



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



## TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC INDICATORS 2015-2016

## Indicator T1: Level of proposed transport infrastructure set out in LTP2 and LTP3 that has been achieved

Programmed Schemes in Local Transport Plans 2 and 3.

Scheme		Project Lead	Target Date	Achievement at 31/07/2016
1	Bedford Western Bypass A428-A6, The Great Ouse Way	Bedford Borough Council	Completion Spring 2016	Construction started on site in September 2014. Road opened in April 2016.
2	East-West Rail Oxford/Aylesbury to Bedford	Network Rail / East West Rail Consortium	Delivery of core scheme originally set as 2019	The East-West Rail link was included in the Government's High Level Output Specification (the investment plans for the rail industry). Delivery of western section planned for 2017. Electrification expected by 2019. Majority of funding will be Government, with a contribution from local authorities along the route. Consultation on the Transport and Works Act has taken place. Delivery of core scheme likely to be delayed until 2022
3	Wixams Station	Developer Led (some public sector funding) / Network Rail	Originally 2015	Planning application approved in February 2012, but subsequently expired.
4	Bedford Town Centre Improvements	Bedford Borough Council / developer		Foot/cycle bridge to be opened in May 2017 as part of Riverside North development. Town centre improvements tied up with development opportunities in town and available funding
5	Bedford Midland Road Rail Station Improvements	Network Rail / developer / Bedford Borough Council		Government announced electrification of Midland Main Line and East West Rail in July 2012. Redevelopment of station has subsequently been put on hold. Electrification is expected to require remodelling of the station.
6	Park and Ride (Clapham)	Bedford Borough Council / developer	N/A	Clapham P&R is linked with development opportunities as a result of proposed development on land north of Bromham Road.
7	Detrafficking of Bedford High Street	Bedford Borough Council		Form of detrafficking and timescale will depend developments under consideration in the town centre.

Schemes opened within the last 6 years include,

- A421 Improvements Bedford to M1 Junction 13 – completed in 2010
- Platform lengthening as part of the Thameslink programme at Bedford Midland Road Rail station – completed in 2010

- Great Denham Park and Ride Car Park (using the service car park) – opened in 2013

(Source: Local Transport Plan 2, Local Transport Plan 3 and Bedford Borough Council)

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### **Indicator T2: % of households in the urban area within 400m of a quarter hourly bus service**

*Core Strategy Objective 8: Support delivery of coordinated transport improvements with emphasis on non-car modes, improving east-west communications and achieving greater transport interchange*

Progress:

44.93% of households in the urban area are within 400 metres walking distance of a bus service with a quarter-hourly bus service between the hours of 8am and 6pm. This shows a decrease of 5.94% on the previous year, likely due to a change in bus services within the town centre.

(Source: Bedford Borough Council)

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### **Indicator T3: Rural households within 400m walk of an hourly bus service**

*Core Strategy Objective 8: Support delivery of coordinated transport improvements with emphasis on non-car modes, improving east-west communications and achieving greater transport interchange*

Progress:

40.5% of rural households are within 400 metres walking distance of an hourly bus service between the hours of 8am and 6pm. This shows an increase of 6.48%, most likely due to development in rural areas resulting in more houses being within a 400m walk of an hourly bus service.

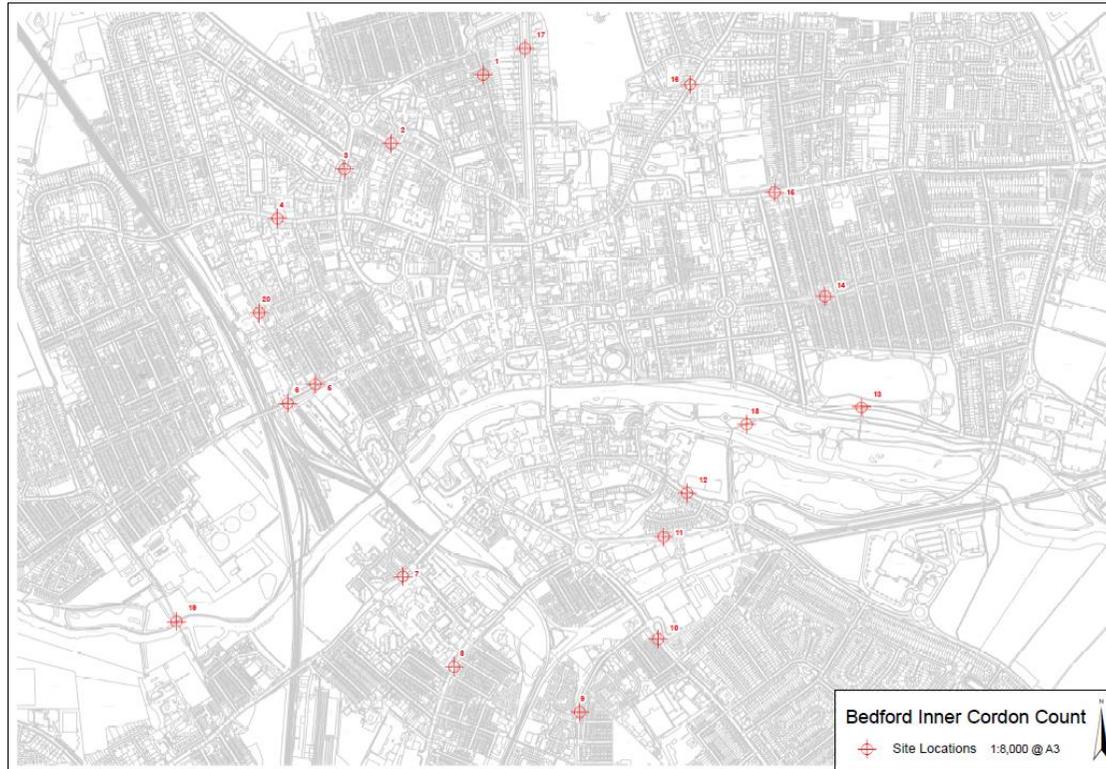
(Source: Bedford Borough Council)

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## Indicator T4: Traffic levels in the town centre

LTP3 Objective: To encourage and support a sustainable transport system that contributes to a healthy natural and urban environment

Progress:



Categories	2001	2005	2009	2013	2014	2015	2016
Light Goods Vehicles	3168	3966	2632	3524	3762	3446	3538
Other Goods Vehicles	1768	1324	1675	899	528	964	1107
Cars	32061	32626	32110	30440	33128	30627	32215
Motor Cyclists	290	249	320	233	243	225	223
All Buses	701	687	856	530	525	527	518

Cyclists	1187	1247	1187	1182	1180	1222	1354
ALL VEHICLES	39175	40099	38780	36808	39366	37011	38955
Pedestrians	5178	5250	5825	4728	6465	4834	7242
People on foot/cycle/bus	7066	7184	7868	6440	8170	6583	9114
People in cars	41434	43613	46684	40650	41077	44138	41758
ALL PEOPLE	48500	50797	54552	47090	49247	50721	50872
% on foot/cycle/bus	15%	14%	14%	14%	17%	13%	18%

Figures are collected from each point at the inner cordon with 18 road points and 3 cycle/footpaths indicated on the map above. The counts of all vehicles and people heading inbound into the town are undertaken on one weekday in October between the hours of 7am and 12 midday. The number of people in cars and pedestrians is also counted. The number of people on buses is estimated by multiplying an assumed occupancy rate of 6 people per bus by the number of buses counted at the inner cordon.

Since 2001, numbers of vehicles have been relatively stable, with minor yearly fluctuations and no discernible trends. Total vehicle numbers fluctuate between 36,000 and 40,000. Car numbers typically fluctuate between 30,000 and 32,000. Cyclist numbers are typically just over 1000, with this year seeing a 15 year high of 1354.

Total number of people entering Bedford is also stable, generally fluctuating between 47,000 and 55,000, with people in cars making up around 80% of arrivals and people arriving by bus, on foot or by cycle closer to 15%.

At 18% the number of active travel users (walking and cycling) is the highest since 2001, which supports Borough policies to promote public health, but as there is considerable annual fluctuation, we will not know until next year whether this is the beginning of a new trend.

(Source: Bedford Borough Council)

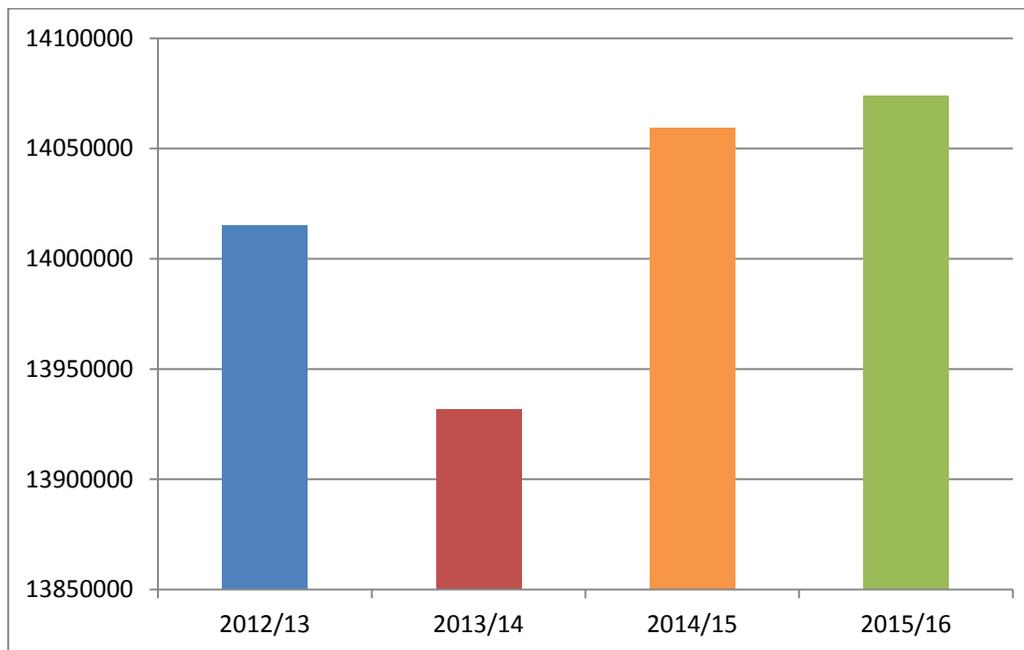
### Indicator T5: Footfall levels in the town centre

Target: N/A

Progress:

Total footfall for 15/16 = 14,073,911

Footfall in the town centre has increased for the past 3 years, from a low of 13,931,978 in 2013/14, with a total increase of 14,578 recorded since the last monitoring period.



(Source: Bedford Town Centre Company)

### Indicator T6: Completion/enhancement of cycle routes in the Borough

Progress:

In 2012, a draft urban cycle network was identified, consisting of 26 strategic Bedford cycle routes (BCR), town centre routes (TCR) and 2 orbital routes. Once implemented this will provide an urban cycle network of 125 kms length. This network is currently being assessed for works and any legal issues of ownership or traffic regulation orders. Developer (Section 106) and local transport plan funding will be concentrated on enhancing and completing this network.

In 2016, the network has continued to expand with the opening of Britannia Bridge and the construction of Great Denham cycle path. The opening of Riverside North Bridge in 2017 will add another key link in the cycle network. Signage of the network is awaiting future funding.

(Source: Bedford Borough Council)



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