

Transport

HS2, Congestion Charging, Subsidies,
Distributed Local Facilities



The HS2 project costs less than half the total investment in rail improvements in the UK

Transport is a key battleground for Libdems. Lowering the environmental impact of transport is all about designing in options to make the low carbon choices attractive. The three-pronged attack is to increase efficiency, accelerate the adoption of alternative power systems and encourage behaviour change.

In addition, national transport policy affects the ability to decarbonise locally. HS2 High speed rail links to Birmingham will connect the Midlands with the continent, providing a lower carbon alternative to short haul flights, but at the same time it will discourage remote working and telepresence, which are the lower carbon alternatives to long-distance travel.

Markets are primed to deliver electric vehicles, with ever-improving battery technology, giving new cars the unique ability to be upgraded simply by changing the battery. Local planners need to innovate and incorporate roadside vehicle charging into their pavement designs and require that new developments allow for an EV future.

LibDem policy:

PP15 - Transporting People, Tackling Pollution (pub 1995)

Liberal Democrats would rebalance fuel tax and vehicle excise duty and the taxation of company financed motoring. The tax burden should be placed squarely on vehicle usage, not ownership.

PP22 - Living in the Greenhouse (pub 1999)

4.2.6 includes: The introduction of road pricing in congested urban areas, with the revenue earmarked for improving local public transport.

PP46 - Transport for People (pub 2001)

6.0.2 In the past, the main instrument for making transport costs reflect more of the environmental and social costs of transport has been fuel duty. In the future, however, we think the balance needs to shift so that congestion charging plays a bigger role and Vehicle Excise Duty is based more closely on environmental impacts.

PP82 - Zero Carbon Britain - Taking a Global Lead (pub 2007)

4.5.5. includes: We also support a target of zero carbon for all new cars by 2040 and an effective system of penalties and incentives to ensure compliance.

4.5.6: We would also extend targets to all other vehicles, to ensure that by 2050 all freight vehicles are running on electricity, biofuels or other renewable fuels.

5.4.9 includes: Requiring train and coach operators to accommodate bicycles on all new vehicles, and improving cycle storage and parking at stations.

PP85 - Fast Track Britain: Building a Transport System for the 21st Century (pub 2008)
Entire paper covers the topic, and also national transport policy.

PP109 - Green Growth and Green Jobs, Transition to a Zero Carbon Britain (pub 2013)
Section 6 covers decarbonising transport

6.1.6 Liberal Democrats would make preparations for the introduction of a system of road pricing and where appropriate, support local authorities seeking to bring in road pricing in congested areas.

6.5.4 After 2020 we believe that all support for food-crop-based biofuels should be ended; subsidies should be limited to biofuels derived entirely from non-food-crop sources.

PP111 - Fairer Taxes, Policies for the Reform of Taxation (pub 2013)

7.2.1 Liberal Democrats would endorse the Committee on Climate Change's recommendation that emissions from both aviation and shipping should be included in the national emissions targets,

7.3.4 We propose working with the industry to create VED bandings which will continue to incentivise greater emissions efficiency into the 2020s. This could include a subsidy for the cleanest vehicles, paid for by VED on the highest emission vehicles.

Challenge:

08 Summer	p5	Smarter Travel in Sutton	p9	Babies, Biofuels and Bathwater
08 Autumn	p14	Road Pricing - A Bad Idea		
08 Winter	p12	Transforming our Transport System		
09 Summer	p19	The Hydrogen Economy in Practice		
10 Spring	p6	Hydrogen, Future Fuel?		
10 Summer	p5	Will Cars Ever be Green?	p12	Cycling into the Future
11 Summer	p11	The Big Switch		
11 Autumn	p15	Speed and Emissions		
12 Autumn	p14	Decarbonising Transport		
13 Spring	p14	Less Fly Zone		
13 Summer	p16	A La Mode		
13 Winter	p8	HS2		
14 Spring	p18	HS2 Take 2		
14 Summer	p18	Battle over Bikes		

Resources:

Norman Baker's Green Bus Fund - <http://tinyurl.com/c7pr2r9>

Sustrans - UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more journeys
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk>

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership <http://www.lowcvp.org.uk>

The Campaign for Better Transport <http://www.bettertransport.org.uk>

The Sustainable Transport Solutions Network <http://www.sustainable-transport.net>

The Sustainable Urban Transport Project <http://www.sutp.org>

Switch EV - The Electric Vehicle Demonstration Project <http://vehicletrial.switchev.co.uk/>

The Light Rail Transit Association <http://www.lrta.org/>

CTC - The UK's National Cyclists Organisation <http://www.ctc.org.uk>

JPods - the personal mass transit concept <http://www.jpods.com/>

Innovate UK Transport page <https://www.innovateuk.org/transport>

Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport <http://www.slocat.net/>