



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland

Our work for 2021-2024



What does MACS do?

The work of the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS) is:



- to give the Scottish Government advice on policies and laws that affect the travel needs of disabled people.



- to find out what disabled people think and what experiences they have had.



- to tell disabled people in Scotland about things that affects their transport choices and chances.

- to work closely with the Scottish Government.



To make sure the work we do supports the work of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and other organisations.



- to make sure people who design, plan and run transport services know what disabled people need.



- to look at our plans and see if they are working well.

MACS Vision – what we want to see happen.



MACS believes in a Scotland that supports disabled people to travel easily.



This document is the Committee's Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2024.



We have held events and listened to what people tell us, particularly since lockdown in March 2020.



Mr Michael Matheson is a member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP).

He is the Cabinet Secretary for Transport.



He wants to know what MACS thinks about how travel will change because of Coronavirus.



People from MACS will be on the group doing the work for the National Transport Strategy.



It is a plan for how transport in Scotland will change in the next 20 years.



MACS looks at how government plans for transport to see if they are working well.



Public transport should follow the Triple A check – it should be:

- **Available** – easy to get.



- **Accessible** – everyone can use it.



- **Affordable** – it is not expensive.



Each year we will look at what is working well and what needs to be changed.



We want transport infrastructure that everyone can use.



Infrastructure is the buildings and services that help transport to happen.

It is things like roads, bus stops, and stations.

Good infrastructure will make the start and end of each journey easier.



The Committee works with other organisations across the UK to:

- get information
- give information
- get facts and figures



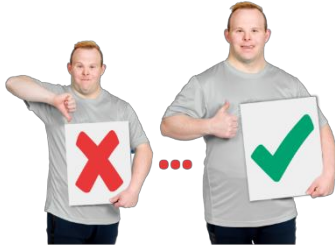
- make guidance and reports



- give information to consultations – when people and organisations are asked what they think about work policies and services.

Our values – what we believe in.

We are ambitious – we want to make a lot of things happen.



We are not afraid to take on work that is difficult.

We want things to change.



We listen to what disabled people think and want.

We listen to what they have gone through.

We keep learning and making things better.

We connect.



We work with other people and organisations.

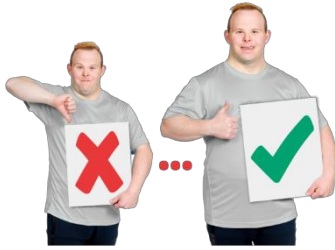
Working together makes us stronger.



We work in a person-centred way.

We are understanding and support people.

We are brave and we tell the truth.



We say what is right and not what is easy.

This helps things change and be better.



We ask questions and work with other organisations to make transport easy to use and not expensive.

We are open and honest.



People can trust us.

We are open and honest about who is responsible for our work and actions and how we use our money and staff.



We tell people about what we have done well and what has not worked.

How did we make this plan?



MACS listened to what people wanted and needed.

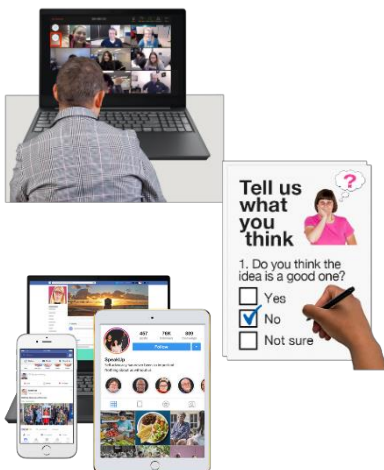
We listened to:

- disabled people
- Disabled People Organisations
- Disability Organisations
- Scottish Ministers
- Local Authorities
- Public Bodies
- Transport and service planners and providers.



We did this:

- at events including online events
- using surveys
- using social media.



The coronavirus pandemic happened while we were making this plan.

A pandemic is a disease that spreads across the world.

We had to change our work a lot.



Things have been very difficult for disabled people and older people because of coronavirus.

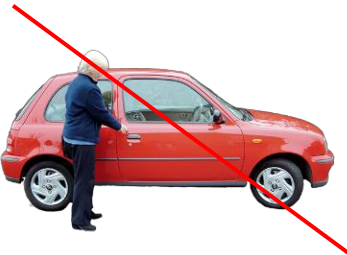
Public transport changed a lot.



The Programme for Government sets out the work the Scottish Government will do.

It has information about:

- 20 minute neighbourhoods.



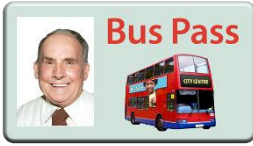
These are places where people live and they can easily get to the places and services they use every day, without using a car.



- ways to get more people to walk, wheel and cycle.



- how important transport is when changes will be made to adult social care services.

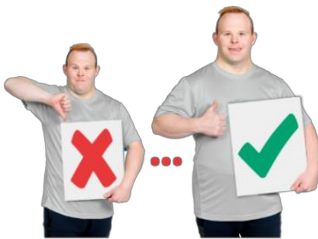


- keeping and supporting the concessionary travel scheme and making it better.

This makes it cheaper for some people to travel at certain times.



- MACS wants to look at how these things will work and make sure disabled people and older people will not be left behind.



We have a chance to change things for the better.

We should not go back to how things were.

We have 5 High Level Objectives – the things we think are most important.

Objective 1



To work to build a Scotland where everyone has the same transport choices and chances and people are treated equally.



This follows the work in the Programme for Government.

What will we do to make this happen?

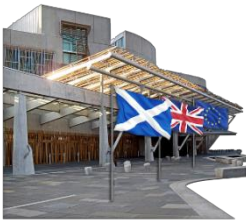


MACS will:

- Have meetings with Scottish Ministers and government staff.
- Do work that supports the Programme for Government.



- Have events, ask people what they think and work with other organisations.



- Talk about the Programme for Government with Scottish Government staff and Ministers.

Talk about what is working well and what work needs to be in future plans.

We will know if this is working well if:



- The Programme for Government looks at equality, accessibility, human rights and the needs of disabled people.



- The Programme for Government has access, inclusion and reducing inequalities as its most important work.



- Disabled people can travel more often and do it easily.

Objective 2



To work with Ministers in all parts of the Scottish Government to make sure they understand that an accessible transport system is very important.

How will MACS do this?



- Find the right Ministers to give information and advice to.
Get them to agree to talk to MACS.
- Work with Transport Scotland staff to make plans that work well for everyone.



- Make documents for meetings that show what are the most important things to talk about.
This will help meetings to work well.
- Work with Scottish Government staff on actions from meetings – the work that needs to be done.

We will know if this is working well if:



- We get agreement from Scottish Government Ministers about what work needs to be done.
- Scottish Government Ministers agree that accessible travel is important.

Objective 3



To make sure the Scottish Government tells councils and organisations that provide public services to follow laws about accessible public transport and infrastructure.

How will MACS do this?



- Make sure the Scottish Government is a good example to everyone else by using Equality Impact Assessments.

Equality Impact Assessments are ways to make sure the way people work, and work policies treat everyone fairly and equally.



- Work with councils and organisations that provide public services and transport.

Ask them to follow laws and policies to make sure people are treated equally.

This includes using Equality Impact Assessments before any services are changed or taken away.



- Tell more people that places should be accessible to everyone.

People who live in places should be involved in how places are designed and what services they have.



- We will ask people what they think about 20 minute neighbourhoods.

We will find out what this means to disabled people and older people.



- We will work with organisations to make sure their plans include what disabled people need.



- Try to make sure that places and services are designed by people who live there and use those services.

We will know if this is working well if:



- Places work well for everyone and have followed guidance about good ways of working.



- MACS events and the work they do support the work of the Connected Scotland Strategy and the 5 ambitions of A Fairer Scotland.



- MACS involvement makes sure more organisations follow the Public Sector Equality Duty.



- Disabled people are more confident about using public transport.
They can do it easily and more often.

Objective 4



To get staff who are making or changing policy, plans or contracts to work with MACS to get advice.

This will make sure they know how important accessibility is.

How will MACS do this?



- Find ways to give expert advice on policies and contracts to make sure transport and infrastructure is accessible and works well for everyone.
- Work with government staff to make plans that work well for everyone.

We will know if this is working well if:



The way people work, work policies and laws show that accessibility and the travel needs and experiences of disabled people are important.

Objective 5



To look at the National Transport Strategy and the Accessible Travel Framework Annual Delivery Plan every year.



We will see what is working well, what work is difficult and what work still needs to happen.

We will give ideas about how to make work happen.

How will MACS do this?



- Be on the National Transport Strategy Delivery board and help with their work.



- Look every year at the Accessible Travel Framework and the National Transport Strategy to see how well they are working.

Give ideas about making the work happen faster.



- Give advice and work with Transport Scotland.
- Make sure the work Transport Scotland does works well for everyone.
This will reduce inequalities.

We will know this is working well if:



- We give an update to the Transport Secretary each year.
- We meet often with Transport Scotland Teams to give advice and suggest what work we think they should be doing.



- We add to the work of other groups working on the Reducing Inequalities part of the National Transport Strategy.