

# Voices call for public transport to be supported

October 2020

Campaign for Better Transport asked the public to tell the Chancellor why the upcoming spending review should support public transport. Hundreds of people shared their comments: here's what they said...



**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is vital in our move to a zero carbon economy. If even more people, post-Covid, are encouraged to travel to work and shops by car, instead of walking, cycling or using public transport, our roads will be more congested, our air quality poorer and demand for car parking will exceed supply.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** before retirement, I used trains 5x per week to get to the University, and did not have access to a car for travelling to work. I believe that the climate crisis is the greatest threat to our future, and sustainable transport can play a big part in mitigating carbon emissions.

- Wendy, Hexham, Northumberland

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** So many people require this service and it should be encouraged as a less polluting means of transport than the private car - even if covid has created special problems in the short term.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Aged 91, I no longer drive a car and would like to shop and visit family and friends

- Barbara, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancs

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is the best way to secure truly sustainable, inclusive human connectivity and liveable local areas. It has understandably been a huge concern during the Covid-19 pandemic, but unless our public transport providers are supported financially to weather the coronavirus storm, they will not be around to continue to provide such a vital service as we look to emerging from the pandemic and rebuilding our lives.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a disabled person who is unable to drive, I rely heavily on public transport to travel around independently. I also benefit from less traffic on our roads, making them easier to cross, the achievement of which all but requires a convenient public transport system as a viable alternative to the private car.

- Michael, Bristol

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need the greener options for the future, with less cars on our roads. Public transport is vital to rural areas and cuts to the services impact greatly on the people who live here.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As I do not drive and live in a rural area, I am totally dependent on public transport for hospital appointments, dentist,

optician and shopping.

- Anonymous, Cullompton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** If we are to have a sustainable future built on a green economy, we need excellent low cost public transport throughout the UK with reliance on the motor car severely reduced.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Currently I live in a rural area of West Sussex without a bus service to my nearest railway station/small town with shops, doctors surgery, library etc. I therefore need to have a car. With advancing age I would prefer not to rely on a car, however if I did not have access to a car I would have to move!

- Anonymous, West Sussex

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** in order to meet our aims of reducing pollution, and playing our part in overcoming the worst effects of climate change, we need to reduce car usage.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as a 75 year old, and hence being aware of issues to do with ageing, having forms of transport available to me which do not depend on my physical health is really important

- Vicky, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I wish to bring to your attention the many people who are unable to afford to have a car and those who through age and infirmity are not allowed to drive.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Many of us believe that it is better to use public transport if we can to help save the planet.

- Sarah, Oxford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Under more normal circumstances it improves the lives of so many people - it is impossible to imagine the country prospering in the future without a strong enlarged rail network. Even now, rather than implying that public transport is dangerous, it would be good to encourage those who travel to use public transport, because when the dangers of car travel are included (and not just covid risks) it is a good choice. Appreciated there is a cost now. But this is also a time to encourage those who do travel to use rail/bus rather than car, by making it more attractive. Reducing peak periods (make no sense in empty trains), loyalty programmes (e.g. national rail card) and many other real reforms. Rail firms should be incentivised to increase usage.. and reassuring messages should be put out. As you encouraged people back to restaurants in the summer, you will need to do something to encourage people back on public transport - at the right time.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** (Particularly rail) it makes many journeys more pleasant and feasible. E.g. as an inhabitant of Bedford, it is currently unfeasible to work in Oxford, and I have had to turn down tempting offers there. We are a highly populated country - we will need good mass transit systems in the years ahead. It will pay again - especially if fares are reformed (and made reasonable), the network enlarged and better connectivity encouraged. I own two cars, but I encourage you to cut the 27bn programme of further road building - this would be a boost to the environment, both by preserving land from being destroyed and by reducing pollution. Rail lines are much less destructive. Rail can - should - also be faster.

- Peter, Great Barford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** ... for many people it is essential in order to participate in a wide range of activities. A car-based recovery from Covid-19 is excluding many people from both their family and social life and from much of the economic activity that you are trying to restart.

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**Public transport is important to me personally because...** ... I live in an area where not having access to a car is to experience increasing levels of exclusion. Roads which I used to cycle, I now consider too dangerous. We did not get any of the Emergency Active Travel measures that might have made cycling safer, and as winter approaches, daylight and weather further limits the scope for safe cycling. If public transport providers are unable to provide a Covid-safe service, I will be increasingly isolated from my partner, my family, my voluntary work, and such cultural events that take place.

- Anonymous, West Sussex

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Here in Burbage, Buxton, Derbyshire, public transport is all but non-existent. We DO have a very good train transport link to Stockport and Manchester from Buxton station, though. But out in the sticks here we have one bus an hour if we're lucky. No bus shelter, nowhere to sit. It's absolutely disgraceful! (Aging population in Burbage!). It is the one an hour bus from Buxton to Macclesfield. We don't have a dedicated town bus, and in the evenings it shank's pony or taxi if you don't have a private car. Compare this to Brighton which I visit regularly. There are regular frequent buses to everywhere!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** ...endless private cars cause congestion and pollution, not just in the running, but their manufacture. WE desperately need good reliable frequent comprehensive public transport around this rural area. At the moment we are forced to own a car or go by taxi. It's an absolute disgrace. IF Brighton can do it, why can't it be arranged here. I am convinced people would be prepared to pay towards it. It'd be infinitely cheaper than taxi/car; and so much better for the poor planet!! Don't you think so?

- Felicity, Burbage, Buxton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential if we are to reduce both the CO2 and air pollution caused by car traffic in our towns and cities. It is essential to those who either don't own a car or don't wish to drive one. It is essential for a civilised country in the 21st century!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** After a minor accident seven years ago, I am very reluctant to drive. Before the lock down in March I was making two return bus journeys of 4-5 miles each week. (I walk to reach places within two miles.)

- Harriet, Birmingham UK

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital to provide good alternatives to using cars, especially for those who cannot drive or walk or cycle. If you are going to pay more than lip service to a Green Recovery, you need to invest in public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Although I can drive, I am unwilling to use my car for a journey of less than 2 miles into town because it isn't a healthy move for the environment. I usually walk but I then often need to catch a bus back if I have too much shopping to carry. I have arthritic knees and can envisage a time when I may not be able to walk into town in the first place & when driving my car might become too painful too. I am already reliant on trains if I want to make a trip to see my daughter, since driving for more than 4 hours, even with breaks at service areas, is too tiring. I know I am one of many with similar problems. I am also very concerned that my grandchildren have been denied the sense of freedom & self-reliance they had learned by travelling to & from school on public transport since the advice about avoiding crowded buses & the less than reliable service due to Covid-19 restrictions means that they now have to be driven to & from school by their parents.

- Susan, Canterbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is absolutely essential if

we are to cut the carbon emissions, which if not controlled will destroy our world. I fear for the future if my grandchildren who face a bleak future unless you are prepared to act.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Although I drive I try not to for the reasons stated above.

- Terry, Liverpool

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** There are a lot of people - young, middle-aged & elderly - who, for one reason or another - have not got their own private transport & need a good bus & train service - well connected to each other. They want the buses & trains to run efficiently & with fares that don't rocket up at the beginning of every year

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Although I have a car, I would prefer to use public transport in getting into the town centre rather than clogging it up with one more car

- Don, Colchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital in reducing road congestion and to provide cleaner air for better public health and we need to plan for the future instead of just thinking about what we need now.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Although I live in walking distance of my essential facilities and my nearest countryside I still want to be able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by public transport such as employment, volunteering and outings further afield when it is safer to do so and I might need to in the future.

- Shaun, Shrewsbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** The least privileged in society depend on it, and the climate change requires you to.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a child growing up in 1970s London the Tube was a luxury I could not afford. Mobility is a human right. Let's not regress to the 1970s

- Rick, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** This is vital to our need to fight climate change and reduce the sheer number of cars on our clogged roads. Let's make space for cyclists and walkers instead and make a difference to the obesity rates.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a disabled person, I rely on rail to get to London and other places of interest and meetings.

- Nick, Waterhouses

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is vital to ensuring that Britain meets its Climate Change targets.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a family we use public transport quite extensively. Both bus journeys to our city centre to avoid taking a car, and long-term train travel for longer journeys.

- Anonymous, Aberdeen

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Trams and buses are essential to Nottingham's economic wellbeing. Making space for electric cars, as a substitute would ruin our city's spatial layout.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a non-driver trains, trams and buses are essential to enable me to go to uni and to work.

- Dave, Nottingham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I am partially sighted and

can walk to destinations locally, but depend on public transport for any journeys outside my immediate district. Public transport has to be an important part of a greener future and any reduction in services, when we should be expanding rail, bus and tram services in order to reduce car dependency, would show that the government pays only lip service to solving the problems of climate change and environmental degradation leading to a dangerous loss of biodiversity

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a partially sighted person, I am obviously not able to obtain a driving licence, and find it very difficult to get about other than very locally when for whatever reason it fails. In 1997 when I was registered partially sighted, I was awarded DLA at the lower rate for life but like so many disabled people I lost it (in the spiteful and vindictive reassessments for PIPs, on moved goalposts), I can no longer afford to hire a cab when necessary. I doubt for a minute that I am the only person with a disability in this position.

- Ian, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the infrastructure of a well-funded public transport system is fundamental to our communities continuing to function and prosper through access to a reliable service for all. These public services are needed for multiple reasons and many, many people in our society. Environmentally, we are now aware of the damage done to our planet by too many cars being used for single-person journeys. Also, many people either don't have the money to fund private transport or, would choose to not enter into a large financial commitment of buying a vehicle.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as a person of a nervous disposition I am unable to drive so, I rely on public transport for my access to work and public amenities without which my life would be, and sometimes has been, very limiting with my earning potential significantly reduced.

- Anonymous, Aylesbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's the best way to reduce traffic on the roads - and hence pollution.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As a retired person, I use public transport a lot. Although I still have a car, there may come a time when I need to give it up. I'll then be entirely dependent on public transport. (Not counting taxis, which I don't like because of expense & lack of reliability.) I lived in Sheffield in the 1970's, when buses were subsidised. Happy days. Didn't even OWN a car then, because there was no point.

- Susan, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** a, it is already an existing way to cut down on air pollution and congestion, and b, because for many disabled people, it is the only way they have to get around, especially for making longer journeys.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as a totally blind person, also with no sense of direction, so for whom walking anywhere is not possible, it is really the only way I have to get anywhere outside my local area. trains are especially useful for me in this, and without them, I would be a prisoner in my local area, a situation that in these days, when we are supposed to have equality, would be completely unacceptable!

- Simon, March, Cambridgeshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need buses not private vehicles, to prevent climate change. And bus stops with canopies. seating and electronic timetables run on electricity from solar panels on the roof. Local area buses to and from local supermarkets would be especially welcome, because shopping is heavy to carry. I gave up my car in 2008 to help stop climate change.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** As above.

- Margaret Anne, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** so many more people can travel in one vehicle, reducing the volume of traffic on the roads. Less traffic is becoming vital.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as an older person it's more relaxing travelling on a bus and enjoying looking around at things you don't notice when driving yourself, and having to concentrate on the road.

- Anonymous, Milton Keynes

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** unlike people living in London where public transport and cycling routes have been well organised and well funded for many years now, towns and villages around the UK need desperately to catch up. Former train routes need to re- open and more freight needs to be transported by rail instead of the volume of lorries on motorways.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as an older person who cannot walk as far with luggage or shopping, when travelling short or longer distances on public transport, I find standing for any length of time at a bus stop or railway station with limited seating and shelter difficult. I want to reach a destination easily with similarly easy, frequent connections.

- Anonymous, Redcar

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is a key element of reducing the carbon footprint of transportation and travel, especially locally, and as a nation we cannot allow the public transport system to disappear simply because companies can no longer make a profit on it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as I age I expect I will become increasingly dependent on my local public transport systems to get around and for hospital and other care visits. It needs to still be there, and sufficiently available not to require all day to make a one-hour visit to hospital

- Malcolm, Liverpool

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it has a vital role to play in our Green Recovery, and a fair, healthy and sustainable future. Please invest in public transport, providing jobs in manufacturing electric and other less polluting vehicles. Please support infrastructure for safer streets for walking and cycling.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as I grow older I may be unable to cycle and drive my car.

- Anonymous, Worthing, West Sussex

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is key to reducing congestion and lowering our carbon emissions.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** as someone who doesn't own a car, I rely on public transport to get to an from my place of work and for visiting my family.

- Anonymous, Salford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We rely on it to get to places without a car, Thatcher privatised our buses and now we have a poor service which stops at around 7 o clock pm ,useless for going to the pub or to meet my friends. Bring buses and trains back to the local councils

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Because I don t have a car

- Robert, East Boldon, Tyne and Wear

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** (a) if we are going become

carbon neutral by 2030, public transport is an essential to ensure this, (b) to reduce road congestion the solution isn't building more roads (destroying ecosystems, green spaces etc) the solution is better and more efficient public transport, (c) it is proven that green cities in which public transport/cycling/walking are better for the environment, better for people's health (covid-19 is made worse by air pollution among other health problems). All this would make the country a more pleasant place to live, people would be healthier, fitter (because cars encourage a culture of lack of mobility). All this needs to be cheaper, affordable and using modern transports (look to other European nations with nationalised transport systems for examples)

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Because I don't drive currently, therefore depend of public transport to get around. And I enjoy train transport and wish it was a more affordable option to use for eco-holidays

- Katharina, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Because many people rely on it. Using an efficient public transport service rather than cars will help with climate commitments and will make life more pleasant for those who walk & cycle.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Because I gave up driving a good while back.

- Paul, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the best way to keep good quality air on our cities

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Because of my age I find city driving a nightmare.

- Sue, Brighton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is necessary for a cohesive society.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Before lockdown, I was using trains and buses twice a week, to get from my home in Suffolk to my work at the National Physical Laboratory in London.

- Greg, Woodbridge

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Before the lockdown I used express buses between York and Leeds to keep up with friends and family and attend classes in Leeds which I would otherwise have had to give up when we moved to York.

- Rukshana, York

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** everything needs to go in the direction of more public transport use and less private car use.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Bristol could be a fine city but is ruined by the over-use of private cars. We were unable to let our children go out unattended because of the constant traffic. More funds are needed to establish more bus lanes and a subsidised bus service.

- Anonymous, Bristol

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Since moving to my present location we have lost anhourly bus serive between Hanley and Derby together wit a four times a day return local bus jounery between several villages to twop small town shopping centres. My nearest Bus Stop is three quarters of a mile away, andI am unable to walk. I used to drive to a carpark near the Bus Stuop to catch the Buus to Hanley, Stoke on Trent, or , the hourly train from Blythe Bridge to Derby or Stoke. Evening buses from Blythe Bidge do not exist after 1830hrs. I have given up driving my car, this now causes

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inconvenience to my Daughter and Granddaughters, as are interests are not always the same and they have their are not the especially agendas.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** For a little more mobility and freedom

- Anonymous, Draycott in the Moors

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** There is a public transport service here in Chesterfield which I use and I am grateful to the government for its support for the Buss Pass Scheme for retired people. But services continue to be cut back

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** For medical reasons I am now no longer able to drive. I was the only driver in my family. Public transport is my lifeline and the lifeline for the 90 year old that I care for and the two year old toddler whom I look after two days a weeks so that my daughter can work and contribute to the national economy.

- Janet, Chesterfield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to unclog our cities.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Good public transport, like in London, makes a city a more fun place to live.

- Keith, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the most economical and environmentally friendly form of transport. Far more efficient than cars.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** However comfortable my car is, travelling by public transport is the most convenient and efficient way of getting about a large town such as London. Plans to reduce Student and Freedom Passes are totally counterproductive.

- Peter, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to move forward with a greener, sustainable recovery and public transport needs to be part of that

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I about 70 and neither me or my husband, who was recently diagnosed as Partially Sighted, can only use Public Transport to travel anywhere.

- Shirley, Castle Douglas, Scotland

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it has a lower carbon footprint than private transport, and I believe causes less pollution and danger of accident per passenger mile than private transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am 70 years old and disabled and do not drive. I either travel by public transport or by taxi. Taxis are often held up by overcrowding of roads with private cars. I live in a poor area, Moss Side, Manchester, and am shocked at the huge cost of bus fares relative to petrol for private cars. The poorest can end up spending most on public transport. Once a friend came to visit, bringing younger children but not the 5-year-old. I immediately understood that the household budget would not run to paying bus fare for the 5-year-old. She would have liked to visit, but stayed at home.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is of crucial importance to all those in our country who do not have ready access to private transport, especially the elderly and children.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am 81 and do not have a car. Public transport is essential for my physical and mental health, especially keeping in touch

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with children and grand children.

- George, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** using cars all the time means that poorer people find it more difficult to travel, or they may stretch their budgets to afford a car and so have less money to spend on other important things. It also destroys our countryside - new road, fumes etc.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am 87 and no longer drive. I need a good bus and or train service to enable me to meet family and friends, do my shopping, get to the doctor etc. I used to cycle all the time but that is getting increasingly difficult and dangerous with the proliferation of cars and lorries.

- Pat, Croft, Leics

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** At the moment, non drivers like myself have to move away from our home towns because we have no way of getting out into the network.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a carer for my elderly mother, we live in a market town in Gloucestershire with 3 buses a day going in and out. If my mother has hospital appointments, it can take us 3 hours to make a journey on lots of different buses and that is to our local hospital, one way! It can take us a whole day to get home from one appointment. Our local bus service is not fit for purpose.

- Anonymous, Fairford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I can see no other way to get cars off the roads. When I speak to committed drivers, they all say that if the public transport system was more in line with people's needs then they wouldn't have to make as many journeys as they do for e.g. school and college drop-offs, local work, shopping. We need to make local trips free to use at the point of use because it is always cheaper to drive than take a bus or a train and that is madness. This could be subsidised through increase car tax for larger, carbon-fuelled vehicles. Some SUV drivers have told me that the tax they pay today is inconsequential when compared to the cost of buying and running the vehicle.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a cyclist and I want others to feel safe on the roads. One of the ways of doing this is to reduce the journeys made by cars.

- Sarah, Godalming

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Having good and reliable public transport is part of the drive to reduce carbon emissions and minimise climate change. There should be a policy for electrifying as much of the railway network as possible and also work towards more low emission buses and taxis. These should also be powered by electricity as much as possible.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a frequent user of public transport and the railways in particular. It is a more relaxing way of travelling compared with being stuck behind the wheel of a car in heavy traffic.

- Richard, Nailsea, North Somerset

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to reduce our carbon output and encourage the public to use public transport as an alternative to cars. We have too much traffic congestion on our roads and this needs to be addressed not only for the environment but also for the country's health and well-being.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a non driver and need public transport to get me about independently. Green public transport should be the way forward.

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- Anonymous, Kent

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a pensioner who has macular degeneration. I rely on public transport and my Freedom Pass to get to my monthly appointments at Moorfields. By attaching conditions to a subsidy to London Transport such as the removal of the Freedom Pass you will be directly affecting the quality of life of myself and other pensioners who need to attend hospital appointments. My granddaughter needs to take a pass to school - removal of free bus travel for schoolchildren would mean that my daughter has to cut down on food or heating. This pandemic has affected public finances but you have choices to make - do you penalise the poorest in society or do you ensure that companies ... pay appropriate taxes.

- Anonymous, Herne Bay

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Allot people rely on the use of bus services to shop etc as many in small villages and towns have had vast reductions in services

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a regular user of bus services and occasionally rail , but using the bus is a way of relaxation meeting people in nearby villages ,and shopping and having coffees and eats in other towns

- Mick, Brackley

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is the only way to save our environment.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am a teacher and want to spend as much time as possible focusing on the learning of the children and not commuting.

- Anonymous, Coventry

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It helps to combat climate change by having less cars on the road

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am ambulant disabled and public transport is important for me to go to the doctors and hospital visits

- Peter, Thornton heath

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital that we reduce the number of cars on our roads for environmental reasons eg emissions!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am an elderly driver, my immediate family are spread around the country and I love to visit them, I foresee that in the future I may be much more comfortable using public transport than driving to visit them !

Locally ,now,I use

buses whenever I can for environmental reasons!

- Barbara, Layer-De-La-Haye, Colchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Once the virus is over people will want to travel again and if we are to reduce toxic emissions that requires clean public transport: electric rail, light rail and tram.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am asthmatic and rely on public transport to get around since I gave up driving more than ten years ago.

- Michael, Bath

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We can't all drive or cycle & some of us can't even walk, we need public transport to live full working and social lives. The government needs to support public transport for all. Also need to end negativity about the safety of public transport use.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am disabled AND a full time

carer, I rely on local bus services to live a full, useful life. With proper precautions it is a very safe way to travel.

- Anonymous, Worcestershire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is important to the future, and to any sort of greener travel system. Cars may be safer in Covid-19 respects, but increasing car use & decreasing public transport use is just not sustainable.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am disabled myself, and can't drive, so I rely on reliable public transport in order to get anywhere I need to get to.

- Anonymous, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I don't have a car, and don't want one.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am disabled.

- Anonymous, Kendal

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** For millions of people in low paid jobs a car is unaffordable so public transport is the only option for travel to work. This is particularly true for rural communities where cuts to public transport have left many unable to access employment.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am in my 70s and without my own transport so I rely on public transport to access medical appointments, shops and social events.

- Jenny, Weymouth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the provision of good train and bus services helps to reduce the necessity for car (and air) journeys. This reduces the pollution that air and road traffic emit, and the use of fossil fuels. It also makes the roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians, so encourages more people to walk and cycle short distance when shopping or travelling to work. Covid-19 lockdowns, social distancing measures, and travel restrictions have drastically reduced passengers on all forms of transport. This has cut the revenue from fares, so all transport companies are experiencing financial problems. Despite support for staff who have had to be 'furloughed' many face losing their jobs. A fully integrated transport system would help to ensure that the U.K recovers from the pandemic as a.p. and also achieves the 'climate change' commitments of the Conservative Party 2019 Election Manifesto.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am in my late 70's, live on my own, do not own a car, and do not have any close relatives living within 40 miles. I live in a semi-rural location and rely on the local bus services to access many financial, retail and medical services. I also rely on local train services to travel to visit, and stay, with relatives and friends who live in other parts of the U.K. Also, for day (and longer ) trips, to attractions locally and in other areas of the U.K.

- Anonymous, Nottinghamshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it will be impossible to meet climate change obligations unless government action makes public transport reliable and affordable. Spending £27 billion on 4000 miles of new roads is a silly idea because new roads create new traffic, that's all. Electric cars are better than oil-powered cars, but there need to be fewer cars

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am living without a car

- Christopher, Banbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Many people rely on it every day. Not everyone can afford to own a car.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am not a very confident driver and would be very reluctant to make a long journey by car. My children are scattered across three countries of the UK and so I would rely on trains and buses to get me to their homes, (once the pandemic permits it) if my husband couldn't drive me. As he has problems with his eyesight we would probably need public transport more and more in the future.

- Helen, Newark, Notts

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's vital for most of the population and it is crucial to combat climate change and air pollution.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am old and have given up driving but one can work and read on trains

- Nigel, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the only, ONLY way so many of us can get about, for whatever purpose. It is essential to make sure it has proper support.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am one of those who has not driven for many years. Without trains I could never go anywhere. And I would much appreciate a decent rural bus service too.

- Cherry, Polegate, E Sussex

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is vital if tourism is to be viable in our area. Lanes at present get so busy with cars that drivers have even had fights on our single track roads. We need park and ride. During the first lockdown, cars stopped. It was such a joy to walk, run and cycle on the car-free lanes.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am over 70. I have brought up two children and helped look after 5 grandchildren without a car because cars are bad for people's health, for the environment and for the planet. I learned to drive and got a car in my fifties, because my work then involved helping vulnerable children living in isolated places. I again relied on public transport and walking when I retired 12 years ago. Public transport is a positive choice; I get to chat to my neighbours on the bus instead of being isolated in a tin box.

- Carol, St Dogmaels

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Not everyone can or wants to drive. It is also becoming too expensive to own a car for a lot of people.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am registered as partially sighted so the only independent way I have of getting around is by reliable and punctual public transport.

- Darren, Cambridgeshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's vital to those who cannot drive to get about

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am registered blind and cannot drive and since July 2018 when Northants council cut my local service I have become a recluse lonely and depressed with no way of getting out and about except by using a taxi which I can't afford. We in our area desperately need a local bus service

- Julie, Wellingborough

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is very much needed  
**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am too old to drive and do not want to be imprisoned in my house.

- Anonymous, Lewes

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** People need to get to and from work and also to town to do shopping

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I am unable to drive for medical reasons public transport is essential to get to work and into town for shopping. We need to support our local town centre shops but without public transport we can't do this

- Anonymous, Wellingborough

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It gets more people to a greater number of destinations more effectively and in a more environmentally friendly manner than private transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I can get around London very efficiently and know that I am minimising my environmental impact

- Anonymous, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** So many people in rural areas have no access to social, educational and recreational activities and events because there is either no public transport at all or it stops at 6 in the evening. Here in Shropshire there are no buses in the evenings or on a Sunday. People without cars, or unable to drive because of age, illness or disability rely on friends, neighbours or charity to reach appointments or visit relatives or friends. That's unacceptable. Loneliness is a big problem.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I can't get to appointments easily, without long walks and several buses. There is no bus service to where I need to be on a regular basis, the service was removed several years ago. There used to be 4 buses each way. Shropshire's buses have been decimated.

- Chris, Shropshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** The economy needs a green recovery.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cannot afford a car.

- Pamela, Edinburgh

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Living in a rural area and losing my employment locally ... Rural bus services, community rail (Tarka Line and Tamar Valley Line) are a lifeline to small towns to economic centres. Plymouth also needs the same assistance as Northern Powerhouse cities but is always neglected.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cannot afford to run a car with running costs and parking yet am restricted to school and pensioner shopping time transport and unable to work for businesses that think you can live off below minimum wage and still run a vehicle.

- Nicholas, Newton Abbott

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public Transport helps connect people with other places both for essential local travel needs and leisure trips. This helps both the economy by moving people around the country to spend, but also helps people's mental health by enabling them to travel to places they enjoy.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cannot drive so I would effectively be stuck in my immediate area if there is no public transport. It seems daft for me to learn to drive when we are meant to be having a green economy.

- Anonymous, Kidderminster

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is a vital service for many vulnerable people and helps with their mental health so saving monies on mental health services in the future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cannot drive so it is vital for me to go to work and to socialise and means I do not have to rely on asking people to take me to places.

- Sue, Crewe

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to ensure there is a viable alternative to the car. Climate change and carbon reduction are here to stay, as are unhealthy levels of air pollution - all exacerbated by car use.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cannot drive.

- Steve, Fordingbridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** The Government needs to be extremely mindful of:

the needs of

People who can't drive and do not have access to a car

People needing to get to work by low carbon forms of travel.

People's jobs, particularly the bus drivers and train and tram drivers, and people who work on ferry and hover craft.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I can't learn to drive or ride a bike due to cognitive impairment and I live in a rural village. I rely on buses and trains and lifts from my mother who I live with to get around to work or for leisure.

- Anonymous, Winchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is crucial to tackling Climate Change, obtaining good air quality and improving our environment and for the wellbeing of our population that we have a safe, efficient and inexpensive public transport system, that runs alongside easy ways to cycle and walk.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I care about people and the environment

- Kit, Abergavenny

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it helps reduce traffic, keeping the roads clearer for emergency vehicles people who have no option but to drive.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I choose not to drive on economic, environmental, health and safety grounds. Without public transport I'd need a car to get around and that would add to the congestion and pollution in my city and community.

- Anonymous

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need more railways that can support towns that were once part of the system that Beeching axed in the sixties. particularly where there are still tracks that can be used as in the case where I live, When your party won the last general election Boris Johnson said that every body should have a railway station within walking distance.

With the building programme at full throttle in our town we will have an extra 400 people added to the population and more cars on our roads which are only B roads we need to have a rail link and can if you add the encouragement please listen!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I could get to hospital much quicker than by bus and to London when ever I want to, Also there are many students that would take advantage of a good train service plus every one who lives in this rural area would benefit.

- James, Leiston, Suffolk

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** As a pensioner I need the

local buses and trains to get around, but services are being cut on both these modes of transport just at a time when many new houses are being built in this area.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I could give up running a car if services were more frequent and served more places from here.

- Martin, Stamford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Once it's gone, it's gone...

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cycle - that get's me the last 5 miles. Public transport gets me the first 15-100+ miles.

- Simon, Bradford on Avon

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the best way to improve air quality and combat climate change.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I cycle regularly and want to see fewer private vehicles on the roads.

- Clive, Bristol

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Bus services provide the only means of transport for a large percentage of the population. Without them so many people would lose independence, at huge cost to society. Buses also offer a green alternative to the car, especially in urban areas without metro systems. Yet the precarious funding of bus services means that they are vulnerable to sudden withdrawal, causing immense hardship to those whose daily lives depend on them - and driving more cars onto the road, increasing congestion and damaging the environment. We desperately need action to protect and improve bus services, integrating them fully with rail and ensuring affordable fares to attract greater use - which will help to reduce costs. There needs to be a minimum standard of public transport access set for communities, eg based on their size.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive and I need the bus to get to work, carry out my responsibilities as a carer, do my shopping and see my friends. For longer journeys I use the rail network. I rely totally on public transport for all my journeys and chose where I live based on access to regular bus services.

- Richard, Brighton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need an integrated and sustainable public transport system

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive and my family and friends live all over the country, in order to travel to see them I need a convenient and cost effective intergrated public transport system. Walking and cycling are all very well but are no good if you cannot use either of them !!

- Anonymous, Kettering

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is vital for many people who have no recourse to a car, enabling them to access essential services and facilities and to engage in leisure activities. Good provision of public transport is a vital factor in helping to reduce car use and to further a greener future and combat climate change.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive and so public transport is vital to me, enabling me to visit places and to access the countryside. Walking in the countryside is extremely important to my mental well-being, but without public transport I would be very limited in where I could walk.

- Anonymous, Hove

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport needs support more than ever before, to protect and renew it for the future.

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**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive nor own a car.

- Vatche, Croydon

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We cannot move towards a green economy without a fully functioning public transport infrastructure. The levels of pollution on our roads are horrendous, as an asthmatic, I have to avoid roads at busy times or suffer a flare up. The current pollution levels should not be acceptable.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive so I have had to rely on public transport often during my life.

- Anonymous, Loughborough

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the only way for many to get out and about.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive, and I live in a rural part of the UK. If there were no buses, I wouldn't be able to get anywhere further afield.

- Anonymous, Sutton Bridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS VITAL IN TACKLING BOTH CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR POLLUTION. IT IS FINE SUPPORTING WALKING AND CYCLING BUT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF JOURNEYS CANNOT BE WALKED OR CYCLED. THIS MAY BE BECAUSE OF THE LENGTH OF JOURNEY OR BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE'S MIGHT NOT HELP THEM WALK OR CYCLE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE SOME MORE ENCOURAGEMENT IN USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT AS A LEISURE FORM OF TRANSPORT, NOT JUST FOR THE DAILY COMMUTE.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I DO NOT DRIVE, BUT FROM A LESS SELFISH POINT OF VIEW IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT MORE PEOPLE USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR LONGER JOURNEYS TO NEGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND TO TACKLE AIR POLLUTION IN OUR TOWNS AND CITIES.

- COLIN, LINCOLNSHIRE

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It provides an essential means of transport for many who do not run a car or cannot drive for whatever reason; it is much kinder on the environment; in cities there is no room for cars for all; and over the last few months of the pandemic it has been very hard hit ( though the governemnt has helped it in this period).

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not drive; I try to reduce my carbon footprint as much as possible and there are times I need to get to other places as well as going on leisure trips.

- John, Taunton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** To tackle climate change, and stop expanding the road network we must increasingly move to public transport

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car

- Ben

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we need a low carbon future which gives the UK safe, clean and reliable public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car and rely on public transport to get around with my children. I am passionate about a clean environment and the need for a government who is prepered to deliver this.

- Ruth, Preesall, Poulton-le-Fylde

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it will be critically important

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to a sustainable future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car and rely on public transport to get to work and for leisure activities.

- Mary, Brighton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Many people are stuck at home and unable to visit family and friends. Public transport is a lifeline. Many people do not have cars (37%) in my city of Brighton and Hove; public transport is essential

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car and use public transport when I cannot walk or cycle

- Anonymous

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it makes long-term economic and environmental sense. Good public transport drives regeneration and growth in a sustainable fashion and is a much better investment than building more roads.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car and while I cycle for longer journeys, like millions, I depend on high quality, affordable public transport.

- David, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** if we want a healthy future we must invest in healthy transport. Now is the time to get off big schemes such as HS2 and build local structures.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car, and I do not want one. However, I do need public transport. My village has a bus, which must be kept in action for the residents, not for profit.

- Anonymous, Hurstpierpoint

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** 1. It is energy efficient

2. It is an effective way of getting large numbers of people around

2. It is clean (much less polluting than cars)

3. It unclogs the streets

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not have a car, by choice. I travel by train, and sometimes by bus.

- James, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We have a climate emergency and investment in public transport can help us to de-carbonise faster and reach our targets for emissions.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not own a car, nor do I wish to own a car.

- Nigel, BRIGHTON

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the only way this country can meet its commitments to reduce greenhouse gases and improve air quality in our towns and cities is to shift people out of private cars and aircraft and onto trains and buses.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not want to add to greenhouse gases by driving into the City Centre, but the bus services in the evening are so poor that I have to drive if we go to the theatre or out for a meal. I also do not want to have to drive to see our daughter in North-West Wales, but the train service is so slow and infrequent that driving is the only practicable option.

- Anonymous, Derby

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It will help to limit climate change, which is desperately needed. Also public transport needs to be electric & charged

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using renewable energy. Then people will use it more, knowing they are helping to reduce carbon emissions.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I do not want to use my car as much as I do, even though it is electric.

- Val, Wirral

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** At a certain age we are encouraged not to drive. If as we do, you live in a country district it is essential to have a decent public transport service.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't drive and never have. My husband had to give up driving after a fall causing a subdural haemorrhage at age 83. We live in a country district and totally rely on buses. There are no buses to our village after 5.30pm. Youngsters in our village cannot socialise unless the parental taxi is at their service

- V, Isle of Wight

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is a vital lifeline for those of us who don't own a vehicle.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't own a car or have a driving license, so I need to use public transport to get anywhere that isn't within walking distance. If public transport isn't given the support it needs, more people like me could be left stranded when the world starts to return to normal again.

- Niki, Lancaster

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** for many it is the only way they can get around, visit shops, their GP and hospital

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't own a car, I need to have regular blood tests because I am a double kidney transplant patient and the bus is the only way I can get to my local hospital for these tests.

- Iain, St Albans

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is better for the environment. Communities are not isolated if they have public transport. Transporting freight by train rather than large lorries makes for a safer environment.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't drive & couldn't afford a car anyway. I cycle & walk as much as possible but need public transport for longer distances.

- Diana, Shrewsbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** A greener future depends on people being able to get around without having to rely on cars

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't drive and am dependent on public transport for work and all other activities that contribute to the economy or maintain my health and wellbeing. I live in London where currently it's pretty comprehensive and affordable - I can never live anywhere that this is not the case. I think London should do even better and the rest of the country should be brought up to the same standard, especially rural areas which often have nearly no dependable services.

- Anonymous, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the most efficient and environmentally friendly way of travelling.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't drive and don't own a car. It is essential for longer journeys where I can't walk or cycle.

- Jeremy, Norwich

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't drive, and the removal of bus or rail services would seriously affect my social mobility.

- Anonymous, Eastbourne

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's vital to so many people, especially those who live in out-of-the-way places. / It's very much greener than cars (especially the gas-guzzling kind -- unbelievably popular these days). / It's a shared resource: one that's for all.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't drive. My partner has a small, energy-efficient car, which we use for shopping and occasional outings and holidays. / I cycle, walk and take the bus or train. / I have a green lifestyle. / I support environmentally-friendly initiatives. / I use only ecologically sound products in my home and garden. / I love the countryside. / I campaign against new roads and private/commercial motor traffic. / I value nature and wildlife above all other things.

- Claire, York

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's the cleanest and greenest way for us to go about our business

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't have a car and it's too far to cycle to places like the supermarket and the hospital. I can get by bus but don't know how I'd manage if services reduced. I can't afford taxis.

- Anonymous, Woodbridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need a greener and healthier future in order to people to live happier and more productive lives. We cannot afford losing what we had before the coronavirus pandemic, and what we actually need is something better, more available and more joined-up than what had before

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't have a car and no desire to build my life around having one. But I realise I'm privileged in being healthy, able-bodied and independent-minded enough to be able to make choices that support my aims, not everybody can.

- Anonymous, Reading

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It underpins everything, employment, health care, education, care giving, rural public transport is poor. Please re-open Chard Junction railway station.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't have any so am isolated, education poor level playing field not here

- Anonymous, Tatworth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential to support public transport and make it easier and safer for people to start using it again, if we are to keep more cars off the roads, and keep to our vital CO2 reduction commitments. Some or most of the £27 Billion set aside for road building must be diverted to public transport instead.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't want to add to the nation's CO2 emissions, and I don't want to add to the congestion on our overcrowded city streets.

- Guy, Edinburgh

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the climate emergency is an emergency, and we need to get people out of their cars onto public transport, or active travel as soon as possible.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I don't want to use the car,

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even though it is electric. Public transport makes much more sense. Once prices are lowered, and it is reliable, people will use public transport.

- Lorrie, Whaley Bridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's vital for the nation as a whole. Not only from an environmental prospective but also from a happiness and wellbeing point of view. A very good and extensive public transport system (especially rail) means a much better quality of life for everyone. Most people would much rather travel on a train than be sat in a nice long traffic jam.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I enjoy travelling by rail much more than driving on our ever worsening roads. It also brings happiness to everyone. It makes my day to see other people happy. When using public transport it's also much easier to socialise with others.

- Matthew, Basingstoke

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we need cleaner air. Manchester has already got electric buses.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I fear for the future if emissions are not brought down soon.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need alternatives to cars to get around. They cause congestion and poor air quality. Some people find that they have to own an expensive car with monthly payments because they have no alternative - this is likely to get worse as the economic consequences of covid19 bite. Public transport is pay as you go - so people only need pay when they need it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I find driving and parking stressful.

- Anonymous, Todmorden

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** With an ageing population and many young people on very low incomes, a viable public transport system is essential to their freedom to get about without constantly ordering taxis for every journey. Public transport is democratic, encourages social inclusion and social mobility - everyone can use it. More road building is undemocratic because it encourages more car usage and this is socially exclusive. The £27 billions for roads in last October's spending proposals must be transferred to keeping open a viable public transport system. The only money for roads should be for maintenance, and improved management of the existing network. If Highways England are still basing new road proposals on Vehicles Per Day figures, then this is outrageous, because it takes no account of those car journeys which are made under duress - eg: because the driver's job has been moved from a town centre public transport accessible site to a green fields business park, impossible for public transport to serve.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I find it intolerable to drive on main roads for any distance partly because of the large number of lorries on the roads ... and partly because lane markings are not repainted often enough, so it's possible to get lost at a complicated junction if you can't make out the lane directions. I drive only on local trips; anything longer is by bus and/or train.

- Peter, Altrincham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is essential that private car use decreases if we are to lower the UK's carbon footprint to save the planet, and also lower air pollution in towns to save lives,

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I gave up car ownership/trying to pass the driving test when my husband, and being now in my 80s and getting wobbly on

my bike, I depend on public transport to get around - particularly to meetings and day conferences. Railways, if electrified, are a green mode of transport, and adapt specially well to social distancing. To attract passengers back, trains need to be regular, punctual and comfortable so rail should take priority for funds rather than roadbuilding.

- Patricia, Oxfordshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential to reduce traffic and encourage the public to use an effective transport system. This will reduce congestion, pollution and greenhouse gases. With the current social distancing measures bus companies will be unviable without government support.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I gave up my car several years ago for environmental reasons. I have a bike but the roads in Sheffield are generally unsafe for cyclists.

- Maureen, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Sooner, rather than later, we need to get back to normal or our economy is finished. Because of all the housebuilding, transport is only going to get worse. We need public transport as part of an integrated transport policy. Cities that are as car-free as possible are better to visit or work in.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I hate driving if I have to. I would love to visit London more often, for example, but the fares are eye-wateringly expensive.

- Steven, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's essential for people who are unable to drive, and it's better for the environment than private transport. It's also more sociable than people being isolated in private cars.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have a brain tumour and have had to surrender my driving licence.

- Maggie, W Yorks

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is very important for those who live in more rural areas. Everyone seems to forget just how many people in the UK DO NOT have access to a car and yet our country seems to be so dominated by cars and road building.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have a car, but I want more options to be able to travel by public transport. I have access to a local train station, but the service is hourly, it stops earlier on a Saturday evening than during the week and there is no service until mid-day on a Sunday which makes it a very restricted option. Likewise bus services are infrequent and are often reduced or cut altogether.

- Anonymous, Stamford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is vital to the community and the country. It allows people access to travel, particularly those living in rural or remote areas or who don't have access to a motor vehicle. It also reduces the reliance on private vehicles which is beneficial for the environment. I am a supporter of public transport and strongly believe it needs investment for the future. The current situation with Covid-19 and subsequent reduced travel should not detract from the fact that the public transport infrastructure needs to be renewed and maintained for the future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have a local hopper bus service that serves my community. It is a vital and popular route used by many and is of particular benefit to the elderly. Before Covid-19 changed my circumstances to having to work from home I used this bus every day to travel to and from work, along with many other workers. I felt very strongly that I wanted to support this bus route, which I recognise we are

very fortunate to have, and avoid unnecessary car use. This will be the same for many people around the country and so I would urge and ask that public transport and its future be protected.

- Anonymous, Taunton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** with the gradual decrease in bus and train services to non-urban areas it is accelerating the decline of rural communities forcing younger people seeking education and employment opportunities to migrate towards metropolitan areas in order to avail themselves of such facilities whilst at the same time denying rural businesses of potential sales to visitors who cannot visit such communities due to the lack of transport - not everyone has access to a motor vehicle. .

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have a visual impairment which prohibits me from holding a driving licence which necessitates me using public transport in order to travel around the country. In addition, I live on my own so do not have a partner who could possibly drive thus allowing me regular access to a motor vehicle.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We know that all forms of public transport, buses, trams and trains will play a vital role in a green recovery as well as a fair, healthy, sustainable future. They are essential to cutting carbon emissions and air pollution, as well as making sure that everyone can maximise opportunities and lead full and fulfilling lives. Public transport needs support more than ever before, to protect and make it fit for the future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have always been committed to using public transport as much as possible and my car as little as possible. I am now an active 82 and, as I grow older, I depend on public transport to maintain my independence even more.

- Linda, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** not everyone has a car or is able to drive, so public transport is vital and it needs to be widespread. An idea that occurs to me is that all public transport should be free to use. This would have one advantage and one possible benefit. The advantage is that if it is not necessary to collect fares, the cost of collecting them will disappear. The possible benefit is that if public transport is free, it would be more advantageous for people not to use cars unless they live where public transport is not available. This has the knock-on effect of reducing pollution and reducing expenditure on roads. Cross Solent ferries should also be public transport as they are the lifeline for the Isle of Wight.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have an autistic niece who is not able to drive and has to go everywhere by bus or train. The Island Line from Shanklin (Isle of Wight) to Ryde is marvellous to go across to the mainland and I often use it.(except during Covid-19). If I am not in a hurry, I prefer to use bus services instead of the car.

- John, Shanklin, Isle of Wight

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Many people in rural UK are left without an adequate transport network. It's imperative that we now focus on inclusivity for these areas. Creating an expanded rail network would go a long way to improving many rural peoples lives; access to work and education, shops and entertainment. Whilst also providing a socioeconomic boost to their area. The Scottish Borders rail project has been a great example of how this can work, and still has more potential when taken through to Carlisle. This is a great example of a 5 star project, and takes many cars off the road, helping the environment.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have been waiting to be connected since the Beeching cuts, and 2.5 hours to travel 50 miles on a bus just don't work

in the 21st century.

- Stuart, Hawick

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** A good, reliable public service network is the underpinning that can mean people don't automatically use a car 'because there isn't a bus for hours/ days' or 'I might get there and not be able to get back if they cancel the service'.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have developed a physical disability that means I struggle to drive. I can't turn my head or shoulders without pain. Yet without reliable and frequent public transport, I am tempted to have to drive, even if it would be unsafe for me to do so.

- Anonymous, Chichester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport offers the best hope of reaching zero carbon by 2030.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have eschewed the privileges of car ownership. I live in a village and, whilst Shanks' pony and a bicycle can take me so far, I need public transport for longer journeys.

- Ken, Hemsby

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** especially in towns and cities, but also in the rural area in which I live, buses are the backbone of social interaction, getting to school and work; and they are also (electric buses and hydrogen buses in particular) a major part of saving our planet from massive and catastrophic climate change. Buses need community support from local and national government, because the enormous promotion of private cars over many years, both by government and large private corporations.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have family around the country, and I can use the train rather than my car to travel to visit them - again, for climate change reasons.

- Andrew, St Just, Penzance

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** A decent service keeps traffic levels down and hence pollution levels. It should be available to all in all areas, rural especially.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have limited mobility don't want to have to use my car unless absolutely necessary.

- Anonymous, Amesbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** our roads are congested and the pollution is unacceptable.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have no car and cycling is too dangerous and unhealthy on polluted roads.

- Ray, Benson

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is the network that holds society together. It reduces the need for environmentally damaging fossil fuel.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have no car and do not wish to add to the number of vehicles on the road, though I still need to get from place to place beyond my walking range.

- Sue, Bristol

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** public transport is vital to get people out of polluting cars, it is a crucial green solution to our transport needs.

*The comments in this document were written by members of the public and are not necessarily the views of Campaign for Better Transport*

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have no car for environmental reasons and rely on public transport for all my transport needs.

- Pippa, Swansea

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** This Govt claims to work for a green economy - improving public transport needs to improve and be affordable to encourage people to reduce car use and reduce pollution

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have no car so depend on public transport for local journeys as well as when I need to travel to airports etc

- Lance, Truro

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is critical we decarbonise at speed and scale.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have no car.

- Susan, Bournemouth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We desperately need to reduce the number of cars and lorries on the road to reduce emissions and improve our air quality for the sake of the planet. We need to ban cars from city centres and make public transport cheap, plentiful and reliable.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have no car. I am committed to using public transport for longer journeys and walking and cycling for shorter journeys. Public transport is so obviously the answer for most transport needs, if only it were affordable and reliable.

- Anthony, Liverpool

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it not only makes our lives cleaner and greener, it makes us healthier by having to walk and carry items instead of relying on our cars to do the work.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have spent 60 years promoting good public transport and we were starting to get it right before Covid. All that will be lost unless we focus on developing a truly integrated and green form of travel, not reliant on cars.

- Paul, North Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Traffic - mainly cars, and especially on the school-runs has probably tripled in the 20 years of our inhabiting a suburban road 500 yards from open countryside. The noise with the windows open is awful and the windowsills and doorsteps are covered with dust - containing dust from tyre wear, break-up of the surface and combustion particulates and goodness knows what else.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have to start work at 07.20 3 miles from home. There is no bus on the nearest route to get me there in time - and I am not getting any younger. There is no car-park at the office and town parking would cost me about £10 per day.

- Martin, Cheltenham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is an essential part of everyday life that supports health by enabling people to walk and cycle more or travel with less stress, supports education by enabling students to travel to school or college, jobs by bringing people closer in time to their place of work, the economy by enabling people to attend theatres, exhibitions, shopping centres, and much much more.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I have used rail to reach customers and suppliers to my business not only all over the UK, but also in Europe via the tunnel and further away with trains to airports.



- Graham, Derby

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We in rural Suffolk are completely stranded without a car. I am 77 and do not have a car or driving licence. The only way I can reach Woodbridge, 8 miles away, is via the Link bus. To use this, you have to fit in with everyone else's plans and times and this can mean a lengthy ride round our peninsula before starting the journey to the town. All this finishes at 5 p.m.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I haven't got any.

- Daphne, Hollesley, near Woodbridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** You shouldn't waste this opportunity to plan for and safeguard a sustainable transport future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a rural area and know at first hand how vital. A reliable and affordable bus service is for community and personal well-being.

- John, Wirksworth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is socially and environmentally friendly, essential to a green recovery and to a sustainable future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I like to support socially and environmental means of travel and I enjoy putting travelling time to good use in reading and thinking.

- Robert, Much Wenlock

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Not everyone, especially those over 60 years of age, have a car. We need to use buses and trains to get around. At present, I have noticed there are sometimes long queues for buses, especially in the present COVID-19 climate. Buses only allow so many folk aboard.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I like to use buses and trains, as by doing so, it is helping the environment. There is far less pollution if I do not use a car! They are environmentally friendly forms of transport and do not raise one's blood pressure.

- Alistair, St Albans

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is vital to the functioning of our cities and countryside, to the healthy integration of communities and to family life. The economic effects of not being able to access affordable public transport will be catastrophic and will destroy vital aspects of our lives and our well-being. Public transport is the life blood of the city and should be much more readily available in the countryside. It also can save a lot of toxic emissions.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live alone and rely on contact with my family to keep me sane and healthy. I dread the loss of 'free' travel in London as it will make access to my family very expensive at a time when I have almost no interest coming in from the hard earned savings on which I depend.

- Laura, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to have a transport system which is efficient and affordable so that more people will use it instead of filling the roads with so many cars, often holding only the driver, polluting the atmosphere. The public transport also has to be greener and very soon!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a rural area and, whilst at the moment I drive, I am disabled and have the beginnings of Macular Degeneration, so at some time I will have to give up driving. I don't want to have to give up living as well because the lack of regular and affordable public transport prevents me from going out.

- Catherine, Cornwall

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is environmentally friendly; it allows those without their own transport to meet family and friends, access facilities and services, and go on holiday. It offers (or should offer) a faster and cheaper alternative to the car for many activities. People at either end of the age spectrum depend on it; students and tourists use it; people with disabilities often need it. It is (or would be if invested in properly) much more efficient.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a rural area in Wales - the bus service is only two-hourly and the train station was closed under Beeching - and yet, the railway still runs through! All of us villagers would use the bus and train more if we could. Further, if I want to visit family and friends in England (in normal times of course) a) it costs an arm and a leg and b) the rail system is disgracefully inadequate (and still using old diesels). Instead of building this HS2 (an environmental, hubristic, shameful folly), invest in reopening lines and stations, integrating buses and trains; and upgrading the northern network to include full electrification of the entire network (like the Dutch do) - I was appalled when I moved here how shabby and underfunded the northern half of England's railway structure is. Almost every other European country has a much better system than ours!

- Anonymous, Powys

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** An efficient, well resourced and low energy public transport system is a critical part of the UK's climate action plan if we are to reduce CO2 emissions from the transport sector which is currently a major contributor to our green house gasses. It is therefore vital that we use this time and the next 5 years to plan, finance and implement a major switch from privately owned cars to shared transport modes.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a rural area where I will soon have to rely on public transport for getting about and current bus and train services need a major upgrade.

- David, Ludlow

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It remains a key support for low paid workers and commuters to be able to access their work and for the elderly to attend important appointments and for shopping etc.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a rural areas and need to be connected to friends and family.

- Roy, Cambridgeshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** For some people public transport is their only means of getting to work, or simply getting out of the house to do shopping or meeting other people. Some people can't afford to buy a car or perhaps they can't drive for some reason.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a small town in North Yorkshire. Our bus service is usually every hour but since COVID the service is now every two hours, understandably. I don't drive because at the moment we can't afford two cars and my husband needs his car, he works shifts. Under normal circumstances, before COVID, I relied on the bus to travel to Leeds. There are a lot of older people in my community who rely on our bus service to travel towards Leeds or Selby. For some, the bus journey is their daily trip out to the shops, markets or cafes especially if they live on their own. The biggest problem we have on our route is very old buses that have occasionally broken down, making people late for work or appointments, I have experienced this on many occasions over the years and it can be distressing. The combination of a poor bus service and old buses is not good or reassuring for people, especially when fares increase regularly. The older buses are poorly maintained. On one occasion I had to stay on the bus, it had broken down in hot weather and we had to wait for forty minutes for an engineer to arrive. I

appreciate that buses can break down but when it happens frequently it is frustrating. I see buses outside of our area, closer to Leeds that are newer and run more frequently. I believe that all areas should be entitled to new, efficient transport with a regular service. For some people their public transport is a lifeline. If car drivers are to be discouraged from driving into towns and cities it is crucial that an affordable efficient transport service is available for all. As you will be aware, my county of North Yorkshire is predominately rural, I think all rural communities should also have access to good public transport. I appreciate that in small communities demand might be low, but rural communities should have the option of public transport.

- Lorraine, North Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** ... It is vital to get some control over our manically crowded, polluting roads.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a small village with most employment opportunities in nearby towns and I have no personal transport.

- Andrea, Morecambe

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we need to move away from our dependence on the private car, polluting even when it's electric and hazardous to cyclists and pedestrians (and mobility scooter users)

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a village of 64 households with no bus service; the nearest (infrequent) ones are three-and-a-half miles away in each direction. Aged 78, I forsee a time soon when I will be unable to drive and my only option to stay socially active, visit family and friends and continue voluntary work would be to move house.

- Pat, Warwickshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport has always been the poor relation in this country, and yet for a greener future it is important that it is not only maintained but also improved so that it becomes a real option compared to private car use. As times are becoming harder for more and more people, and having a car becomes more of a luxury, it should have an increasingly greater role to play.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a village on the North Yorkshire Moors, am 74 and do not have a car. I, along with several others here, rely on our bus to be able to go to the doctor, dentist, optician, to shops, and for longer journeys to reach train stations and to be able to travel further for my voluntary work, helping asylum seekers, as well as to visit my children and grandchildren in Scotland and in the West country. At the moment our bus service has (understandably) been reduced, meaning we have to spend about five hours in the nearest town when we might only need to go to the optician. We already feel depressed and anxious because of the situation, but also extremely worried if the service never goes back to its former level, or... worse still.... if it is completely cut. Support to these vital rural connections is vitally important and I urge the Government to act urgently to give more support.

- Anonymous, N. Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** cars and lorries are polluting our atmosphere. We need a greener future if we are going to survive. We need more safe cycle ways not just in cities but in rural areas too. There are too few footpaths in the country and people have to walk on narrow country lanes. Please ensure that there are good bus services in rural areas, not just to enable them to get to large towns and cities but from village to village too. There needs to be an overall linked plan for transport that takes into account the needs all over the country and plans for footpaths and cycle ways as part of that plan.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in a village without a bus

service, apart from a school bus, which forces me to use my car. A recent survey in my village showed that people would definitely use a bus service if it was provided. The school bus service is insufficient for the number of children who need it and parents have to take their children to the nearest secondary schools eight miles away by car.

- Anonymous, Canterbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Mobility - around town, across the whole county, is part of our life; private transport has its place in this, but public transport - counterintuitively perhaps? - offers freedom, flexibility, sheer relaxation - and properly funded, coordinated, speed - in a way that private cars cannot begin to match.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in Birmingham, formerly London, and I need (bar Covid) to get places quickly and easily and without exhaustion for 1:1 work as a Franciscan brother. Trundling, at big cost (!), finding parking at the end of it: I feel sorry for most motorists in urban settings!

- Edmund, Birmingham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we cannot keep destroying our planet and all life on it by pumping CO2 into the atmosphere. Solar powered public transport is not difficult to install and would cost no more than ONE HS2 line without destroying the environment as it is currently

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live in the countryside and do not wish to keep polluting our air by being forced to use a car

- Marianne, Somerset

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** For the sake of everyone's health, car dependency should be reduced, and the consequent volume of motorised road traffic. This is consistently cited as one of the main deterrents to cycling and other active travel. Not all journeys are suitable for active travel, but reliable and frequent public transport can fill the gap for many of them.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live just outside a city where traffic levels have returned to pre-Covid levels despite reduced office working and economic activity. The council introduced temporary restrictions on car use in the city centre, but many have been withdrawn due to lack of suitable alternatives. It seems there is capital available for investing in electric buses, but only to replace diesels, not to innovate with initiatives such as city hoppers which could eliminate many of the short car journeys.

- Michael, Herefordshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It reduces CO2 emissions especially as now we have electric buses and should have only electric and hydrogen trains

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I live on the edge of Bradford and it would be foolish to drive a car into its centre. I catch the bus or train there, as I do to York, where our medieval forebears established a street pattern which is friendly to pedestrians and not cars.

- John, Bradford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** ...there are still too many reasons for people to use cars instead of buses and trains. Although now being facilitated in cities all over the country, cycling is not reducing car traffic, which continues to increase year on year. Traffic congestion and road safety being as big an issue for road users and pedestrians as pollution and the environmental impact is to society more widely. Moving to electric cars, whilst having some environmental benefits, doesn't address the questions of congestion and parking availability. We need more comfortable, convenient, easy to understand and accessible bus services, which present an attractive alternative to the car for many more people. The rising level of car use is not sustainable and whilst rail investment is

going in the right direction, better bus services are needed up and down the country to fill the gaps that rail cannot.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I need a practical alternative to using my car for many more journeys, in order to reduce my personal impact on the environment.

- Jerry, Exeter and London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** More of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions come from transport than anything else, so it's very urgent we move to electric vehicles, walking and cycling, and public transport; both for climate and for our air quality. Dirty air kills about 40,000 people in the UK in a normal year, according to The Lancet, and more in a year of COVID where respiratory problems are deadlier than usual. So we need to keep our bus and train system alive and ready to expand again.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I need good trains to get to work - in normal times at least.

- Ben, Egham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is the only green inclusive method of transport for many, With support and initiatives, more will be encouraged to use public transport reducing carbon footprint and well as making journeys easier, simpler and cheaper for all.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I no longer enjoy driving and want to use public transport wherever I can but find this is often impossible.

- Anonymous, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** in rural areas, people without cars are left marginalised unless there is public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I no longer have a driving licence yet I still need to get to places - for medical appointments, shopping, socialising, leisure. There are many people in my position. I'm fervently hoping that our bus service will be restored and improved post-Covid and that public transport everywhere will get the boost it needs - for our social and environmental wellbeing.

- Josephine, North Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** despite the reduced travel during Covid, we need public transport - especially buses, coaches, and railways - to provide the bulk of the transport systems, rather than private cars, to help meet environmental and sustainability objectives that the Government is committed to achieve.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I normally travel regularly by train and I don't have a car.

- Ken, Cardiff

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we all need to go out on our businesses, for work or leisure, and our country is too small to survive to so much individual transport. Public transport is so much better for the environment.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I particularly need public transport because I do not have a car and would be stuck in my little town if public transport does not improve.

- Sophie, Tewkesbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** All evidence has shown that COVID is merely a temporary blip in public transport usage, and that it will recover quickly after the pandemic is over. A starvation of investment will cause overcrowding and ultimately more people using the roads, which will result in more pollution, more climate

change, more traffic, and more deaths.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I practice what I preach and use it to get everywhere, not owning a car and not using private cars or taxis unless there is no reasonable alternative. But not only that, because I care about the future of the planet and of Britain's town and city environments.

- Murray, Basingstoke

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Using public transport rather than cars a) means less greenhouse gasses b) means less traffic on the roads. In my part of the country the expense of PT puts people off using it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I prefer not to do too much driving.

- Nicola, Lancaster

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** one of the best things any government can do in ensuring real reductions in CO2 is to invest in carbon neutral mass transportation, incentivising a modal shift from private vehicles - and the sooner that resolve is written into spending plans and policy commitments the better!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I recognise that the environmental impact of my local journeys by train is so much less than if I choose to make my car the default option every time. And I would make that choice even more often if public transport in a rural area was better funded - specifically, more frequent - & so a more attractive option on an everyday basis.

- Peter, Elmswell, Suffolk

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it has to be the key to addressing climate change and improving the quality of our air, as well as making our towns and cities much more attractive and safer places to live. Inter-city travel by train removes the blight of traffic noise and pollution in the countryside.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I rely on it on an almost daily basis and feel strongly we should all use cars only when there is absolutely no alternative.

- Anthony, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** If the UK is serious about climate change then investing in public transport to allow the modal shift from cars to buses, trams and trains is crucial.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I rely on it! I cannot drive, nor have I ever wanted to.

- Keith, Larbert

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is vital to a sustainable green recovery following the pandemic. If it is supported financially it will provide a reliable safe affordable rail transport. If the bus service is supported, they could reduce fares or even give free travel for under 30 yr olds. Public transport gives everyone a choice in the way they live their lives.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I rely on public transport. I have no car. I have relatives in Cambridge that I visit frequently. I have a bike and can walk locally but for longer journeys I use public transport.

- Anne, Worthing

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Like many other sectors, public transport cannot rely on user-income at the present time, and attitudes will take even longer to change than a solution to the virus. Public support is therefore needed for quite a long time to come. Failure to do so will be more expensive in the long term.

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**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I rely on what little public transport there is in this area for vital social and health visits, as well as for longer trips for holidays etc. Public transport is not good in this area, as many places cannot be reached at all.

- Stephen, Woodbridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Now, more than ever, we must reduce the amount of traffic polluting our country. Public transport has a vital role to play in a green recovery and a fair, healthy, sustainable future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I see far too many cars clogging up my street, with just one person inside - surely an affordable and reliable public transport system will help people make the transition from cars to busses, trams and trains.

- Helen, Bath

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the only way to cut carbon emissions. Every bus journey removed from a timetable could put as many as 70 extra cars on our already congested roads. People without cars get stranded more and more and does not help their mental state.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I sent my driving licence back on my 70th birthday and now rely on public transport for local journeys and enjoying my holidays in this country, thus supporting other industries especially hospitality.

- Robert, Crawley

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We are building a senior cohousing project outside of Lancaster. Our ethos is not use cars when we can use public transport. We want to live a sustainable lifestyle. However there is no public transport on Sundays, bank holidays, or evenings going to and from Lancaster. This is very discouraging as we would like to support the cinema, restaurants, and other facilities in the city. Many of us also use the train to visit relatives (when possible) in other cities. Please support public transport. We need it. Thank you.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I soon will be too old to commute by bicycle into Lancaster to do shopping and volunteer work. I want to keep going and public transport would help me to do this.

- Kathy, Carnforth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is the path to a sustainable future and the way forward to a green recovery.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I suffer from breathing issues and the city's air quality hugely affects my health.

- Aidan, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public Transport is one of the most efficient ways of moving people around the country. The space taken up by a bus, holding upwards of 30 people is only slightly more than a car, but - accounting for average car occupancies - can take almost as many cars off of the road as the bus load. The country has an incredible challenge of meeting Net-Zero emissions by 2050. With transport being the single largest sector, with increases and not decreases in emissions in recent years, high-quality Public Transport presents one of the most affordable and cleanest ways for people to continue to move whilst reducing their impact on the environment. Additionally, it provides a lifeline to those who are more vulnerable and unable to own/drive their own vehicles for a variety of different reasons. Public Transport is, therefore, key to ensuring accessibility to facilities for all.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I try to minimise use of a car as far as possible. I want to see fewer cars in my hometown and towns across the country,

with more space dedicated to ensuring that city, town and village centres are people-first places. Encouraging my small children to walk and cycle is a way to do this, but doing so on congested roads and narrow footpaths (with limited segregated cycleways) is a challenge. Having high-quality public transport to provide an alternative to private car use, which in turn requires less roadspace that can be dedicated to walking/cycling is a win-win for the environment, the quality of our urban spaces and personal fitness.

- Nik, Bath

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital for the economy and vital for so many people to get to work, school, college, hospital, for tourism and so on. It was cut to the quick during the ill-fated years of austerity. Don't fail it again.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use buses every day for my work. They are a lifeline, not only for people like me, but also the elderly, schoolchildren and people going to college and university. They are better for the environment than countless cars (and so much less stressful and cheaper than having to drive). Personally speaking, I like to breathe clean air, not polluted filth. How about you Chancellor?

- Tracy, North Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is one of the best ways to reduce our carbon emissions and also to level up the country.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it all the time as I don't have a car.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We managed to achieve clean air earlier this year which benefitted people with respiratory problems and it would be good to see if we can achieve that again, which we can only do if we take the cars off the road for which we need public transport. Trains and buses are safe and people should be encouraged to use them. They need some public investment to allow them to be affordable to everyone.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it all the time for work, leisure and hospital appointments. If it's not there, my activities are somewhat curtailed and this will have an impact on the economy.

- Ann, Crowle

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** public transport should be part of a plan to help keep this country moving forward in every sense of the word.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it for visiting my aged mother, she is 88. I also use public transport for hospital visits. I have no other transport.

- David, Crewe

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport needs vital expansion to widen route choices, reach unpopular AND popular areas to achieve mobility for people of all groups of society and probably more importantly all incomes. Therefore it needs to be AFFORDABLE. It is also the best way to avoid further environmental damage and to decrease toxic pollution.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it in conjunction with walking and cycling, mostly when distance prohibits these as primary choices and when time is a pressing issue.

- Anonymous, Salford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the poorest among us rely on them and if you really want to level up, cheaper, more reliable and more frequent public transport is the key to progress.



**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it most days and have stopped using a car because I'm fed up with the stress and the gridlock they create.

- Roy, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is vital for a vast majority of people and must be maintained, at this time especially for all those without a car

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it to avoid polluting the air as 40,000 people a year die from air pollution and we have only 9 years to halt the temperature rise from 1.5 degrees C

- Vicki, North Shields

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is efficient and much less polluting than our using cars. During the recent crisis it is clear how much pollution there has been because people are having to avoid public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it to get to my mother's and to visit friends. I really dislike having to use the car at the moment.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Some people do not own a car to get them around the area they live in.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it to go to the shops etc.

- Anonymous, Northfield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential for so many key workers. Also reduces pollution.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it where I can as much better for the environment.

- Anonymous, Papworth Everard

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it was already in a mess before the pandemic with over priced journeys and a bad infrastructure as soon as you leave a big city. This is because the operators have to make a profit and put that above everything else.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it! I do not drive for environmental reasons but have friends and family scattered locally as well as nationally and need public transport to be able to see them once it is safe to do so again. I also use it for work, where I have to travel around a large area, engaging with members of the public.

- Anonymous, Peterborough

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is vital for people who don't own a car; it is vital for our climate change strategy and it is vital for people whose jobs depend on it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use it.

- Richard, Abergavenny

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** If you make public transport free you would solve the problem of traffic congestion and air quality and make this country a better place. Also create more jobs.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use public transport to get around and have used it more since getting a freedom pass.

- Alex, LONDON

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** An efficient, economic and frequent public transport system would firstly hugely benefit the UK's climate and the world

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climate so helping the environment. It would mean less cars on our roads. If the fares were cheaper than more people could benefit from public transport and more people using the public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use public transport to travel into work, to shop at a weekend and to travel to entertainment in the evening.

- Anonymous, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we need to do everything we can to combat global heating and to bring public health to the highest level it can be. This has to mean cutting right down on air and private car travel and making best use of public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use public transport whenever and wherever possible and avoid using a car except when it's the only practicable method for that journey. I want humanity to survive and be custodians of the planet, not destroyers.

- Anne, Nottingham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is a major source of the Green jobs of the future. Transport infrastructure referred to above provides a low-carbon form of transport for workers, carers, care workers and families. It also supports many jobs in Britain's extensive bus and train manufacturing industry.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use rail, bus and tram for work and for visiting family. As an ESOL teacher and language book supplier, I have seen the success of public transport infrastructure as an effective form of mass transit in several of the world's great metropolises: London, Manchester, Prague, Seoul-Incheon and Kolkata.

- Shouvik, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is good for the environment, and can cut air pollution, reducing our need for more fossil fuels. Rail travel should be the number one option for longer, and some shorter, journeys, with appropriate social distancing of course.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use the bus to get supplies not available in my village and to visit specialist services such as opticians.

- David, Oxfordshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is important as a lifeline to many people. Its current fallow times are enforced by the Covid-19 crisis and are NOT an indication of a lack of interest. Public transport is a vital element of planet survival as an essential feature of a Green Recovery.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I use trains to visit family members, restrictions permitting, on a frequent basis ... my Senior Railcard is very keen to be used again.

- Anonymous, Chester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is cleaner and greener and I like the clean air that we experienced during the early stages of lockdown. If there were regular frequent and cheap public transport in all areas of the country the health incomes would be much improved.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I walk into town 1.5 miles and get the bus back using my bus pass if I have anything heavy to carry. This keeps me fit and out of the risk of diabetes etc and will save the NHS a lot more than the cost of providing decent public transport.

- Anonymous, Stroud

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Covid 19 will pass but the effect humans are having on the planet will only get worse unless we step up our efforts very fast. Getting people out of cars is key and providing reliable alternatives is the way to achieve that.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want a world fit for future generations to inhabit.

- Jackie, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Look at Switzerland - affordable, dependable. We must cut back on car usage

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to contribute to cleaner air quality by not using my car

- Ethna, Woodbridge, Suffolk

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It must be still available to us once we have a Covid 19 vaccine. HS2 should be discarded to make the money available.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to reduce carbon emissions.

- David, Halstead

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is essential for our public health and the health of our planet. We are in a obesity crisis, mental health problems are rising and we need access to quality active travel infrastructure across the Country, not just in urban areas. In rural communities we have no buses and no roads safe to cycle on. Please help us

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to reduce my carbon emissions

- Kelly, Mendip

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential to reduce the use of cars. Public transport also needs support in converting to being powered in a carbon neutral way, such as electricity or hydrogen

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to reduce my dependence on my car

- Anonymous, Oxford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It s better for the environment to transport as many people as possible in one vehicle and it reduces the need for cars and makes travel easier for all

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to reduce the use of cars and also I like to be able to relax and enjoy the scenery, and not worry about parking etc

- Anonymous

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** The cost of bus and train travel has gone up and the cost of running a car has gone down in the last 30 years. I am a car owner and enjoy using it. But we must use public transport more because the over use of cars is ruining our towns and countryside. It also results in higher taxation for roads and a higher oil import bill.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to reduce traffic in towns which takes up space and wrecks a citizens enjoyment of their own city. Everything becomes subservient to car movement.

- Rupert, Winchester

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**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Because we will come out of this pandemic and will need trains, buses, trams more than ever as the economy recovers. For goodness sake for once invest now for the future. This total rubbish of reviewing projects like the EWR link from Aylesbury to Milton Keynes. It may not stack up today. But it did before Covid and it will after. Put in a station at Calvert to link with HS2. Be bold for once. Stop saying No ! Invest invest invest. Then when we all come out of this we won't be years behind trying to catch up on paused projects. Time to actually put spades in the ground. Now. Do it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to use my car less. I want public transport to be affordable. Accessible. Easy to use. There for me when I need it. Like my car. Only better.

- Gareth, Eastbourne

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We should rely less on car travel (especially single car user) even with a move to electric cars. Public transport could offer value and opportunity to communities, both rural and urban, but only if it is planned specifically for the communities they serve. Additionally the return on investment value should not simply be in monetary terms but also consider public health and wellbeing, and with environmental and ecological improvement at the core of decision making. We don't need more and bigger roads we need better connected and available public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I want to use public transport but there is only 1 bus a week within 8-10 miles of where I live. Even when I get to the nearest town the buses are not scheduled for getting people to work or out for social events. The transport system where I am (Pembrokeshire) is focussed strongly on the tourist season, with secondary concern for those living and working within the county all year around.

- Anonymous, Pembroke

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is more efficient use of resources when people move compare so many single person car traffic that pollutes our towns and cities. Car traffic is one of the biggest causes for climate change.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I wish I could use a sleeper train when travelling to Berlin.

- Max, Winchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** private car use must be reduced if the UK is to stand any chance of mitigating the impact of climate change. Public transport and cycling need to increase by a huge margin. Despite the complications brought about by the current pandemic, public transport investment must be an integral part of a green recovery and a fair, healthy future. Without government support through the current crisis, recent positive steps in public transport infrastructure will be wasted.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I wish to use trains and buses a great deal in the future. I yearn for a greener future for my country. I know that the future is extremely bleak if government ignores and neglects public transport.

- Gillian

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Our economy and personal health and safety cannot sustain more cars - electric cars are not the way to go as they still cause congestion, still pollute through particulates from brakes and tyres and can cause serious injury and death.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I work in a very polluted city which is damaging the health of its residents - there is no direct public transport for me to travel the 14 miles there. I could drive but at the moment I'm cycling 3 miles to my nearest

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train station, taking my bike on the train and cycling 2.5 miles the other end. This is working great for me, with regular and affordable trains. This option should be available to everyone as it's much faster and less stressful than driving for me. One thing that does need improving is the capacity of trains for bikes - we need much more than the status quo and we also need bike rental at all stations.

- Anonymous, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Many people rely on public transport to travel to work, school, college and shopping. Many do not own a car or cannot drive for various reasons. In addition public transport has a vital role in reducing the destructive environmental impact that the motor car causes. This is a fact witnessed by the return of nature during the period of the first lockdown in March.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I work in the industry and appreciate how many people rely on public transport to conduct their daily affairs.

- Glynne, Colwyn Bay

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** School transport has been cut disconnecting a safe commute for Perton children attending Codsall High School. A network bus used to run allowing those under 3 miles safely commute to school and those accessing health and council services in Codsall. No child should risk death for an education.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I worry about my children crossing a 50pmph road and HGVs flouting weight and speed limits and mounting the pavement on their route to school. A network bus would solve the issues gmfor both the community and school children.

- Georgina, Perton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need a greener future and affordable public transport is a vital part of this

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I would much rather use public transport than have to drive but at the moment it is sadly not available - very short sighted

- Jane, Barnoldswick

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Quite simply, we cannot continue with the practice of encouraging driving as our first choice for travel. Even green vehicles create congestion. There isn't enough space in the country to build yet more and/or wider roads. We have a public transport infrastructure that is for the most part woefully under-utilised; whether that be from infrequent services or from high fares causing people to choose what is in many cases a much cheaper alternative - driving. There needs to be a major shift in this balance for without it, we will surely grind to a stop - and that has only a negative impact on lives and the economy.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I would wish to see it as a plausible alternative to getting in my car; and in most cases it simply isn't. Either the journey isn't practical or is so ridiculously expensive that I choose to drive - and in so doing, add to road congestion. Things have to happen in the right order, though. FIRST we need a coherent and integrated transport system combining all modes (other than the car) that is both cost effective at the point of use and easy, comfortable and efficient to actually use. Only AFTER that is in place can any policy (whether it be through simple publicity - unlikely to be very effective - or through revenue encouragement such as taxation on car use, etc.) be implemented. It's ineffective to make any move towards modal shift until the shift TO proposition is in place and working. I'd like to be active; I'd like to take my bike to the station, travel with it, and then use it at the far end. With often only two bike spaces on the train, the probability of being denied is high. I'd prefer to take the train to the airport. But typically there isn't room for either me or my luggage. And so on..... This will cost. It's money that

needs spending, and sooner rather than later.

- Nigel, South Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Communities, industry and the environment need you to. Communities need to be better connected to allow people wider options for education and employment. Employers need wider access to the labour market and to see a reduction in congestion. To state why the environment needs it is stating the obvious.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I'd like to envisage an hospitable environment for my descendants. I can't at the moment.

- Stacey, Swadlincote

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** otherwise, those without cars will lose out through being unable to reach many places developed only with car access in mind. Additionally, car use is becoming ever more difficult due to competition from other car users (congestion and difficulty with parking).

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** if a journey can be made easily and at reasonable cost without a car, people will be less likely to use one. This will benefit pedestrians and cyclists by making the roads less dangerous for them and reducing the need for detours via bridges and (often intimidating) underpasses. My journey to work involves encountering heavy traffic before 7am. If I go by car, the journey is slow and polluting. If I cycle, I am forced to use bridges and underpasses which lengthen the journey and I must still make right turns across busy junctions. There is not a good 'bus service from where I live to where I work.

- Damian, Gateshead

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is far less polluting and damaging than private cars. It doesn't damage pavements by parking on them, thus making trip hazards for pedestrians.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** I'm over 70 and don't drive - nor would I ever want to.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** when Marples / Beeching closed the branch lines, his naivety was in assuming people would travel by car to the nearest railhead, then continue by train. That isn't what happened. Once a journey begins by private car, it continues by private car.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** In Dundee I lived on a busy road where I could always hear traffic, I found this a constant low-level stress factor.

- Edward, Aberdeen

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's a key way we can reduce our carbon emissions and tackle congestion in our cities. It's also an essential service for people who - like me - don't own a car.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** In normal times it's the way I travel when I'm going too far to cycle - to travel to work, to visit family, for business meetings. Its really important to me that good services are still available after the pandemic.

- Susan, Exeter

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** our road system is not adequate for all the cars lorries and buses already using it

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** in North Cornwall we have no trains;and few buses and our roads here are inadequate and narrow and badly maintained

- Anonymous, Stratton, Cornwall

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I rely on buses for many journeys. A nasty fall over 3 years ago took away my confidence re driving so I only travel short distances in the car.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** In terms of what might be called inessential journeys I now rely on the bus to take me out into the National Park - something which I feel is important for my health and wellbeing.

- Anonymous, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It allows people to undertake essential journeys whilst minimising the impact on the environment

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It allows me to get to my place of work reliably and faster than other options

- Kevin, Betchworth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is the only realistic way in which we can cut our carbon footprint and 'build back better' for a greener, kinder Britain.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It allows me to minimise the impact of my journeys on the environment and on my neighbours - and expresses the fact that we belong to each other as a society, rather than just being a load of competing selfish individuals doing their own thing.

- Rob, Thames Ditton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is critical to our environmentally sustainable future

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It allows me to teach my kids that there are viable alternatives to depending on cars

- Anonymous, Beaconsfield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential for connecting people and places in a sustainable and socially equitable way.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It allows me to travel to work meetings well prepared for the day ahead and during my leisure time allows me to meet up with friends and family.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** If you support freight and passengers on railways like every other European country does this will create thousands of extra jobs ,make our roads safer reduce pollution and there will be fewer accidents

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It allows me to use my car less

- Patrick, Leicester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** A lot of elderly people like my self will be giving up driving in the near future and will look to having regular bus services to we can get shopping, doctor's visits etc done

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It connects me to necessary venues and will save me bothering neighbours. It keeps me independant longer.

- Philip, Bedfordshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** In rural areas people become dependent on their cars, but our roads are congested, especially in towns, and not everyone is able, or can afford, to drive a car. Providing good public transport that meets people's needs is possible but expensive. But it improves people's quality of life, and enables them to access education, employment and healthcare.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it enables me to leave my car at home and not add to road congestion and air pollution.

- Jasper, Devizes

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Society stands or falls depending on how we treat each other, particularly the more vulnerable members of our communities. The pandemic has driven us to be more isolated from each other, just at a time when we need to pull together. Having public transport is a vital element in fostering a sense of community rather than individualism. It helps the elderly, the disabled, those on lower incomes, those attending hospital for treatment that means they can't drive, and many more. It is crucial to our social functioning.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It gives me the freedom to get out and about when my health precludes me from driving. It gives me the means to stay in touch with people and to feel part of society when much of my time is spent quite isolated.

- Anonymous, Bristol

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** My mother is 80 and I have a long term illness that means we both qualify for free bus passes. Prior to the pandemic, we relied upon buses and trains to get us to shops, appointments, visits to friends and family etc. Since the lockdown in March however, we have not used public transport as we are both at high risk but we hope to be able to return to using public transport in the future. I urge you to give public transport all the help it needs to ride the storm so it is able to provide essential service to the many who rely on it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it gives me the means to get out and about otherwise I am isolated which is detrimental to my mental health as I suffer with anxiety and depression.

- Sonia, Bognor Regis

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** More than ever we need to plan for a civilised sustainable future, and an effective public transport system available to everybody is an important part of this. The Covid-19 pandemic has done incalculable damage to society and undermined environmental efforts, and public transport is essential in getting us back heading in the right direction. Ever greater use of private cars - even electric ones - is not going to make the world a better place, rather the opposite as we deplete the world's natural resources, increase inequality, and discourage physical activity and interaction in local communities.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It helps me minimise my environmental footprint and allows me to build fresh air and exercise into my routine.

- Adrian, Pontypool

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential to connect communities safely, making efficient use of road space and land in crowded towns and cities. Good public transport is a vital tool in helping minimise the use of polluting motor cars and meeting government's own environmental targets.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It helps me to get to the shops, to work, to meet family, and on holidays. It does this safely, economically and helps reduce my personal carbon footprint.

- Alistair, Workington

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is an essential facet of a good society.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it helps to reduce carbon emissions that the next generation have to deal with.

- Richard, Stockport

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**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We have to minimise the number of cars on the road. One of the few good effects of the lockdown was the reduction in air pollution. Good safe efficient public transport is essential to us all, to our health and to the sustainability of our cities and countryside

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It increases my mobility - when the pandemic restrictions are lifted we need a good nationalised system of transport which is planned for human need with the profitable sectors subsidising those that provide a service to rural and outlying areas.

- Hazel, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It would, on the face of it, make already richer people even richer.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It is a better solution to my transport needs. Better than getting in the way of much nicer cars than mine.

- Joe, Treorchy

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** driving is dangerous and stressful and not everyone can do it. And let's have less emphasis on high speed for the few and more on accessibility for all.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it is a sign of a civilised country that provision is made for everyone to get around in a way that is safe, clean and affordable.

- Peter, Wallsend

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital for the disabled, the elderly and those who never had the opportunity to learn how to drive.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It is a social form of travel; in the country people who regularly take the same bus or train know each other and enjoy a conversation. It is better for well-being than travelling alone.

- Anonymous

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public Transport is the lifeline that bonds our towns, cities - and the four nations of the United Kingdom - together. Public Transport is also essential in reducing pollution, improving public health and maintaining a 'Better Britain' for all of us, our children and their children.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It is a sustainable way of travelling to / from my nearest city (29 miles distant) with a journey time of 20 minutes each way.

- Michael, Dunbar

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is the most climate friendly and economic way to move people (other than walking and bikes, get the cars off the road, make room for bikes)

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it is cost effective and climate friendly

- Maegaret, Devizes

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is good for the environment, also we need more tramways and light rail

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It is Green and is more efficient than the motorcar,

- Denis, Hanwell, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** regardless of covid-19 we

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still need to reduce carbon emissions from transport, by encouraging a switch from car use to public transport. Electric cars are not the solution because they will still create traffic and congestion - which make walking and cycling more dangerous and so less attractive - and because of the resources used to create their batteries.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it is how I get around! I want to be able to go about my life in the most sustainable way possible.

- David, Derby

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the Government's own net zero by 2050 targets will not be met without greater uptake of public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it is how I get to work and indeed to anywhere beyond walking distance.

- Ian, Ipswich

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** As an Epileptic I have NEVER been able to drive. UK government AGREED with the British Epileptic Association that Epileptics SHOULD get freedom passes in London. WHAT compensation can we have instead?

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It is my ONLY form of Transport.

- Mark, Osterley

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** In London we need our public transport and we need our bridges open, particularly for pedestrians!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it is the only way I can get to work in London!

- Anonymous, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** With the growing threat of damage to society caused by climate change and the increase of vehicle-induced pollution affecting our health, promoting the use of public transport is more important than ever. The denigration of public transport by public figures has caused great damage and this needs correcting now!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It is the socially responsible way to travel when it is available.

- John, Doncaster

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** A progressive, modern, clean and fair economy depends on it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It keeps my city and the air that my kids breathe cleaner.

- Anonymous, Sheffield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** When we are continually being divided we need ways of being and sharing together. Journeying and travelling with others makes social, as well as economic and environmental, sense...

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It reduces my travel footprint and helps me to participate in community life

- Martyn, Exeter

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it's a vital for millions of people to get about and have access to better work opportunities. It also maintains independence for millions more who aren't able to drive (or can't afford to).

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** it reduces traffic on our roads

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creating a better environment for people to walk, run, cycle and keeps the air clean for our children.

- Anonymous, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** COVID May be transitory but the challenges of climate change are not.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It reflects who we are as a society and what we want to be - we cannot decarbonise our economy without decarbonising transport and we can't decarbonise transport without investment in public transport

- Richard, Glasgow

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's the only way we can achieve a green economy. There should be routes going into rural areas and you should be able to travel across the country without having to go to a major hub and then come out again. You should also be able to travel the length of the country without going through London. And there should be interchanges where you can get clean regular and reasonably priced buses. The young under 30 and elderly should have free/heavily subsidised travel

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It's my only way into work in London. I live in a town centre and care about pollution. There is too much congestion and we should be able to travel around the town centre at a reasonable cost

- Anonymous, Tunbridge Wells

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** People in more rural areas are often cut off and left without transport, and they have often lived in those areas for all of their lives and are not in a position to move to a more accessible area, and where public transport in 'better' days was always a service that was reliable. It is a good way to reduce traffic, on any road.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It saves me from having to drive when it is not necessary, and gives me an alternative.

- Wendy, Hayle

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need good transport to help the environment and look after our children's future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It saves me taking out the car.

- David, Malvern

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** In the long run, public transport, walking and cycling, will be crucial to a green, sustainable future

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It's the most practical way of getting into the city centre. Much better than driving and having to find and pay for a car park. Much greener.

- Judith, Walsall

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is greener, safer and can be accessible for all

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** It's the way most of my non walking journeys are made.

- Anthony, Coventry

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** for many elderly people like me we will be prisoners in our already isolated villages without it.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** like many people I am no

longer able to drive due to eye problems, and rely totally on public transport. This has already been badly decimated ... and we just cannot afford to lose any more of our vital services, which are a lifeline to us, both for shopping and for getting to hospitals etc., without it we will be little more than prisoners in our own homes.

- Anonymous, Whitworth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** People need to be able to get around with polluting the planet with outdated car based transport networks.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Living in a rural area, public transport is often not as good and should be improve to increase oppertunities.

- Anonymous, Bridport

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** trains and buses scale so much better than private car ownership can possibly do. We already have too many cars in cities and they do not fit with our environmental ambitions

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** London city air my family breathes would be better with fewer car journeys, with less car ownership.

- Richard, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** compared with private motoring it is more energy efficient, it is less polluting, it requires less land-take, it is more socially equitable, and it is open to all.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My age and health make it increaingly difficult for me to drive, or to cycle long distances, so public transport is an essential lifeline connecting me with friends, public services, entertainment, recreation and the wider world.

- Anonymous, Boreham Wood

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the road network is getting ever more congested and the use of private cars driven on fossil fuels is becoming unsustainable, as they cause air pollution and increase the risk to our planet .

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My children live just over an hour by train and bus away from me, in London, a place where driving is difficult to justify on any grounds, not least because it takes a lot longer than using public transport.

- Bernard, Faversham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** When the Covid emergency is over and things get back to near normal Public transport will be needed more than ever before because peoples personal finances have been seriously reduced due to the hardships that corona virus has caused. The use of private cars must be reduced for our health's sake and to end congestion in our towns and city's. Cost and availability have to be an incentive to use public Transport for the benefit of everyone.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My disabilities do not allow me to drive and my ability to walk more than a short distance is greatly limited, I need public transport to access medical facilities and for shopping my nearest bank is more than seven miles away. I have no other means than public transport to be able to visit any of my family.

- Geoffrey, Cambridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** only an integrated reliable public transport system will enable people to use private cars much less or not at all, so helping the country to achieve net zero carbon as quickly as possible.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My father was a railwayman and all my family are committed to rail in preference to road travel. I live in Sheffield, which has been severely let down by Government decision not to extend electrification of Midland

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Main Line north of Kettering. Local trains to Manchester and Leeds are slow and ( outside Covid 19) often crowded. In the North of England priority should be given to improving East-West rail connectivity.

- Jennifer, Sheffield, S. Yorks.

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It can be green and sustainable along with walking and cycling. Not everyone will be in a position to buy an electric or hybrid car for the foreseeable future and public transport will therefore be vital in a green recovery programme. New zero carbon trains and buses are vital to the UK's future transport requirements and vital tools in the UK's response to the climate crisis.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My husband and I who are in our sixties rely on it to travel from Scotland to Leicestershire to see our family. We also use it for all our travel other than local journeys that we still drive for shopping etc.

- Barbara, Highland

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Elderly people need it and use it frequently. Need to keep more cars off the roads

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My husband has Alzheimers and cannot drive. I don't drive use public transport at least four days a week

- Pamela, West Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Even though people like myself are avoiding it now, it will still remain my main way in the future of getting to and from work, shops, and visits to family and friends in future. We still need public transport to be frequent, affordable and accessible to get cars off the roads and protect the environment.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** My husband has asthma and I think the air will be cleaner if there are fewer private cars and lorries. Buses, trains and trams are essential, the cleaner the better.

- Anonymous, Huddersfield

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** our roads are so congested that air quality is poor and a modern public transport system removes the need for the majority of cars. Unless public transport is supported financially during the pandemic there is no way we will be able to meet our climate change commitments and reduce the pollution in our cities.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** my son has epilepsy so cannot drive or cycle. He relies on public transport to get to work, to get to hospital appointments, to get to the dentist or even for a haircut. Buses are essential for normal life.

- Anonymous, Minehead

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is essential for those of us who don't drive and is the only chance of meeting our climate commitments.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** my village does not have a hospital, a dentist, a barbers, a bank and as I don't drive I rely on public transport for these services.

- Anonymous, Ross-shire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Bus services always seem to be the poor relation, that doesn't get a look in when transport is discussed at higher levels or an invite to the top table. I fail to see why this is, because they are used by many people & will often get you closer to your destination, than trains. Train travel, of course has an important place too & I use it to go from one part of the country to another, to visit family & sometimes on holiday.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Not being a driver & a disabled

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person, I rely on buses & sometimes trains for medical appointments, seeing family, socialising, collecting orders from purchases made online & more. Without public transport, I will be unable to take part in many activities, do voluntary work & more. There are taxis, but they are very expensive & not flexible enough, plus because of mobility issues, I have to sit in the front with the driver & find this embarrassing & awkward.

- Anonymous, Norwich

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Because of the threat of climate change more public transport ,less road congestion,by cars or lorries cleaner air and most importantly it helps in the battle against climate chaos

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Not having a car public transport is very very important for all of us.

- Anonymous, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** There is a climate emergency imperative to reduce travel by private car and the only way to do this for longer journeys is to make bus, train and tram services more attractive. There is too much disconnect between modes which with high and confusing fares and over-complex timetables are real impediments to leisure travel. Leisure travel will be of increasing importance as commuting and business travel will not return to pre-Covid levels.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** of the environmental impact of the motor car. It could and should be easier to use and properly funded as a public service.

- Anonymous, Pershore

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Many people depend on buses and trains to get to work as well as to shops and hospitals which can be some distance from their homes. We need these people to be able to move about, especially when they are ill, need food or to keep the local economy functioning. You must realise this as well as I do!

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Our daughter works with families in their homes. She walks from one appointment to the next if the distance is suitable, usually along the tow paths, but otherwise takes the bus. She needs both routes for safe walking and also an efficient bus service to cover the area in the working day.

- Anonymous, Stafford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** To combat climate change we need people to stop using their cars.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** parking is dreadful in Kingston and I am concerned about climate change.

- Anonymous, Surbiton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** individual car travel is not sustainable, neither for short nor for long journeys. Anybody who saw the improvement on air quality, noise pollution, and fewer cars during the lock down will know how important public transport will be in the future.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Public transport is my means of travel for anything beyond my local area. It would also be my means of travel \*within\* my local area, but the nearest bus stop is a 30 minute walk away and the bus needs to be booked the day before. Cycling would be an alternative, but not with the heavy traffic on our rural roads - I had too many near misses for that.

- Christiane, Aberystwyth

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Living in a village between Canterbury and Whitstable, with a very poor footway and narrow road, walking or cycling are

hazardous, but public transport provides safe journeys.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Regretably, bus frequency is less than hourly, so just increasing to hourly would make a huge difference, and a half hourly service would encourage people out of cars and also make the village less noisy and polluted. So just small changes would increase bus patronage as well as helping businesses in Canterbury and Whitstable, and helping students and villagers reach their destinations.

- Chris, Canterbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Society has to come away from car use, and move towards public transport for a cleaner and safer environment. Even electric cars pollute because of the debris produced by tyres.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Retired people like me who have given away our car are completely reliant on public transport. We have been disadvantaged during lock down because we can only go as far as we can walk, which makes us all the more appreciative of public transport which usually enables our lives.

- Brigid, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** As you know, public transport in Richmond Yorkshire, the constituency you represent, is terrible, with no train service and some of the few bus services relying on unpaid volunteer drivers. With an ageing population your constituency needs a comprehensive public transport system, not least to help combat the climate change emergency recently declared by both Richmondshire district and North Yorkshire County councils, by cutting the need for cars to get us to work and to school. The public transport buses we do have are expensive, not least for the school children forced to pay to get to school. It's time to honour your promises for change, Mr Sunak, not just for the privileged few, but for everyone.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** See above.

- Leslie, Richmond, North Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I would be lost without a bus service. It's the only way I can get to the supermarket or hospital appointments without paying a fortune for taxis, which I just can't afford. I'd be trapped.

- Hilary, Woodbridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital to the task of limiting climate change. And do it now. We don't have much time, and if Covid has been bad passing more disastrous tipping points will plunge us into more irreversible life threatening changes in an awful escalation of life destroying incidents that will make Covid like a walk in the park.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** See the above. I have children and grandchildren whose futures I care about.

- Nan, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Post Covid it is a key way to reduce carbon emissions and make cities especially more pleasant. For many people it is a social service and vital in rural areas to be subsidised for mental health reasons etc. New Housing development must always have sustainable public transport with rail being preferred.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** So much more relaxing than the car and more productive as can work at the same time.

- Andrew, Tonbridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** If services are lost because of the temporary effects of Covid-19, it will be difficult - if not impossible - to reintroduce them

as things recover.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** the roads are already overcrowded, and where I live air pollution from vehicles is endangering the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation

- David, Loughton, Essex

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is a vital lifeline for all those not able to drive or unable to afford a vehicle.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** there is often no other way for me to get to my doctor and dentist.

- Kate, Wales

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** for health, reduce pollution and mitigate climate change, fairness.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** there when I need it

- J, Norfolk

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need it for cleaner air and less congestion

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** To get to and from work

- Lorne, Raunds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I live in a city with illegally high levels of air pollution, which is associated with various health issues. It is vitally important that there continue to be viable, attractive, affordable alternatives in order to counter this problem.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** We are trying to raise our children to think differently on this issue, not just to use the car for everything, but to use public transport, cycling and walking where appropriate. This is made far easier when the alternative options are of a good quality and do not inconvenience us.

- Tom, Birmingham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I have chosen never to own a car, as has my husband, but sometimes it is unbelievable how expensive or time-consuming public transport is. Please make it easier and cheaper for everyone to care for our planet.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** We chose to use trains instead of owning a car, but it is ridiculous when a family of 4 ends up owning 5 railcards: (16-25 x2, Two together and Network cards.) Please make it simpler and cheaper to use public transport.

- Anonymous, SOUTHAMPTON

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need public transport for affordable and sustainable transport for all our population - not just those few that can afford electric cars. Without public transport, we have no hope of a future, it is as simple as that.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** We walk and cycle, but beyond that we need public transport to get around. We have crowd-funded purchase of two folding e-bikes so we can combine bus/train with our bikes, so we will be able to get rid of our petrol car.

- Derek, Cambridge

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I am fortunate in that I can cycle to almost everywhere I need to go but for the longer journeys, I need public transport:

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the only alternative is to put yet another unnecessary car onto our already overcrowded roads. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to cycle and they desperately need public transport for their daily shopping and other journeys, as I will when I get older.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** When I go to visit my friends & family, all over the country, I need good quality, affordable transport or I will lose contact with them

- Dave, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It s a greener option and helps to keep movement free of congestion.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** When supported it offers an excellent alternative to the car and avoids parking problems.

- Margaret, Biggleswade

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Frankly we haven't got enough roads for the personal and freight traffic, and the consequences for the health of the Nation and the reputation of the Government would be catastrophic without good (better) public transport.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Whenever I go to London, I use the railway.

- E, Welshpool

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital for the ability of those who cannot or do not want to drive to participate fully in society, and is necessary if we are to meet our climate obligations.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** While I have a driving license, I am dyspraxic which makes driving very tiring and stressful and currently I do not drive as I can walk or use public transport to get around my local community. This is very important for my physical and mental health, and I think everyone should have the option to not drive regardless of where they live.

- Heather, York

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** many people especially older people depend on it to be able to continue to live independent lives. Even for good drivers there comes a time when it is no longer wise for them to drive, even if they want to, because their eyesight, reaction time and memories are not what they were. I have had a car all my life but I now fall into this category. For all of us, a good reliable public transport system enables us to maintain independence and keep participating in society with safety and reliability., without adding to pollution and congestion. Many people cannot afford to have their own car but need to get to work, school or the shops -and without good public transport they cannot.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Without it I would never be able to go anywhere.

- Joyce, North Shields, Tyne and Wear

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** My wife and I are both disabled and do not drive, nor do we have any family who live near us. We have to rely on public transport to go for hospital and dental appointments in the city centre of Leeds and for other essential activities such as banking, as all our local banks have closed.

**Public transport is important to me personally because...** Without public transport we would be even more of a prisoner in our own home, than we are now. Not only is public transport important to me personally, but this great City of Leeds has had the funding pulled from under it after it did a lot of preparation work for Super Tram and before that for trolley buses and even a mono rail system. In the 1950's we lost our original tram system and we

have not had a modern integrated system since then. Why can London have an excellent public transport system, but the three close cities of Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield are not given the funding and means to have a joined up rapid system for local people. But the government can find money to foist upon us HS2 which will only benefit the rich or the business person on expenses, so that they can come to the area to shop or come to meetings and return later that day, without putting anything into the local community. Meetings and shopping, which Covid 19 have proved are unnecessary and can be done on line, without the need for a high speed train that is not green and will do so much damage to the nation as a whole.

- James, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to reduce to dependence on private transport and to reduce CO2 emissions.

- Alan, Wirral

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** as we get older & our driving days are done, we need better & properly run public transport more than ever. Also, if our public transport can be electric it will be better for our environment.

- Georgina, Truro

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public transport is transport for everyone - and we're all going to need to use it more and more as we rebalance our society and learn to live within our means to curb the climate crisis.

- Julian, St Just, Cornwall

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I and my fellow walkers rely on public transport to get to country areas and parks to do our walks, most of our walkers are widows and single older people. This helps them physically and mentally to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a quality of life...

- James, Newcastle

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is central not only to lowering the Nation's carbon footprint but to levelling up, as the less advantaged are heavily dependent on buses.

- Shirley, MELKSHAM

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we have to reduce the reliance on the car and have viable alternative choices of travel. To reduce fossil fuel use, dangerous air pollution and congestion. Even with more electric cars over the coming years, it will be hard to source the levels of renewable electricity for current levels of transport alongside all the other competing demands (including for making green hydrogen).

- Jo, Marlborough

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Improving public transport, in particular connectivity, is a key element of reducing carbon emissions and other pollutants, which lead to an enormous burden on the NHS

- Charles, Manchester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I depend on public transport to move around in my local area and to get into the centre of London. Like thousands of other people I would not be able without buses, trains and the tube to lead a normal life. It is unthinkable to imagine a modern capital city without publicly provided transport in addition to safe cycle paths and walkways. We now have the opportunity to

create for the near future a people-friendly, green city free from car-induced noise and air pollution. Please make a green and affordable public transport system a priority of your spending review.

- Anonymous, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** as and when we emerge from the pandemic we will need to provide desirable alternatives to car use, particularly in the cities. The current reluctance to use public transport is understandable, but it would undermine our green recovery plans if public transport were not given the support needed for it to become the method of choice for most people.

- Nigel, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Public Transport means I do need a car in London, so helping reduce emissions that are destroying the planet. It also helps reduce congestion which also reduces emissions.

- Maurice, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Buses ,tubes and trains will have a vital role to play post pandemic. HS2, however, is now a completely open space destroying white elephant.

- Peter, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it is eco friendly and we need to move Britain to a greener future

- Sarah, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** social distancing offers a wonderful opportunity to make all public transport First Class and spread the travel load throughout the day now remote teleworking has become the norm. Users will have to book a journey online, but all bus seats are reserved, large and comfortable. Information is sent to your phone giving the exact time of arrival. On board the bus Wi-Fi will be integrated. The bus drops you at a co-working space at the station which has first class lounge facilities where you can work or have entertainment until you are informed your train is approaching and exactly which reserved seat is yours. On the train your reserved seat is large and spacious with tables and seamless Wi-Fi. Public transport capacity on an individual train or vehicle is reduced, but as journeys are spread throughout the day by a pricing mechanism they are always running near full capacity. Everyone has a pleasurable first class travel experience.

- Brian, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It's the only way many people can get around. It's massively important in the fight against climate change, air pollution, and the obesity crisis.

- Grainne, London

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Active travel (walking and cycling) doesn't cover all bases. The old, ill, families with young children, people who live in the countryside, any one of us on a bad day or bad weather day- need a regular reliable cheap bus service.

- Imogen, Lewes

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential for those people without transport of their own to get to work and the shops, and for students needing to get to school, college and university. A good public transport system is essential and will

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cut emissions and fuel usage.

- Anonymous, Leicester

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** we must stop the inexorable slide into car dependency where everyone has no other option but to use a car. As bus, tram and train services become less frequent and the network becomes smaller, more people will resort to using a car adding to air pollution and congestion. (Electric cars still produce particulate matter through tyre and brake lining use). It is not a world I want to have to live in.

- Mark, Leeds

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** the earth cannot survive a return to pre-pandemic levels of car use and the pollution that it causes. Integrated public transport has to be the future.

- Anonymous, Ledbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is vital in that this country reduces its carbon emissions and as such public transport will aid in attainment of zero emissions

- Anonymous, Horsley, Derbyshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Many services in rural areas have been cut and I fear they will never recover without Government support. We need to take cars off the roads; it's not good enough just to replace fossil fuel cars with electric cars

- Barbara, Harrogate

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** As an 80 year old who chooses for environmental reasons not to have a car I really heavily on public transport including to get to hospital appointments as well as travel around the UK and France. The pandemic changes nothing and public transport is quite safe if one takes precautions.

- John, Guildford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** it's the best option we have to reduce the number of cars on the roads, to reduce pollution and congestion, so it's obvious it would be both stupid and negligent not to.

- Claire, Corsham

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** Since the 1950's the trend away from public transport in favour of the private car has resulted in congestion, pollution and loss of countryside whilst the integrity and character of cities, towns and villages has been severely compromised. In the last decade or so, however, many people have realised that the car does have a negative side involving much hassle and expense. It is certainly not a relaxing form of transport, given the aforementioned factors, and it is indeed expensive when one considers all the fixed costs entailed by owning and running a vehicle. Railways have been making something of a comeback with increased passenger numbers on the existing network and even the odd rail link being reinstated. One phenomenal success story is the partial reopening of the former 'Waverley Route' from Edinburgh to Tweedbank with passenger numbers far exceeding all expectations and hopes being raised that the line will again be extended south to Hawick and on to Carlisle. Then along came the Covid -19 crisis with people being told to use private transport instead of trains and buses with the inevitable knock on effect of roads becoming busier than ever. This is not sustainable in the long term. Even if pollution were to be eliminated via the mass production and use of electric vehicles it would not address the congestion problem. The continued proliferation of cars (either

internal combustion or electric) will result in a gridlocked, tarmac covered country. The current increase in car usage must be seen as purely a tactical and temporary measure and it is vital, furthermore, for the overall strategy to be to provide an integrated public transport system.

- Terance, Chester Le Street

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** I am a pensioner, I live alone, and getting around, seeing my family locally and in London, seeing friends, going to exhibitions, getting out in the country for walks are all very important to me for my physical and mental health and well being. Accessible, affordable and frequent public transport is of great importance and necessity for all.

- Anonymous, Brighton

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** As a member of a car free household out of choice, I feel that our decision should be respected in terms of being provided with an adequate transport alternative. The local community in Bradford has fought for 4 years to ensure that our local bus service continues at the same level. Cheap, accessible bus and train transport has to be part of the new normal, putting into place an important part of the mechanism to deal with the NEXT crisis, climate change

- Bruce, Bradford West Yorkshire

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is essential for many people in areas such as North Dorset where we live. Also a good network of reasonably priced public transport is essential to break our reliance on cars.

- Ann and Tony, Blandford

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** In my home town of Blackpool, public transport plays an essential roll in making sure, especially during the summer season, that the many visitors to this area of the North West that they can get around easily. However, given the very unique circumstances we are currently experiencing, we need to make sure that once this pandemic has been eradicated, sufficient investment, especially into the heavy rail route into the south area of the town is allowed for. The South Fylde line was singled in the late 1980's, which at the time was probably the correct decision as the railways, in general, were unloved and frowned upon. Fast forward to where we are now and the opposite is evident. The line is extremely busy but it needs assistance, in the form of a passing loop, to enable it to carry even more passengers, and keep more cars off the roads. Your colleagues Scott Benton and Mark Menzies have already made a joint application for funding through the Restoring Railways scheme, and in the words of our esteemed Prime Minister, it is 'oven ready' and is one of those stretches of track that can be installed within a very short space of time. We know how much it's likely to cost, the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) has already been calculated (which is very positive), and lastly it should be noted that Blackpool South is (as recognised by the Government) one of the most deprived areas in the country, so any investment to 'level up' this area would be very welcome.

- Paul, Blackpool

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** We need to ensure that we provide local affordable and sustainable public transport for people to use.

- Anonymous, Aylesbury

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** In rural areas we need to get folk to use their cars less. Also, many have no cars, and depend on the busses.

- Anonymous

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** While this year has been a

difficult one for public transport, it needs financial support to maintain it for the longer term. We need to get away from car culture for the environment's sake. This is especially the case with a densely-populated region such as England, for which the private car was never designed. The reason is twofold. Firstly public transport is in itself more energy-efficient than private cars. Even a diesel bus is less polluting overall than the equivalent seating in cars. Secondly, public transport can benefit from electrification - electrifying roads en masse would be horrendously expensive, to say nothing of practicalities such as enabling overtaking. To that end the support should include completion of the recently suspended railway electrification to Oxford, Bristol, Swansea, the East Midland cities, and Sheffield. They should then be provided with trains without onboard power supplies, to make full use of the electrification. Likewise the new sections of tramway in Birmingham should be electrified, regardless of the protests of environmentally-illiterate aesthetes, and the linespeed batteries removed from the trams to make best use of this.

- Charles

**Dear Chancellor, please support public transport because...** It is more environmentally friendly and affordable than transport by private car. Public transport carries more passengers than private cars which means less congestion on our roads and concomitantly, fewer emissions of particulate matter.

- Nicola

Comments collated by Campaign for Better Transport, October 2020  
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