

## Rail options – Devon Metro

Devon County Council has submitted an expression of interest to the government for funding towards what we're calling the Devon Metro scheme.

This scheme would enhance rail services in and around Exeter and provide more stops which are related to areas of new development or existing employment sites in the city. If funding was approved, this could provide new stops at Marsh Barton, Newcourt and Monkerton linking them to the city centre.

## Road improvements

As we've already identified, there isn't much scope in central Exeter to widen roads and provide extra capacity – unless we remove parking spaces, grass verges or even buildings and gardens which might be unpopular suggestions.

However the County Council is investing in new roads and road improvements around the edges of the city. These improvements will support the areas of new development and make it easier for outbound traffic to leave the city.

These improvements do provide some additional capacity for vehicles, however with the level of growth planned it will still be essential for people to use sustainable transport to a much greater extent.



Pedestrian and cycle bridge over the M5 to be completed in 2011



# The future of transport in Exeter

## What happens next?

Please let us know what you think of the proposals. You can have your say by either:

Filling in a paper questionnaire and giving it to our staff here today; or

Going to the website: [www.devon.gov.uk/futuretransportexeter](http://www.devon.gov.uk/futuretransportexeter) and filling in the online version of the questionnaire.

This consultation will close on **Friday 9th April** and the results will help decide the transport strategy for Exeter in the third Devon Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011–2026. This will be published towards the end of 2010.

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## Exeter is a dynamic city at the heart of Devon

It is a large employment, retail and cultural centre attracting people from a wide surrounding area.

The next ten to fifteen years will be a time of rapid growth with new developments in Exeter itself and the area to the east of the city. These developments will help Exeter continue to be the vibrant, prosperous place it currently is and grow the local economy. However, moving this many people around the city will put pressure on our already congested roads and busy public transport systems.

The historic nature of central Exeter means we have a road network which only allows for minor improvements rather than major building programmes or road widening. We can no longer just build our way out of the problem so this consultation sets out our plans to improve travel in and around Exeter, and to get your views on these plans.

## Our challenges

Accommodating the new developments and ensuring we have a transport system to cope with higher levels of traffic will be a challenge.

The level of car usage in and around the city needs to be tackled and greater use made of sustainable travel options like walking, cycling and public transport.

This transport vision for Exeter is certainly not about getting rid of all cars; however it is about giving people practical and attractive alternatives, and suggesting that we won't allow cars to dominate the centre of Exeter at the expense of a pleasant environment. We want an appealing city centre where people working, shopping, dining, walking and cycling can easily access the places they want to get to. They should be able to enjoy their surroundings without concerns about crossing busy roads, or being subjected to poor air quality.

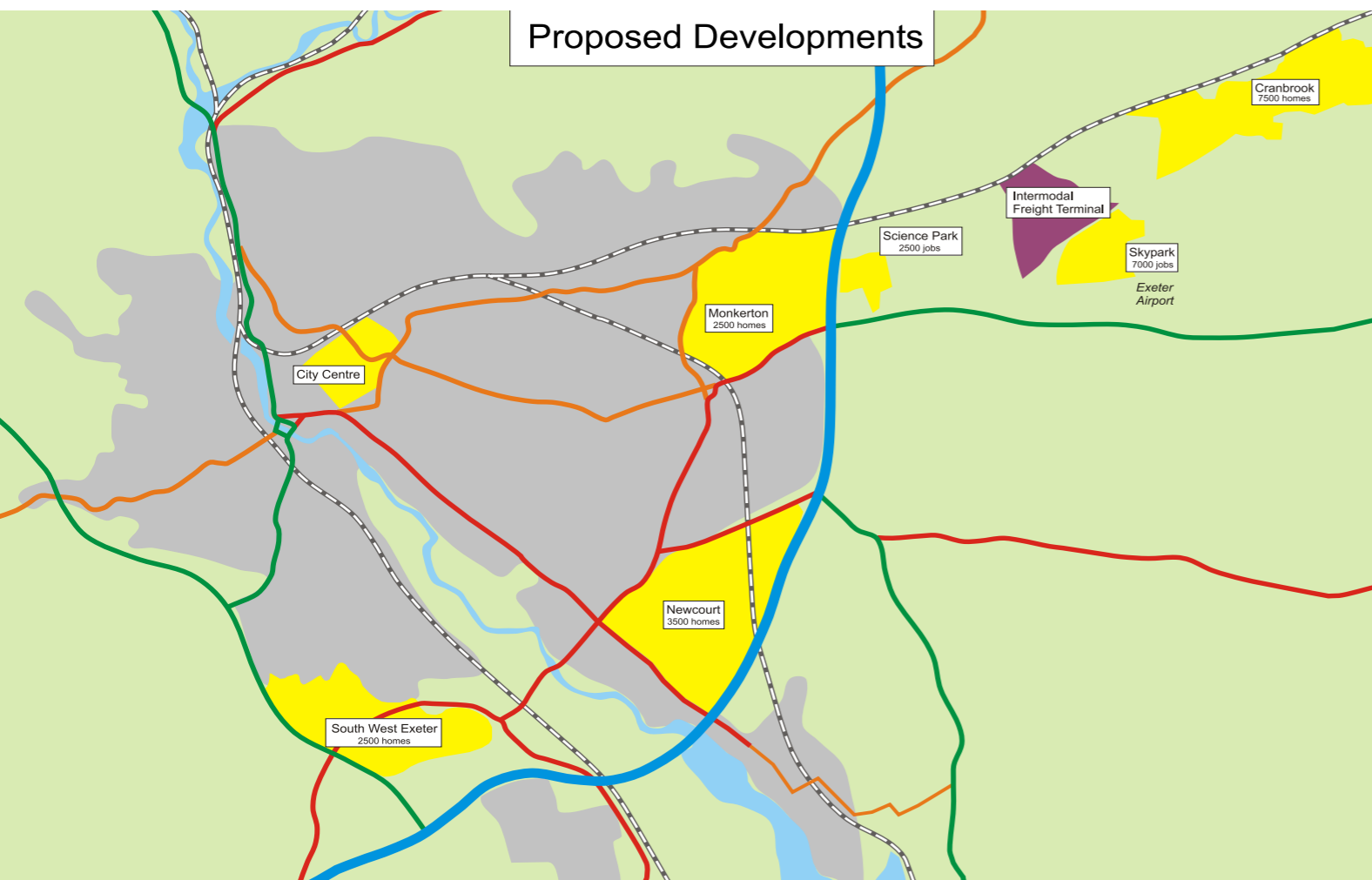
In order to meet these aspirations, we will have to look at some innovative and possibly radical solutions to keep Exeter moving.



## Walking and Cycling options

Walking routes are important both for trips made entirely on foot and for those which link up with public transport for onward journeys.

Our aim is to make short distance walking trips easy, safe, and well signposted and we are particularly focusing our strategy on routes into the city centre. Cycling is a cheap, healthy and environmentally friendly way for people to get around. The city has seen a huge increase in cycling in the past five years thanks to the Cycle Exeter project, but there is still more we can do to encourage cycling as an alternative to driving. Our draft cycling strategy focuses on developing primary and secondary routes which connect the city centre to large employment areas, residential areas and the college, university and secondary schools.



## Project Exe-press: the vision

Project Exe-press is the working title for a new high quality public transport system for Exeter. The Project Exe-press vision is:

...new state of the art buses ...running on two vital new cross city routes ...modernising all the other services ...into a brand new public transport network ...complimented by traffic management measures.

The two new routes would showcase the most environmentally friendly, up-to-date buses available at the time. The Project Exe-press routes would connect large residential and employment areas in Exeter and to the east of Exeter with the city centre. These routes would be particularly attractive for business travellers, as not only would they link to St David's train station and the University, but there would also be an airport shuttle bus from the Science Park/Sky Park area.

## Bus travel in Exeter

With the introduction of the new Project Exe-press routes, there is an opportunity to further upgrade the bus network in Exeter.

So in addition to the two new routes, existing bus travel in the city would be enhanced with: modern environmentally-friendly vehicles; improved real time information – at stops and online; improved bus stops, and off-bus ticketing and smartcards to cut down on delays. Existing city bus services would also benefit from traffic priority measures – such as bus lanes – which will be put in place for the Project Exe-press routes.

## Park & Ride options

Park & Ride offers a realistic alternative to driving into the city centre which allows people to park their car and pick up a bus at the edge of Exeter.

The benefits are obvious: less time waiting in traffic queues, priority over cars and freedom from trying to find a parking space in the middle of the city.

However despite the success of existing routes, there are areas of Exeter which aren't currently served. The proposal for two new Park & Ride sites serving the Alphington Road and Cowley Bridge Road corridors would mean that cars on all main routes into the city would have easy access to a Park & Ride site.

