

# **REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY – RESULTS OF DISCUSSION DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION.**

## **Introduction**

As part of the review of the Regional Transportation Strategy we developed a Discussion Document. Its purpose was to share our initial thinking on transport and to start a process of debate on how we could best ensure that our future transportation needs were met in ways that were both viable and sustainable. The Discussion document was divided into several sections and we posed a number of questions to focus consultee responses.

## **Pre Consultation Period**

As the Discussion Document was only issued to a specific number of key stakeholders the document did not follow the full rigours of a consultation process. The pre consultation period lasted for a six week period from the end of October 2009 until the 11 December 2009.

## **Responses Received**

The department received a total of 38 responses from key stakeholders, including Local Councils, Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company, Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Company, Freight Transport Association and the Consumer Council.

## **Summary of Responses**

All of the consultees welcomed the opportunity to comment and were supportive of the new strategic direction the revised RTS was taking. The responses identified a number of common challenges that transport faced now, and in the future. Some of these are listed below but a more detailed summary is also available:

- Modal shift;
- GHG emissions;
- Climate change;
- Current and future funding considering the current economic climate;
- Addressing the bias of spend on Roads v Public Transport; and
- Ensuring we have a reliable and affordable public transport system to address the needs of those that don't have access to a car or live in a rural or socially deprived area

The consultees also offered suggestions on how they believed these challenges could be met e.g.

- Public transport – cheaper fares, integrated ticketing, quality bus corridors and more reliable and frequent rural services;
- Address the bias of spend on Road v Public transport;
- Better use of existing road space;
- Land use planning policies which encourage a more integrated approach and avoid further population dispersal;
- Continue to promote schemes such as Car Sharing;
- Congestion Charging;

- Increase funding to enhance and promote Active Travel such as walking and cycling;
- Build on Park and Ride facilities already provided; and
- Look at the whole area of car park charging.

### **Revised Regional Transportation Strategy**

These challenges and solutions identified are assisting the Department in drafting the Revised Regional Transportation Strategy. Once completed, it will issue it for public consultation.