

Designing a high quality bus service

We have wide experience in designing bus rapid transit and quality bus corridors and individual bus priority schemes for clients in the UK and elsewhere. We help providers deliver high-quality bus services.

The issue

Increasing traffic congestion leads to unreliable bus journey times in the absence of appropriate bus priority, which in turn leads to ever-lower use of buses and thereby greater congestion.



How we can help

We are experienced in planning and designing an engineered transit scheme including busways and bus lanes, priority vehicle detection, relocation of traffic queues and other traffic management measures to control journey time variability. By combining our traffic engineering, information technology, bus planning and operations experience and our business case development skills, we can deliver a seamless solution to your problems.

Our scheme designs include the needs of other road users, such as cyclists, pedestrians, general traffic, essential and emergency traffic, travellers with a disability and deliveries to frontages. We take pride in our experience of delivering solutions that are implementable because they are acceptable to the public.



Our experience

We have developed bus priority measures that remove the unreliability of bus travel and reduce travel times by enabling buses to avoid traffic congestion. We have developed bus rapid transit and quality bus corridor schemes that extend this objective to enhance the quality of bus services such that significant numbers of car travellers switch to using bus transport.

Recent examples

We have advised on Bus Rapid Transit schemes in Crawley and Gatwick, Cleveland, Cambridge and Toulouse. Our work on Quality Bus Corridors includes Bradford Busway, Cleveland, Dublin, Edinburgh, Manchester, Oldham, Sussex, Tameside and Thames Gateway.

We have designed or assessed bus priority measures for urban areas throughout the UK, including Basingstoke, Belfast, Bristol, Birmingham, Dublin, Glasgow, Greater Manchester, Southampton, Wigan, Winchester and in most boroughs in London. On many of these schemes, we have prepared contract documents and assisted in successful implementation.

We have also undertaken bus priority studies as part of major transport planning projects in Dalian (China), Sofia (Bulgaria), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Hong Kong, Zagreb (Croatia) and Mumbai (India).

Enhancing quality bus schemes

We lead the way in researching new ways of enhancing quality bus schemes. Recently in London we developed standards for designing for cyclist in bus schemes, for automatic vehicle location, for designing for bendy buses and for providing advanced notice of bus arrival at a signalised junction.

Setting up quality partnerships

We are also experienced in setting up Bus Quality Partnership Agreements and in advising on the introduction of bus information systems including the use of automatic vehicle location technology, enforcement measures, and appropriate vehicles and bus operational issues.

Bus rapid transit schemes

We assisted in the planning and preliminary design of the successful Crawley-Gatwick Fastway. Key issues included the establishing of a right-of-way and good access to transit stations. We undertook a similar role for a 7 km bus rapid transit scheme in Toulouse involving interchange with the metro and priority routing through many complex junctions.

