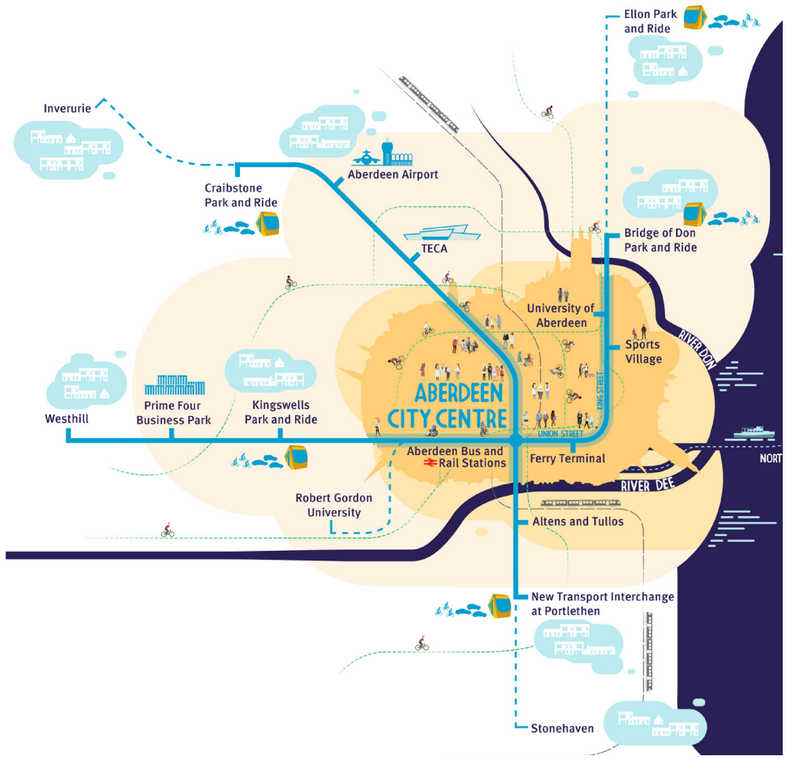
Aberdeen RapidTransit

What can Aberdeen Rapid Transit (ART) offer the North East?

ART is a vision for a next-generation transport system, bringing bus rapid transit to the North East of Scotland. ART aims to deliver fast, frequent and reliable services through a combination of dedicated bus lanes, off board fare collection, and efficient boarding and alighting. It seeks to provide high-capacity and high-quality vehicles, and journey times competitive to car, offering an attractive way to travel, being accessible and easy to use.

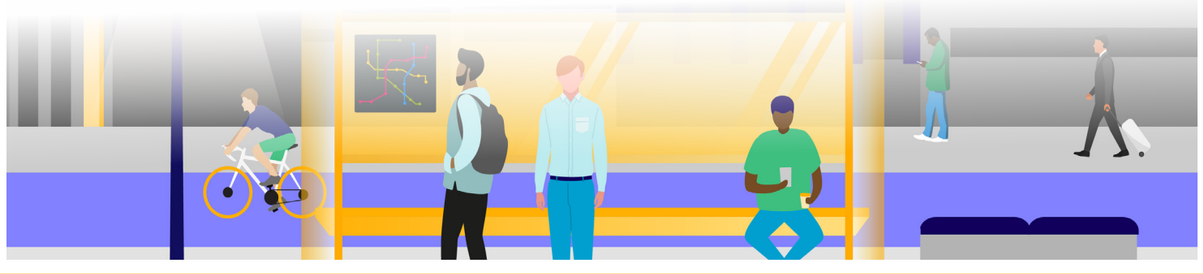
The aim is for ART priority routes to provide a cross-city network that connects people to key regional education, employment, healthcare, retail and leisure destinations. The network would also link with the airport and Aberdeen rail station, as well as the city centre, maximising connectivity and convenience.



What does ART seek to achieve?

ART is being developed by Nestrans and its partners Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and the North East Bus Alliance. We aim for ART to improve local, regional and global connections. This would contribute to our region's vibrancy and attractiveness, as well as supporting its growth, benefitting both the city and Aberdeenshire. ART also aims to be part of the solution to delivering on national and local commitments for net zero carbon emissions by providing an attractive and reliable zero emission public transport system for the region.

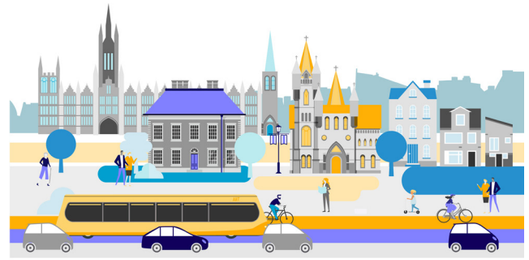
ART would complement and enhance the wider public transport network. By investing in the infrastructure to support ART, we expect that many of the region's other bus services would also become faster and more reliable.



What can ART deliver?

Experience from other bus rapid transit systems in the UK gives confidence that ART can bring real benefits to the economy, people and environment of the North East of Scotland:

ART can help the region's economy



Belfast's Glider has generated more than 2 million additional passenger journeys compared to previous bus journeys along the same route and an estimated £340 million economic boost. "What we have seen is the retail economy along this corridor has grown. This makes access to the retail area easier. It brings more footfall because it's easy to access".

Cambridgeshire's Busway is contributing to economic growth by attracting high proportions of users (60%) travelling to work or education, so aiding employability and skills, as well as reducing congestion.

Salford's Vantage Busway has increased access to employment with around 86,000 people benefitting from a reduction in door-to-door journey times by 5%. It is perceived to have stimulated local economies and to be a catalyst for regeneration in outlying towns that it serves.

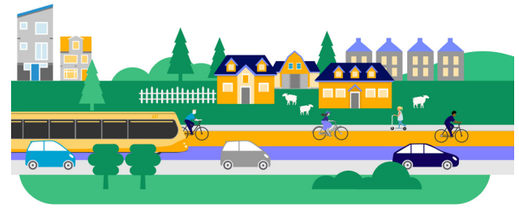
ART can help the region's people

Belfast's Glider has shown that "small changes can make a huge difference for people with visual impairment or wheelchairs. There has been a huge increase in people with disabilities using the service because it is accessible".

Birmingham's Sprint services are more reliable and average journey times up to 22% quicker at peak times than previous buses, whilst Sprint shelters have achieved 98% satisfaction rate.

Hampshire's Eclipse services have passenger satisfaction ratings more than 20% higher than for previous bus services.

ART can help the region's environment



Belfast's Glider has delivered an 8-9% modal shift from private car onto public transport, resulting in 1.67 million fewer car journeys per year.

Hampshire's Eclipse passenger interviews showed that 20% of passengers previously made their journey by car.

Cambridgeshire's Busway is attractive to car users: 80% of busway users were from a household with a car available, compared to 20% for bus users nationally.

Bristol's metrobus has resulted in nearly 19% of users leaving their cars at home and switching to public transport.

Salford's Vantage Busway has delivered modal shift comparable to that for light rail, with a shift of 20-25% from car to bus.

For more information on ART:

Visit aberdeenrapidtransit.org or contact info@aberdeenrapidtransit.org.