

Bristol mass transit network gets major boost as Government commits £800m to South West transport

The Government is announcing hundreds of millions of pounds in funding for South West transport – with light rail and trams now “on the table” for Bristol.

The Treasury’s funding announcement today will see £200 million earmarked for the development of a mass transit network in and around the city.

This investment will enhance rail infrastructure across the region, including funds to support WECA’s goal of increasing service frequency between Brabazon and the city centre.

Funds have also been allocated for mass transit development between Bristol, Bath, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

It’s all part of Chancellor Rachel Reeves’ multi-billion pound plans for investment in public transport in mayoral authorities across England, including

Chancellor Rachel Reeves is set to announce this regional boost as part of a multi-billion pound investment in public transport, reports [Bristol Live](#).

In a speech in Manchester today, the Chancellor will argue that Britain “cannot rely on a handful of places forging ahead of the rest of the country” and advocate for a “new economic model – driven by investment in all parts of the country”.

Helen Godwin, the Labour mayor of the West of England, said: “Our region has a strong economy overall, but we know that

congestion has held the West of England back from achieving its full potential.

“We’ve been stuck in the slow lane on transport for too long. Our potential additional contribution to the national economy is enormous.

“I promised to work with government and get the West of England moving. Three-quarters of a billion pounds of new money for transport will do just that, as we start a new chapter for our region.

“Together, we need to accelerate plans to secure better buses, deliver more trains and railway stations, and give local people proper alternatives to their cars. Trams, Metrobuses, rail, light rail, and guided buses are all on the table to make that a reality.

“Over the years, as a region, we’ve talked too much about mass transit and delivered too little. It’s finally time to deliver a mass transit system that people can rely on. Working with the new government, and with genuine collaboration between local councils, it’s time for real change.”

In addition to the £200 million earmarked for mass transit, there is also a planned £150 million investment in local rail services, which aims to improve the frequency of connections between the new Brabazon development and the city centre.

Matt Griffith, director of policy at Business West, said: “We welcome the news that the West of England will benefit from £800 million investment, including £200 million to develop a mass transit network.

“Business West has long argued that better transport connectivity is fundamental to improving economic growth, social mobility and decarbonisation. It is also a very positive sign that our region is being recognised by central government for its growth potential, and the vital need for

large scale future transport infrastructure investment to unlock this. We look forward to working with our new Mayor and the business community to give this region the decent transport infrastructure it deserves."