

The Active Way - St Andrews Active Travel Network

a transformational programme to create a more liveable St Andrews

About the Project

How we move about St Andrews is dictated largely by the streets and paths that cross the town. In order to change these to make travel easier, more efficient and better for health requires strong partnership, community involvement and a shared vision. The programme provides our community with the opportunity to plan and create a travel network for all. It will work in stages to bring people and organisations together whilst supporting research and formulating ideas before making improvements to create a town transport network that works for everyone.

The vision for St Andrews Places for Everyone

St Andrews will respond to the town's congested streets and polluted air by making walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport the preferred modes of travel. The programme will make walking, wheeling and cycling safe and desirable for everyone, transforming residential streets into more liveable neighbourhoods.*

What is the reason for the project?

In recent years, the streets leading into the town, car parking spaces and the main shopping streets of St Andrews have become noticeably more congested. Meanwhile our community has grown and will continue to do so with large schemes such as St Andrews West and small builds within the town centre underway. The road connections to surrounding villages are vital for commuters and everyday journeys but offer few options other than to travel by private car. We also have more visitors coming to see our lovely town which is now the largest town in Scotland without a direct rail connection. As the roads fill with cars from these developments and visitors, other forms of transport can become less popular, especially active travel like walking, wheeling and cycling.

Congestion with motor vehicles brings its own risks which have been increasingly publicised in recent years: air pollution with severe impacts on respiratory health; a greater chance of pedestrian and cycle accidents; obesity; and rising carbon emissions contributing to the climate crisis. The present COVID pandemic provides an additional reason to consider how we can all move about safely and efficiently.

Change is needed. Towns and cities all over Europe and the UK are showing that life can be improved in so many ways by transforming local streets and path networks whilst reviving the local economy at the same time.

What kind of changes might be considered?

The programme will look to develop ideas collaboratively and in partnership with communities to improve our active travel network within the town and to surrounding communities. It will facilitate independent walking, cycling, and wheeling for everyone, including an unaccompanied 12-year old. It will design places that provide enjoyment, comfort and protection whilst ensuring access for all and equality of opportunity in public space. Proposals will be developed in a way that is context-specific and evidence-led. These could be physical enhancements, services, community projects or training.

**Liveable neighbourhood: supports living, working, commerce and culture within its area; encourages sustainable transport to move around it; and has a distinct character.*

Some examples might include:

- Widened pavements and easier crossings of busy roads
- New safe protected cycling routes within the town
- Slowing motor traffic through 20mph zones
- Low traffic streets and neighbourhoods
- Restricting cars from using residential streets as shortcuts
- Making routes more accessible by removing street clutter and providing dropped kerbs
- Making junctions safe for walking and wheeling
- More cycle parking especially in shopping areas
- Making the streets outside schools safer by prioritising walking, wheeling and cycling
- Introduction of park & ride and park & pedal
- Supporting cycling for those less able with rickshaws and adapted bikes
- Supporting the use of cargo bikes for deliveries
- Making access to bikes easier for those who cannot currently afford one

How will St Andrews residents be involved?

A Community Steering group has been set up to ensure that our local neighbourhood organisations including the Community Council are fully engaged.

The programme will use online and traditional consultation tools to enable local residents to map any issues and where they would like to see improvements.

Regular communication to the public will be via the project website, social media and the press.

Funding & Progress

The project is currently funded by Transport Scotland through the Sustrans Places for Everyone fund. A grant of £140k was awarded to Transition University of St Andrews in January 2022 for work through to March 2023. The work is to undertake a feasibility study including route options appraisal and then create concept designs.

This stage is administered by Transition University of St Andrews and the St Andrews Space for Cycling whilst a wider community led structure is created that can take the programme forward. The programme is envisaged to evolve over several years as solutions are developed and the community supports change.

For more information

Website <https://theactiveway.org.uk/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TheActiveWay/>

Sustrans <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-scotland/>

Transition University St Andrews <https://transitionsta.org/travel/>

Contacts

Transition St Andrews CIC (lead partner) transition@st-andrews.ac.uk

St Andrews Space for Cycling <https://www.facebook.com/standrewsspaceforcycling/>

Cycle Path Services Ltd (path consultant) standrews.network@eco-consultancy.co.uk

Funded by

