


INVESTING IN SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

# A JOINT ACTIVE TRAVEL MANIFESTO FOR 2026

Thriving places, healthier communities, and saving lives





Improving the places where we live, work, shop and play offers ready-made solutions to many of the most serious challenges Scotland faces today. From reducing transport-related emissions and tackling climate change to improving public health and supporting local economies, active travel is a key part of the answer.

For many, especially young people, families on lower incomes, and many disabled people, active travel can provide a lifeline, offering transport independence, access to important local services and a meaningful way to save money, helping tackle the scourge of child poverty. Increasing active travel benefits everyone with reduced traffic on people's streets, greater community connections and reduced air pollution and climate change emissions.

Increased investment in walking/wheeling and cycling infrastructure – supported by all major parties at the 2021 Holyrood election – is delivering positive change. Where new, well-connected cycle routes are being built, they are helping to improve lives and support ever more people to travel by cycle for everyday journeys, in greater safety and confidence. As the climate changes around us and road fatalities have risen, it is vital that we keep delivering more opportunities to walk, wheel or cycle everywhere in Scotland.

**To achieve this end, we call on all parties in the next Holyrood election to support these five commitments:**

- 1 Investment:** Provide long-term investment to transform our local high streets and communities, committing at least 10% of the transport budget to active travel funding.
  - 2 Long-term commitment:** Multi-year budgets will accelerate delivery of national strategies on walking/wheeling and cycling, offer better value-for-money and give more people access regardless of income and background.
  - 3 Infrastructure:** Transform our communities, enabling anyone, especially younger people to travel safely on foot or by bike, including through well maintained, accessible networks of walking or cycling routes and reorganised street space, creating better, greener local places.
  - 4 Link active and public transport:** Integrate walking and cycling infrastructure with public transport in rural areas especially, to provide alternatives to the car, reduce congestion for all, and effortlessly link longer journeys together.
  - 5 Safety:** Reduce road danger by reducing traffic speeds in our communities, taking dangerous drivers off the road and by creating more accessible streets for all, implementing the pavement parking ban, reinforcing the new highway code and making welcoming spaces everyone can use and enjoy.
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