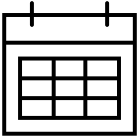
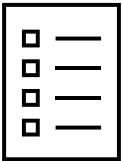
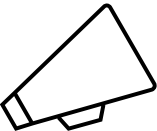
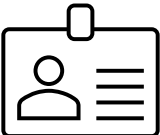
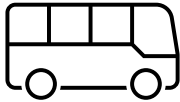
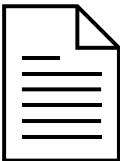
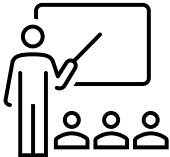
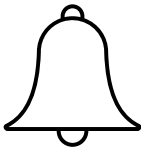
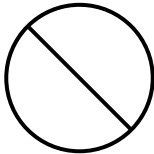
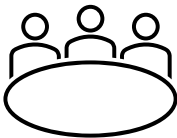
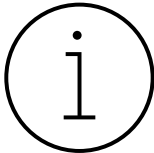
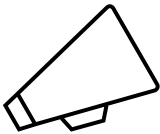
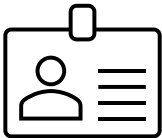
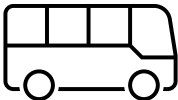
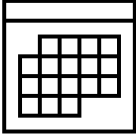
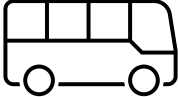
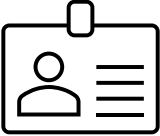
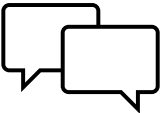
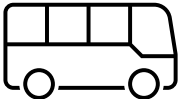
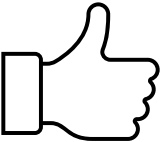
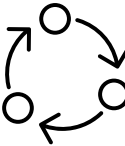
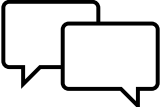
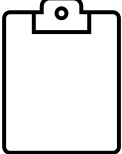
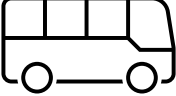


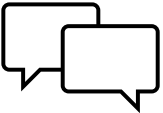
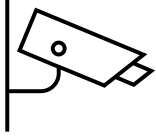
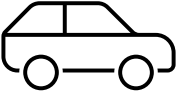
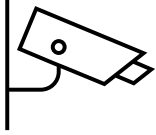
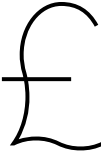
Bee Network Equalities Newsletter – October 2025	
	Welcome
	Welcome to the latest Bee Network Equalities Update.
	This newsletter contains key transport-related updates and news for people interested in how we are addressing Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.
	Updates are shared periodically, and this newsletter covers June – October 2025.
	You have been sent this update because you are a key contact to the Partnerships, Engagement and Inclusion Team at Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).
	If you would like to be added to or removed from this mailing list, please contact engagement@tfgm.com .
	Contents
	This edition will cover:
	Opportunities to have your say or get involved

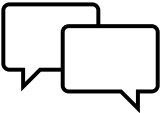
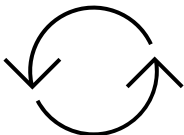
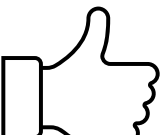
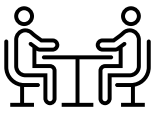
	Update on concessionary pass trial and upcoming November trial
	Neighbourhood Transport Review
	Transport Strategy 2050
	GMCA Consultation on Clean Air ANPR camera use
	Refreshing our Mobility Scooter Policy for greater accessibility
	Staying Informed
	Disability Design Reference Group (DDRG) activity
	Access for All engagement and Hindley TravelHub drop-in session
	Free safer driving course for 55+

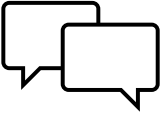
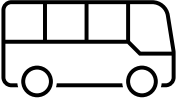
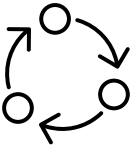
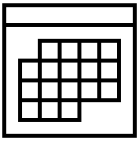
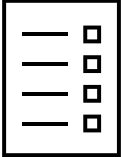
	• Museum of Transport – Inclusion Day
	• Accessibility learning day
	• Bee Network updates – better buses, cheaper travel and improved accessibility
	• Industrial Action
	• National Centre for Accessible Transport (ncat) roundtable
	Further information and updates
	Opportunities to have your say or get involved
	• Update on concessionary pass trial and upcoming November trial
	A trial took place in August that allowed people to use their concessionary pass at any time.

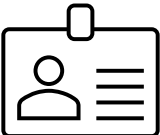
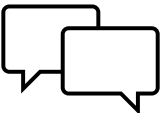
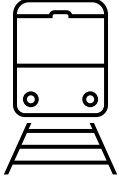
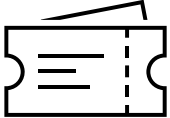
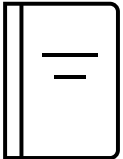
	Usually, people would not be able to use their pass before 09.30am.
	A second trial will be taking place for all of November.
	This will be taking place on buses only.
	The trial is open to anyone who has a disabled people's or older people's concessionary pass given to them by TfGM.
	At the end of the trial period, feedback will be looked at to see if the change can be made permanent.
	Full details about the trial, types of concessionary pass, and how to provide feedback are available on TfGM's website .
	• Neighbourhood Transport Review
	TfGM is looking at how we can improve our Ring and Ride and Local Link services.
	This is part of a bigger plan to make travel across Greater Manchester more joined-up, inclusive, and efficient.

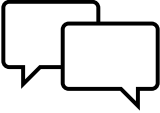
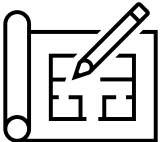
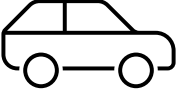
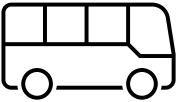
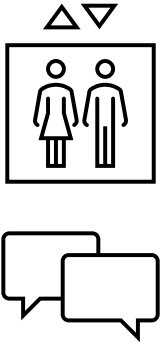
	We are looking at how these services can work better for people who need flexible travel.
	We will continue to engage into 2026 to see what is working well and what the challenges are.
	A survey will be available via gmconsult.org from November 2025.
	GM Transport Strategy 2050
	TfGM is preparing to launch a consultation on a plan called the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050.
 	This is a long-term plan that looks at how we travel across Greater Manchester in the years ahead.
	We spoke to equalities groups on this topic between January 2024 and February 2025. Their feedback has shaped the draft Transport Strategy.
	This consultation is your chance to help TfGM make decisions on how to make travel easier, safer and greener.

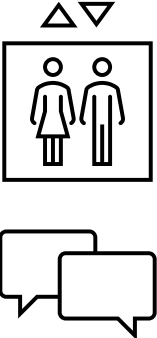
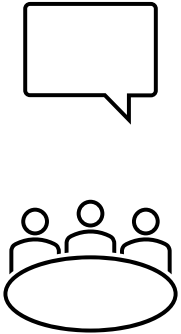
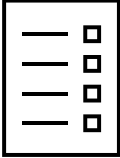
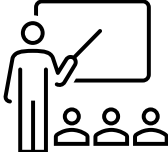
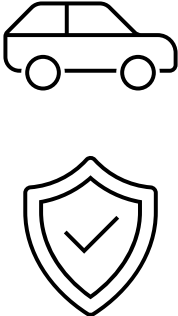
  	The consultation will open later this year and include online surveys, drop-in events, and opportunities to speak directly with TfGM. You will be able to access the latest information on the GM Consult web page.
	• GMCA Consultation on Clean Air ANPR camera use
 	GMCA are thinking about changing how some Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras in Greater Manchester are used.
 	The cameras were originally set up to help with charges for the Clean Air Zone.
	The charging zone is not happening. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) want to use the cameras instead to help make the region safer for everyone.

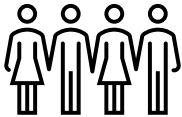
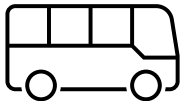
	GMCA would like feedback to understand what people think about this idea and if it should go ahead.
	The consultation and supporting information can be found on GM Consult . The deadline for responses is Thursday 6 November.
	• Refreshing our Mobility Scooter Policy for greater accessibility
	TfGM is currently updating its Mobility Scooter Policy.
	This refresh will help to make the Bee Network more inclusive and accessible for everyone.
 	It will also help us to make sure that people with mobility needs can travel safely on the network.
	We will be holding a targeted engagement session to hear from users and communities about their experiences and needs.
	Staying Informed

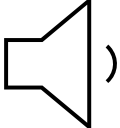
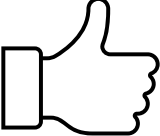
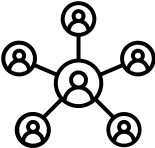
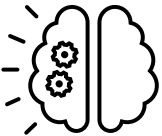
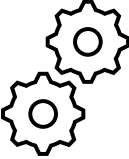
	• Disability Design Reference Group (DDRG) activity
 	The Disability Design Reference Group (DDRG) is our pan-impairment advisory group.
	They provide advice based on their personal experience of travelling on the Bee Network.
	The DDRG work with us in designing a joined-up and accessible public transport network.
 	The group meet formally every three months. Their focus is mainly on large and important projects.
	A summary of current work is included below.

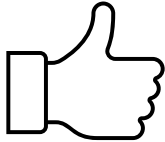
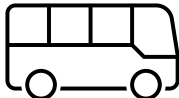
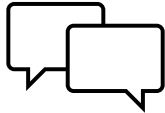
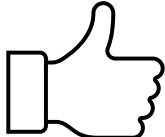
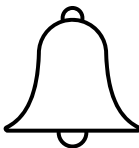
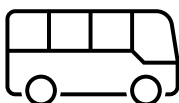
 	At the latest formal meeting: • DDRG members provided feedback about the concessionary pass trial in August. Their feedback will be used to see if changes to when the passes are used can be made.
   	• The DDRG were introduced to members of the Rail Integration team. DDRG members were asked about their ideas on tickets, stations, and reliability.
	• The group were asked about what to include in the guidance given to TfGM colleagues who present to DDRG. They were also asked about how it should look.
	The DDRG have also been leading a project looking at how attitudes can make travel inaccessible and how this can be changed.
	We are now putting together a written summary of the findings and looking at next steps.

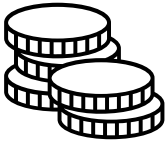
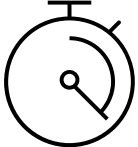
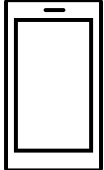
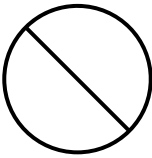
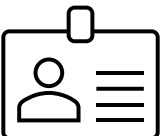
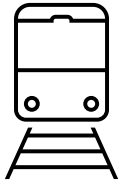
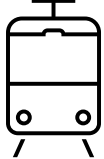
	• Access for All engagement and Hindley TravelHub drop-in session
	Throughout September, we have been speaking with communities about improvements to their local train stations.
 	On 9th September, TfGM staff were in Hindley talking to groups and residents about plans to extend the car park at Hindley railway station.
  	The plans include lots new features, such as a bus service, parking for bikes, and better access for pedestrians.
	On 11th September we spoke with residents in Tameside about plans to make Flowery Field and Newton-for-Hyde railway stations step-free.

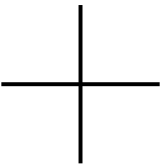
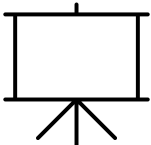
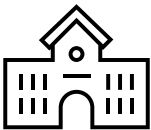
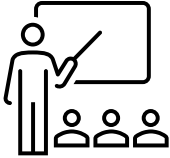
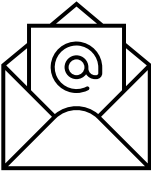
	On 17th September we shared plans to make Levenshulme station step-free with the Inspired Taskforce (an older-person led organisation) and local residents.
	Thank you to everyone who attended and shared their feedback.
	All comments are being summarised and will help to shape the developing plans.
	Our Consultation & Engagement web page will be updated with the latest information on each of these projects.
	Free Safer Driving Course for 55+
	The Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership are encouraging drivers to join a free Safer Driving for Longer course.

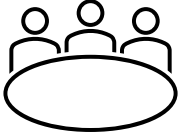
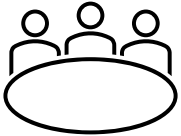
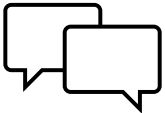
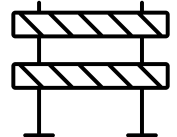
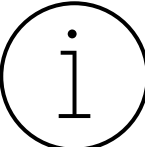
	The course helps drivers to be more confident and think about alternatives to driving.
	It is available to Greater Manchester residents aged 55+.
	The courses take place in Trafford and location details will be shared at the time of booking.
	To book a place on the course, participants should call 0300 123 1518 (option 3).
	More information about the courses and how to book is available online on TfGM's website . Please direct any questions to info@drivesafe.org.uk .
	• Museum of Transport – Inclusion Day
	On 31st August, TfGM and the Museum of Transport hosted an accessibility-focused event.
 	Highlights included an accessible Bee Network bus, a guided BSL tour, and a heritage bus offering free transport.

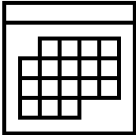
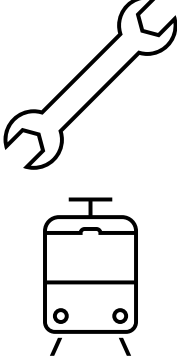
	The museum also created a quieter space in the afternoon for those needing a calmer environment.
	TfGM and the museum are now exploring how to build on the event's success and the positive feedback they received.
	• Accessibility learning day
	On 3rd September, people with lived experience of spinal cord injury were invited to take part in a City Skills course in Manchester.
 	The day was organised by Back Up Trust in association with KeolisAmey Metrolink (KAM), TfGM, Avanti West Coast and Alstom Group
 	Back Up Trust's aim is to help people who have a spinal cord injury regain confidence, skills, and independence.

  	The focus of the day was to allow participants to use different forms of public transport to build confidence around travelling independently on the Bee Network.
 	Feedback from everyone involved has been overwhelmingly positive. The day was a great learning opportunity about accessibility.
	Further information about the courses offered by Back Up Trust can be found on Back Up Trust's website.
	• Bee Network updates: better buses, cheaper travel, and improved accessibility
 	Mayor Andy Burnham announced more upgrades to the Bee Network. These include:

 	• Cheaper and more frequent travel: Half-price fares for 18–21-year-olds, more frequent buses in Bolton and Leigh, and new/improved cross-boundary services with Cheshire.
	• Digital and tech enhancements: ‘Our Pass’ is now digital, and Apple Pay users can benefit from the new ‘Express Mode’.
	You can find out more about these announcements and via the full press release on TfGM’s website.
	• Industrial Action
	We know industrial action affects some communities more than others. We have put the following steps in place to help equalities groups.
  	We have done the following to help lessen the impact of the action: • Bus customers with 7-day, 28-day, term-time or annual passes, and concessionary passes (including Our Pass), can travel on the entire Metrolink network, all Northern train services in affected areas, and TransPennine Express services between Greenfield and Manchester Piccadilly on strike days.

	TfGM Travel Safe Officers (TSEOs) will be available on the network to provide support.
 	Additional staff at interchanges and customer contact points to assist disabled passengers and those needing extra support.
	Increased non-digital notices at key locations for those without online access.
 	Targeted communications to schools to support continuity for pupils and families.
	We will continue to offer support to our communities while strikes take place. Latest information on strikes will always be on our website tfgm.com
 	If you have any questions, please contact hello@tfgm.com or call the Bee Network Contact Centre on 0161 244 1000. The Contact Centre can provide translation services for non-English speakers.

	• National Centre for Accessible Transport (ncat) roundtable
 	During the summer, our Bee Network Committee Disability Advocate, Cllr Tracey Rawlins, joined other senior leaders at a roundtable hosted by the National Centre for Accessible Transport (NCAT).
	The session brought together key voices from the transport sector to look at the progress made against the aims set out in the Accessible Transport Charter.
 	Discussions focused on how barriers to inclusive travel are being removed through working together and lived experience leadership.
 	The roundtable provided an excellent opportunity to share insights and showed how important it is to work together to improve accessibility.
	Further information and updates

	• For latest news see the media section on the Bee Network website.
	• Information about all upcoming events is available on our dedicated webpage.
	• The latest customer information related to planned Metrolink maintenance and improvements works can be found on the TfGM website.