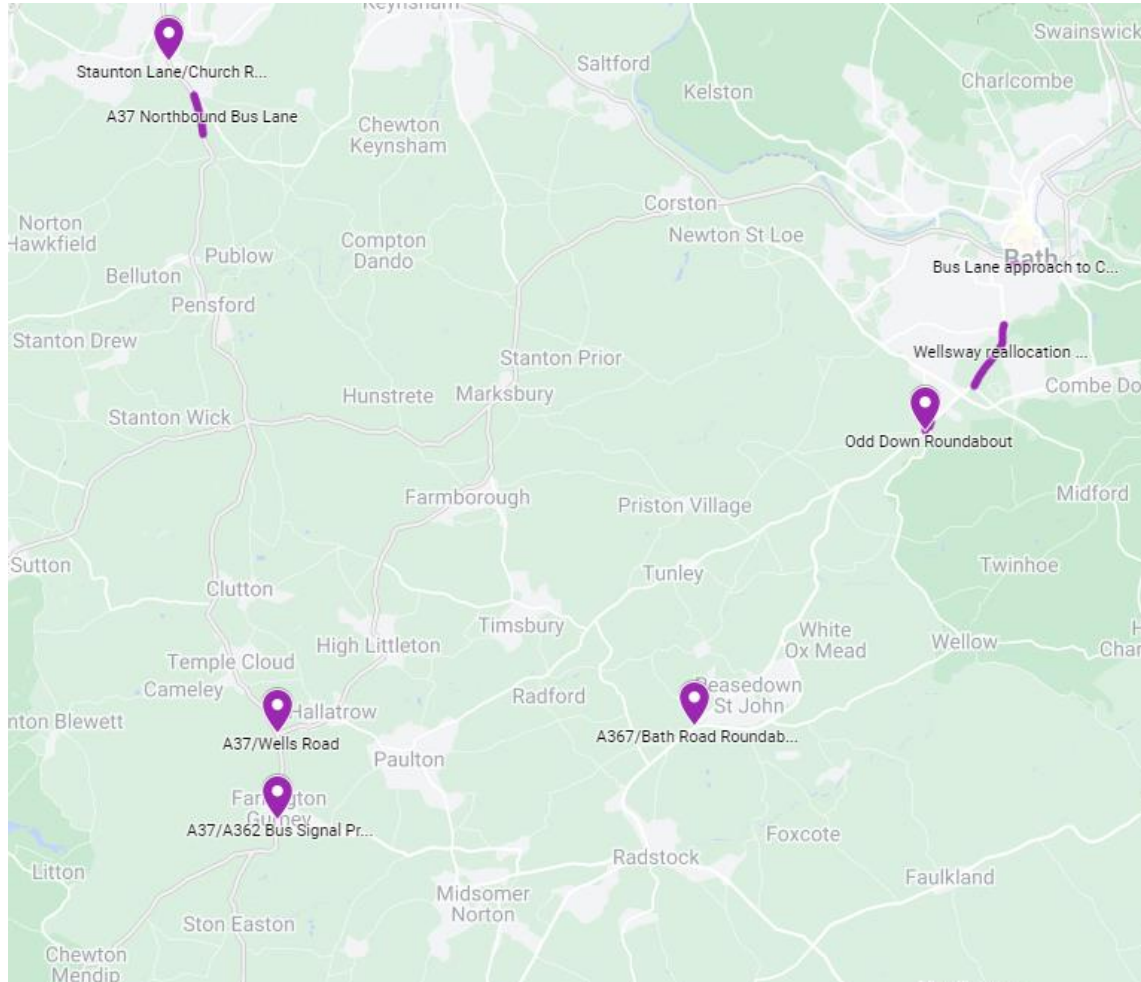
- More frequent buses (43%), more reliable services (29%) and quicker journey times (25%)
- More people would choose to cycle more:
  - More off-road cycle routes away from traffic (79%)
  - Separate on-road cycle lanes (60%)
  - Less traffic on route (27%).
- More people would walk:
  - Wider pavements (45%)
  - pavements were separated from traffic (43%)
  - less traffic on routes (28%)
- Active travel improvements were the highest priority (80%), followed by traffic and road improvements (45%) and bus improvements (39%).
- When ranked, the individual top five improvements were:
  - Making active travel routes safer (17%)
  - Improve bus services (17%)
  - Continuous foot/cycle paths (16%)
  - Maintenance/wider roads/paths (15%)
  - Segregated cycle paths (13%)

# Project proposals

- Bus lanes and junctions upgrades
- Walking, wheeling and cycling routes
- Bus stop upgrades
- Mobility hubs



# Bus lanes and junction upgrades



- Two new bus lanes
- Two extensions of bus lanes
- Five junction improvements

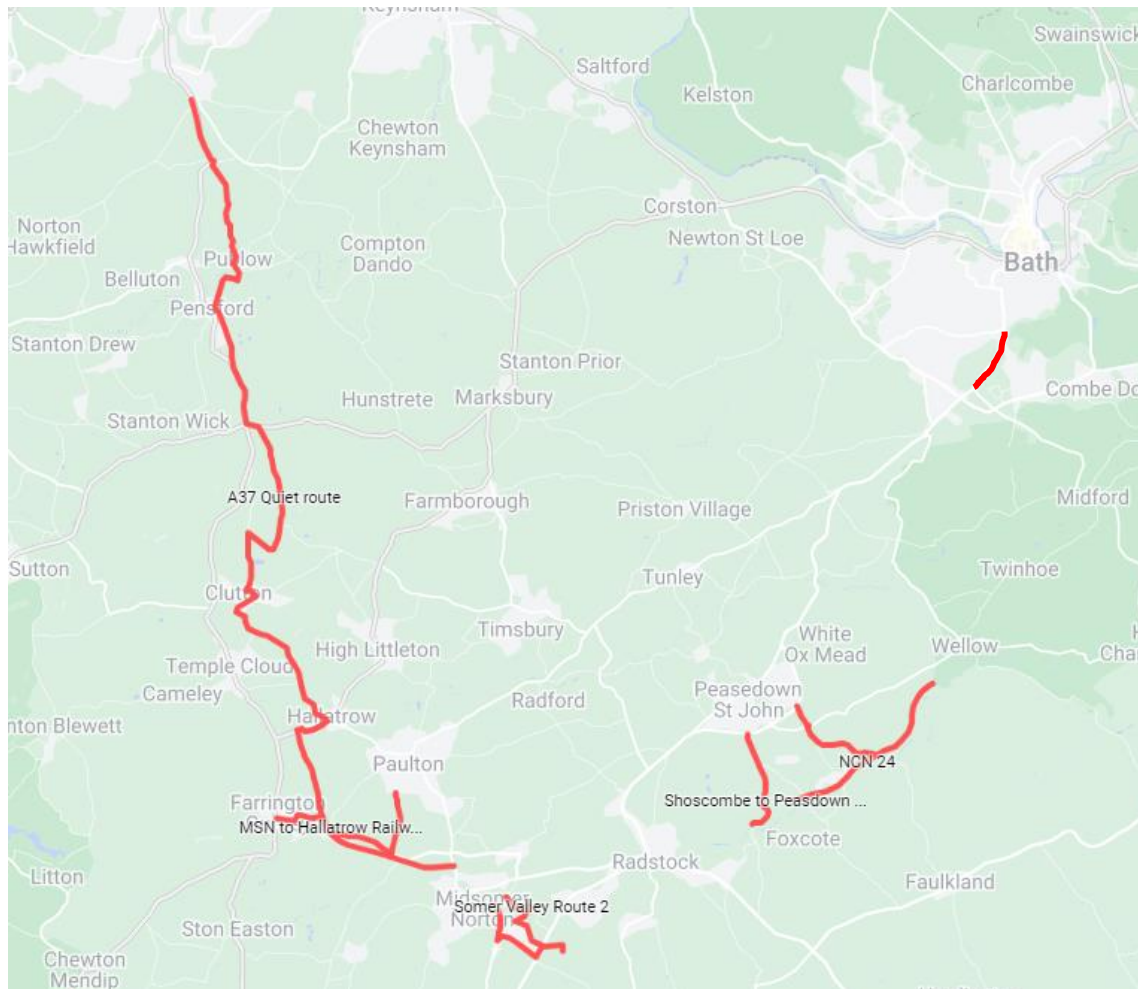
➡ To increase the efficiency and reliability of public transport by improving bus journey times

# Walking, wheeling and cycling routes

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

**WEST OF  
ENGLAND**  
Combined Authority



- Segregated cycle lanes
- Shared use paths
- Quiet routes

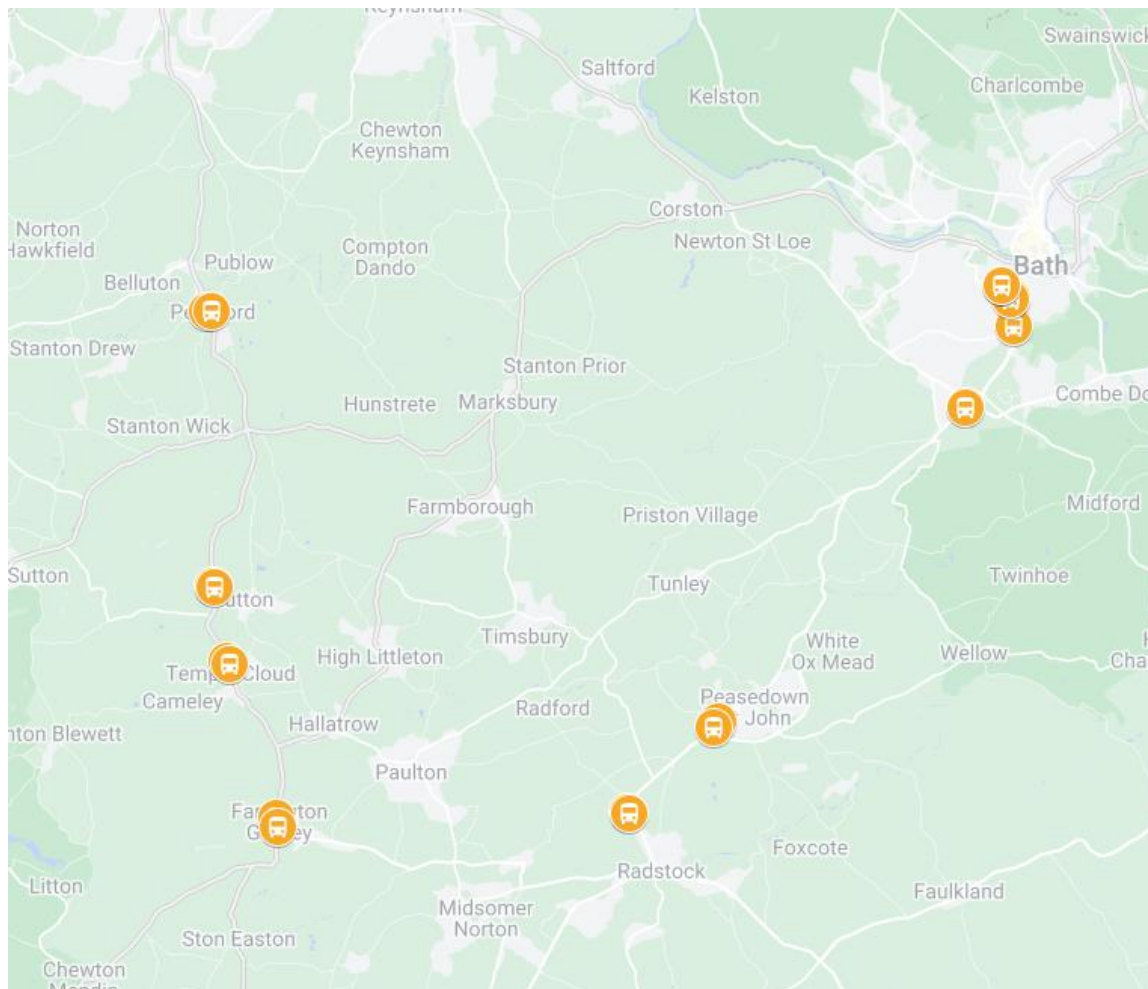
- ➡ To improve access by active travel to public transport along the corridors
- ➡ To offer safer active travel routes along or that connect to the corridors
- ➡ To increase opportunities for physical activity

# Bus stop upgrades

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

**WEST OF  
ENGLAND**  
Combined Authority



## ■ 10 locations:

- New bus shelter with digital travel information screen
- New bus flag
- New paving
- Wider pavement
- Step free kerbs
- Bus cage relocation
- Crossing improvement

➡ To improve bus passengers' experience

➡ Bus stops to be safer, more comfortable, better lit, easier to access

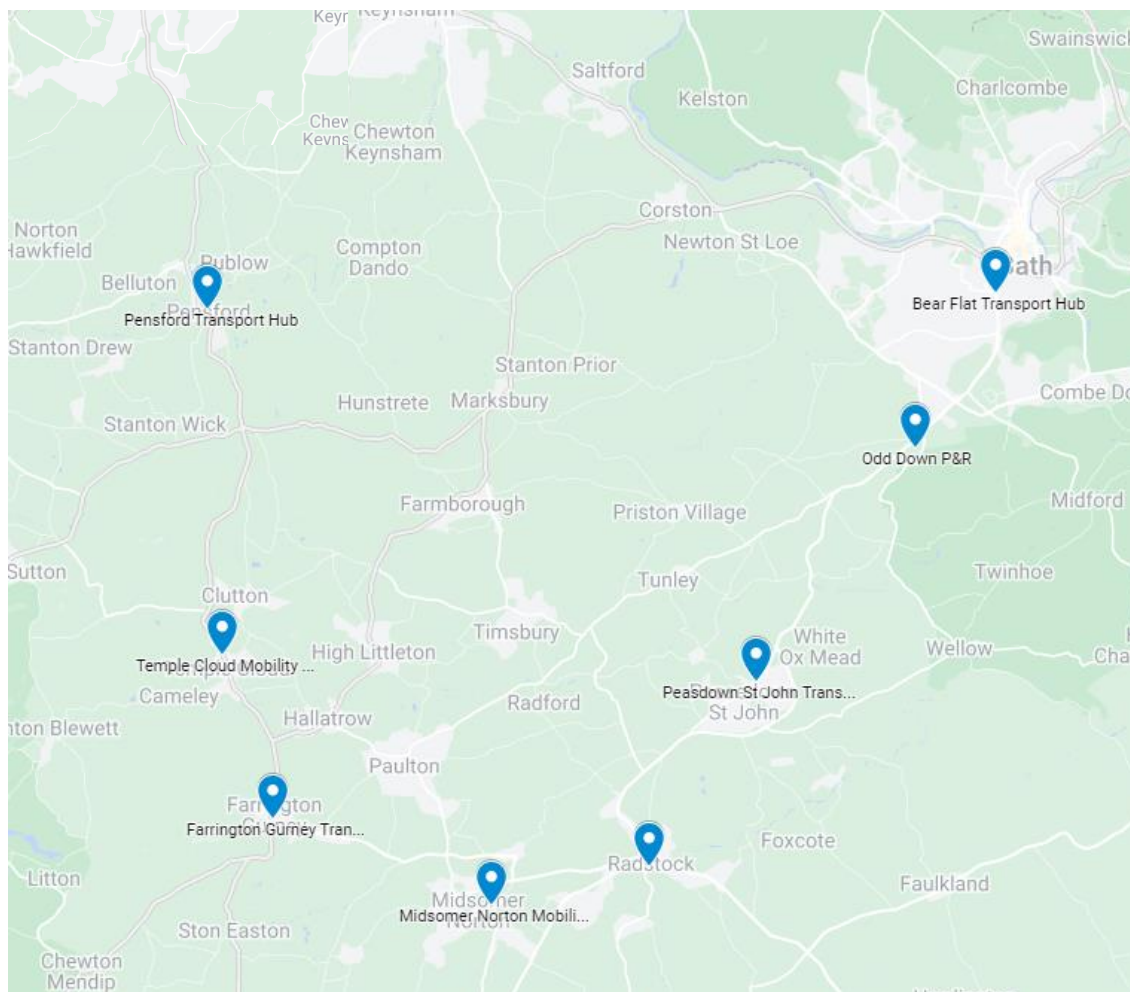


# Mobility hubs

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

**WEST OF  
ENGLAND**  
Combined Authority



- Eight locations including Odd Down Park & Ride

- Cycle parking
- Secure cycle lockers
- Bike repair stand / pump
- Bus stop upgrades

➡ To make switching between different types of transport easier ie walking, cycling, e-scooters, buses, WESTlink

# How to get involved ?

- Come along to one of our drop-in events:
  - Wednesday 12 July, 2-7pm, Radstock Trinity Methodist Church
  - Wednesday 19 July, 3-8pm, St Luke's Church, Bath
  - Monday 24 July, 2-7pm, Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall
- Join our webinar on Thursday 6 July, 6.30-7.30pm
- Visit the consultation website [www.haveyoursaywest.co.uk](http://www.haveyoursaywest.co.uk)

# Next steps

## **After this consultation**

Use the consultation feedback in the Stage 2 and the next phase of development - Stage 3

## **January 2024**

Seek approval of the Stage 2 and authorisation to proceed to the next stage

## **During 2024**

Progress on the Stage 3 and refine the transport proposals  
Statutory consultation

## **End of 2025**

Start construction

# Questions

# Contact us

📍 [westofengland-ca.gov.uk](https://westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

✉ [Mirna.tarzikhan@WestOfEngland-CA.gov.uk](mailto:Mirna.tarzikhan@WestOfEngland-CA.gov.uk)

☎ 0738 5957 312

📍 [beta.bathnes.gov.uk](https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk)

✉ [Nik\\_bowyer@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Nik_bowyer@bathnes.gov.uk)

☎ 07965 206 948