

A Vision for a Fairer Future: **Priorities for the new Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales**

R N I B

Cymru

Golwg gwahanol

See differently



RNIB Cymru is the largest sight loss charity in Wales. We provide support and services to blind and partially sighted people, as well as their families, friends, and carers, to help improve lives and empower people to live well with sight loss.

There are around 112,000 people living with sight loss in Wales, and this number is predicted to double by 2050.

Blind and partially sighted people rely on walking and public transport to maintain their independence, stay connected with others, access employment and education opportunities and key services like healthcare.



We are supportive of Welsh Government's vision of a fairer, greener and globally responsible Wales. However, some recent changes to the layouts of our towns and cities and the way we travel are impacting on the safety of people with sight loss.

Some of the challenges that blind and partially sighted people routinely face when making journeys are:

- Shared use pathways
- Bus boarder' style bus stops, where pedestrians are forced to cross a live cycleway to board or alight from a bus

- A lack of essential safety and accessibility features, such as audio announcements, on trains and buses
- Risk of collisions with silent and fast moving micromobility vehicles and e-scooters which are extremely difficult to detect
- Parked cars, e-scooters, a-boards and other pavement obstructions which can lead to trips and falls or even force pedestrians off the road and into oncoming traffic.

Inclusive design is better for everyone, ensuring the whole community can access and enjoy their area.



RNIB Cymru is calling on the new Welsh Government to make Wales' streets and public transport safe and accessible for blind and partially sighted people. We ask that you:

1. Prioritise the safety of disabled people as Active Travel schemes are rolled out across Wales by incorporating [RNIB Cymru's Key Principles of Inclusive Street Design](#) into Welsh Government's Active Travel guidance.
2. Fulfil the Welsh Government's commitment to ban pavement parking.
3. Put accessibility at the forefront of plans to improve bus services, through the provision of accessible information, audio announcements and inclusively designed bus stop and station infrastructure.
4. Strive towards having the most accessible rail network in the UK by ensuring all stations have tactile paving on all platforms.
5. Take action against the illegal use of e-scooters on our pavements and pedestrianised areas and continue to not participate in the ongoing e-scooter rental scheme trials that are taking place in other parts of the UK.
6. Make an integrated free-of-charge travel pass available for all disabled people in Wales, similar to the [National Entitlement Card scheme in Scotland](#).

RNIB Cymru is always happy to assist the Welsh Government to undertake meaningful engagement with blind and partially sighted people. We would be delighted to work collaboratively with you in your new role as Cabinet Secretary for Transport to develop solutions which support the transition to net zero in a way that is safe and inclusive for everyone.

We have an opportunity to make Wales a place that blind and partially sighted people are proud to call home, that supports their ambitions and allows them to live a full and active life.

We look forward to working with you to make this vision a reality.