

# Leeds Transport Conversation

Outer West Report – April 2017



## 1. Introduction

The Leeds Conversation questionnaire included two questions which allowed people to enter free text:

1. Please provide any further comments on your priorities for transport investment; and
2. Please provide any further comments.

Respondents were assigned to a Committee area based on the partial postcode information that they were asked to provide. Postcode information was not provided by over a quarter (27%) of respondents. Furthermore, 6% of respondents were designated as 'Out of District'.

This document presents detailed analysis of responses given by those living in the Outer West.

## 2. Outer West

A total of 680 respondents (8%) to the Leeds Conversation were designated as Outer West. Of those, 359 gave comments on their priorities for transport investment.

**Table 1** below shows the top ten comments given by Outer West respondents and compares them to comments provided by respondents outside the area (others). Highlighted blue are issues that appeared in the top ten for respondents from the Outer West but not the top ten of respondents overall (see main report).

**Priority 1: Criticism of cycling improvements:** criticism of cycling improvements was significantly heavier amongst respondents from the Outer West (17% compared to just 6% of others). The quotes below illustrate the strength of feeling in this regard.

*"Cyclists have become a real problem. The waste of money spent on the cycle lane is frankly disgraceful! Cyclists now have even less manners and feel they need to ride on the pavements as well as an astronomically costed cycle lane."*

*"Stop wasting money on cycle paths people don't actually use. Make more pedestrian areas in the city centre, where no vehicles can go."*

**Priority 2: Invest in tram system:** the second most important priority in the Outer West was for investment in a tram system, with 16% commenting on this. The comments below relate to suggestions made about such an investment.

*"A tram-train system has to be considered as the best option within the west Yorkshire region, utilising existing regional rail routes with old viaduct systems to allow trams to interchange from mainline network into the city centre and neighbour areas. Cities such as Manchester, Sheffield, Newcastle and Liverpool have proved tram-trains work and newly opened routes in the Midlands have shown this would be the best way to connect Leeds and the orbital areas with efficient/cost effective transport."*

*"Leeds really needs a mass transit system. A tram system could be built line by line, as and when funding is available/can be raised."*

**Priority 3: More reliable bus service:** a more reliable bus service (15%) was the third most frequently mentioned issue by Outer West respondents, slightly higher than others (14%). Some of the views regarding this priority are highlighted in the quotes below.

*"The reason I use my car for non-work local journeys is that our bus service is terrible. Infact we are limited through the day and to none in an evening into Pudsey."*

*"Buses need to be more reliable! I have to use buses five days per week to access university and it is highly frustrating when buses randomly do not show up or run very late, thus I miss crucial information given within a lecture. This is also applicable to those with jobs as on numerous occasions I have spoken to others in the area (often waiting together at a bus stop) and found they too have the same problem which negatively impacts their work life. I understand there is traffic which can cause delays, but have never understood why some buses simply fail to turn up. Please try to address this 'no show' issue along with improving reliability, as this will not only increase the number of people using public transport, but benefit current users too."*

Criticism of cycling improvements, better connections with surrounding areas and a more frequent bus service all featured in the top ten priorities raised by respondents in the Outer West, but not overall (see main report).

**Table 1: Top Ten Comments about Priorities for Investment in Outer West**

	Outer West	Others
<b>1. Criticism of cycling improvements/ waste of money</b>	<b>17%</b>	6%
2. Invest in tram system	16%	16%
3. More reliable bus service	15%	14%
4. Improvements to cycling facilities	12%	<b>19%</b>
5. Expanded Metro rail service	10%	9%
6. Tackle traffic congestion, e.g. congestion charge, car share	9%	11%
7. Cheaper/ better VFM (Bus)	9%	8%
<b>8. Better connections with surrounding areas</b>	8%	7%
<b>9. More frequent bus service</b>	8%	7%
10. Expansion of Park and Ride facilities	8%	9%
<b>Base: Respondents who provided a comment</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>4186</b>

Green = statistically significant difference

At the end of the Leeds Conversation questionnaire respondents were given the opportunity to provide any other comments. 197 respondents from the Outer West area gave a comment.

**Table 2** shows the top ten comments they gave and compares them to other people who also provided a comment. Highlighted **blue** are issues that appeared in the top ten for respondents from the Outer West but not the top ten of respondents overall (see main report). However, most of the comments received were similar to those of other respondents; including the **top three priorities**:

- Improvements to rail services/ network/ facilities (19%)
- Improvements to bus services/ network/ facilities (18%)
- Longer term vision for transport solutions needed (14%)

Anecdotal evidence to support these priorities can be found in the subsequent quotes.

*“A rail link from the city centre to the Leeds Bradford Airport could be part of this transport infrastructure upgrade. Leeds needs to become like other major cities in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world with a rail link. This could also be used by commuters for work and leisure in the surrounding suburbs between the Leeds Bradford Airport and the city centre and by tourists and business people from down south visiting Leeds.”*

*“A complete overhaul of bus routes and looking at options for alternative public transport is the solution. There do not seem to be many things that can be done to improve the existing routes or roads that would help ease congestion as much as is needed.”*

*“It has to be long term so that it becomes more attractive, more people use it which should bring the cost of using it down - making it more attractive and letting people leave their cars at home whenever they can. I genuinely long not to have to drive everywhere and cannot wait for a more improved public transport that I can afford.”*

There were a few noticeable differences in the top priorities cited by respondents in the Outer West. In particular, a significantly higher proportion of respondents highlighted the need to improve the road network/ capacity (11% compared to 6% of others).

Similarly, there was a significantly higher proportion of Outer West respondents that criticised the emphasis and money spent on the cycling network to date (8% compared to 2% of others).

The need to improve the road network/ capacity and criticism regarding the emphasis/ money spent on the cycling network both featured in the top ten priorities raised by respondents in the Outer West, but not overall (see main report).

**Table 2: Top Ten Other Comments in Outer West**

	Outer West	Others
1. Improvements to rail services/ network/ facilities	19%	14%
2. Improvements to bus services/ network/ facilities	18%	16%
3. Longer term vision for transport solutions needed	14%	18%
4. Consider needs of all users, e.g. commuters, residents, visitors, etc.	12%	9%
<b>5. Improve road network/ capacity</b>	<b>11%</b>	6%
6. Implement tram system/ rapid mass transit	10%	11%
7. Reduce car use in city centre/ tackle congestion, e.g. restrict access, reduce speeds, Park and Ride	8%	12%
<b>8. Criticism regarding emphasis/ money spent on cycling network, e.g. Super Network</b>	<b>8%</b>	2%
9. Creative/ imaginative/ innovative ideas needed – need to think big/ bold, etc.	8%	7%
10. Improvements to ticketing, e.g. affordability, fare structure, VFM	7%	7%
<b>Base: Respondents who provided a comment</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>2126</b>

Green = statistically significant difference

### Summary

Criticism of the cycling improvements made to date was a key issue in the Outer West area and came top in the list of priorities with a significantly higher proportion of respondents citing this as a priority. Conversely, a significantly smaller proportion of respondents referenced improvements to cycling facilities as a priority for investment. Respondents from the Outer West criticised the emphasis and money spent on cycling facilities in both open ended questions.

The top three priorities for respondents from the Outer West for the delivery of transport investment mirrored those of respondents overall (see main report). In addition, a significantly larger number of respondents from the Outer West raised the need to improve the road network/ capacity.