



Tram Concessionary Pass Consultation

Overview

We are a Travel Concession Authority (TCA) and have a statutory duty to provide free travel on local bus services for holders of a valid English National Concessionary Travel Pass. Holders of concessionary passes are split into two groups – those meeting the elderly age of entitlement, which is gradually being increased, for both men and women, in line with the rise in state pension age and those who hold a pass due to a disability. The pass allows free travel on buses between 9.30am and 11pm on weekdays and all day on weekends and bank holidays.

We also offer free tram travel on the tram network during these times to these concessionary pass holders as part of the **tram concession scheme**. This, however, is a non-statutory requirement.

These tram journeys made by concessionary pass holders and their companions cost the county council £0.9m per year.

We, like other councils, are seeing financial pressures on our budget due to record levels of inflation and energy costs.

The current projected shortfall for 2024/25 is £8.7m with the three-year deficit to 2026/27 increasing to £60.2m.

Due to the significant cost of the **tram concessionary scheme**, we are seeking views on whether changes should be made to the scheme to reduce the cost to the council, which will vary depending on which of the four options is considered. The potential reductions in cost for each option takes into account that residents may travel by bus rather than the tram.

The four options we are consulting on are:

1. No change - tram concession arrangements stay the same.
2. Introduce half fare payment - both elderly and disabled concessionary pass holders pay half fare.
3. Keep free tram travel for disabled concessionary pass holders only and their companions.
4. Withdraw free travel on the tram for all concessionary pass holders.

Key information

Key facts on concessionary pass usage by Nottinghamshire residents:

1. In Nottinghamshire, there are currently **154,000** concessionary pass holders; **143,100** concessionary pass holders for older people, **7,600** concessionary pass holders for people with disabilities and **3,300** companion concessionary pass holders.
2. **10 million journeys** are made on the bus by concessionary pass holders and their companions each year.
3. **1.14 million** tram journeys are made each year – **1 million** by elderly concessionary pass holders and **0.14 million** by disabled concessionary pass holders and their companions.
4. **60,000** concessionary pass holders use the tram for some or all of their journeys.
5. There is a bus alternative to the tram with **75%** of pass holders living within 400m (5mins walk) or **85%** within 800m (10mins walk) of a 10min bus service.
6. Some communities such as Toton, West Bridgford Compton Acres, and a small number of properties within the County just south of Butler's Hill tram stop/Bestwood Village are not within walking distance of a 10-minute comparable bus service.
7. The tram has level access for disabled users in contrast to the bus in many locations.

1. In what role are you responding to this survey? Please select one option only.

Please tick	Options
	Nottinghamshire resident (<i>skip to 1a.</i>)
	County or city councillor (<i>skip to 1b.</i>)
	District, Borough or Parish councillor (<i>skip to 1c.</i>)
	Representative of a public sector organisation (<i>skip to 1d.</i>)
	Representative of a voluntary sector organisation, charity or community group (<i>skip to 1d.</i>)
	Representative of a business or private sector organisation (<i>skip to 1d.</i>)
	Other

1a) If you answered 'Nottinghamshire resident' to question 1, please state which district you live in.

Please tick	Options
	Ashfield
	Bassetlaw
	Broxtowe
	Gedling
	Mansfield
	Newark and Sherwood
	Rushcliffe

1b) If you answered 'county or city councillor' to question 1:

1bi) Please state which council below:

1bii) Are you providing your organisation's official response to this consultation or your own views as an individual?	
	Official response from organisation (<i>skip to question 11</i>)
	Individual response

1c) If you answered 'district, borough or parish councillor to question 1:

1ci) Please state which council below:

1cii) Are you providing your organisation's official response to this consultation or your own views as an individual?	
	Official response from organisation (<i>skip to question 11</i>)
	Individual response

1d) If you answered 'representative of voluntary sector organisation, charity, community group, business or private sector organisation' to question 1:

1di) Please provide details of your organisation, charity, community group or business.

Name:

Organisation:

Email address:

Postcode of organisation:

1dii) Are you providing your organisation's official response to this consultation or your own views as an individual?

Official response from organisation (*skip to question 11*)

Individual response

Your travel habits.

2. Do you use the bus or tram? Please select all that apply.

Please tick	Options
	Yes, I use the bus.
<i>If yes, how often do you use the bus</i>	
	5 or more days a week
	3 or 4 days a week
	Once or twice a week
	Once a fortnight
	Once a month
	Less frequently
	Yes, I use the tram.
<i>If yes, how often do you use the tram</i>	
	5 or more days a week
	3 or 4 days a week
	Once or twice a week
	Once a fortnight
	Once a month
	Less frequently
	No, I do not use the bus or tram.

3. If you do use the bus or tram what is the main purpose of your travel?

Please tick	Options
	Work
	Training or education
	Health
	Shopping
	Leisure
	Other
If other, please specify:	

4. Do you own or have use of a car?

Please tick	Options
	Yes
	No

5. Do you have an older person's concessionary fare travel pass?

Please tick	Options
	Yes
	No

6. Do you have a disabled person's concessionary fare travel pass?

Please tick	Options
	Yes
	No

7. Do you have a companion's concessionary fare travel pass?

Please tick	Options
	Yes
	No

8. Do you use your concessionary pass on the bus/tram?

Please tick	Options
	I use my pass on the bus only
	I use my pass on the tram only
	I use my pass on both the bus and tram
	Not applicable

9. If there was any change to the tram travel concessions, would you travel by bus instead?

Please tick	Options
	Yes
	No
	Not applicable

10. If there were any changes to the tram concessionary scheme, please tell us what impact this would have on you.

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Your views on the future of free tram travel

We would like your views on the future of free tram travel for concessionary elderly and disabled pass holders and their companions. Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- 11. The current tram concession arrangements for older people, people with disabilities and their companions should stay the same. This will continue to cost the council £0.9m.**

Please tick	Options
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know

- 12. Older people, people with disabilities and their companions should pay half the cost of the tram fare with their concessionary travel pass. This option would save the council £0.35m*.**

** The potential reductions in cost for each option takes into account that residents may travel by bus rather than the tram, which the county council has a statutory duty to fund.*

Please tick	Options
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know

13. Only people with disabilities and their companions should receive free tram travel with a concessionary pass. This would save the council £0.48m*.

** The potential reductions in cost for each option takes into account that residents may travel by bus rather than the tram, which the county council has a statutory duty to fund.*

Please tick	Options
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know

14. Free tram travel for holders of a concessionary pass should be withdrawn for older people, people with disabilities and their companions. This would save the county council approximately £0.55m*.

** The potential reductions in cost for each option takes into account that residents may travel by bus rather than the tram, which the county council has a statutory duty to fund.*

Please tick	Options
	Strongly agree
	Agree
	Neither agree nor disagree
	Disagree
	Strongly disagree
	Don't know

15. Do you have any other comments that you would like to make about the tram concession scheme?

Thank you for completing this consultation.

Please send your response to:

FREEPOST RTCU-CTYJ-XXKA Tram Concessions Consultation,
Nottinghamshire County Council,
County Hall, Loughborough Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham,
NG2 7QP