



The Scottish
Rural & Islands
Transport Community

SCOTTISH ELECTIONS 2026

**SUMMARY OF PARTY MANIFESTO
TRANSPORT COMMITMENTS**

PARTY MANIFESTOS

HEADLINE TRANSPORT COMMITMENTS

SNP

- Remove duplication of functions, Transport Scotland will be brought back into the Scottish Government along with the other national transport bodies.
- We will explore the best configuration of nationally publicly owned transport companies and services to support integration of services and efficiency of public investment.

LABOUR

- Create a National Transport Connections Plan, identifying priority transport projects and investments across Scotland which will help drive the economy and support growing businesses.
- Merge CMAL and CalMac into a single public ferry agency with local representation on the board.

CONSERVATIVES

- Create a National Transport Connections Plan, identifying priority transport projects and investments across Scotland which will help drive the economy and support growing businesses.
- Merge CMAL and CalMac into a single public ferry agency with local representation on the board.

LIB DEMS

- Subject new policies and legislation to Rural Communities Impact Assessments to put the interests of rural and remote communities at the heart of decision-making.
- Open up new ways to connect villages, towns and cities, making it more convenient and affordable to reach public services and get to appointments, travel for education and recreation, or bring up a family.

REFROM

- End the SNP war on the motor car, fix pot-holes, and abolish ULEZ.
- Scrap the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) and introduce dynamic pricing for large tourist vehicles on ferries to subsidise essential travel for islanders.

GREENS

- Press for the devolution of roads taxation to Scotland, raising funds to reinvest in a transport system fit for the future.
- Create a minimum service guarantee for bus routes in rural areas to ensure no community is cut off from public transport.
- Allocate at least 10% of the national transport budget to active travel.

- To remove duplication of functions, Transport Scotland will be brought back into the Scottish Government along with the other national transport bodies.
- We will explore the best configuration of nationally publicly owned transport companies and services to support integration of services and efficiency of public investment.

Buses

- Support the use of franchising to guarantee socially necessary routes in underserved areas through franchising.
- Create greater alignment of investment with our net-zero goals.

Ferries

- Build on the work done in Project Neptune to take forward structural reform to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency for our lifeline ferry services.
- Retain the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) as the basis for future fares structure for islanders and non-islanders alike.

Rail

- Peak rail fares will not be re-introduced as long as there is an SNP government.
- Continue to advance consideration of the provision of a railway to Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Ellon, as well as exploration of a link from the Borders Railway to Carlisle.

Roads

- Support Shetland Island's Council's exploration of financing models and promote investment opportunities in fixed links projects.

Cars

- Make the necessary reforms to the planning process to make it easier for the installation of public EV chargers to support the ongoing move to electric vehicles

Active, Accessible & Integrated Travel

- Establish a £2.5 million bike repair scheme to enable over 33,000 people to get supported with repair costs up to £75.
- Work with the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance and others to develop a Scottish Paths Fund.

LABOUR PARTY

Headline Policies

- We will create a National Transport Connections Plan, identifying priority transport projects and investments across Scotland which will help drive the economy and support growing businesses.
- Merge CMAL and CalMac into a single public ferry agency with local representation on the board.

Buses

- Set aside £200m to support franchising of local bus services.
- Maintain free bus travel for under-22s and older people.
- Establish a virtual hospital that will allow patients to attend outpatient consultations and follow up appointments online, removing need for long journeys.

Ferries

- Merge CMAL and CalMac into a single public ferry agency with local representation on the board.
- Establish a long-term procurement plan for shipbuilding with our new ferry agency, giving domestic shipyards certainty about pipelines of work and consistency of design.

Rail

- We will prevent a return to peak rail fares

Roads

- Invest £350m to repair roads and fix potholes across Scotland.
- Dual the A9 by 2035, commissioning a business case for the dualling of the A77 and 75.
- Create a new National Roads Plan to prioritise upgrades based on economic need, public safety, and local connectivity.

Cars

- No mention of EVs or EV charging in their manifesto.

Active, Accessible & Integrated Travel

- Use drone technology to trace unlicensed e-bikes for seizure.
- Grant the police powers to issue warnings and fines for dangerous use of motorised and e-bikes in pedestrian and residential areas.
- Work to deliver integrated smart ticketing across Scotland to finally deliver seamless connections for passengers.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Headline Policies

- Abolish and oppose any targets that aim to reduce the use of cars in Scotland.
- Cut the active travel budget and redirect funding towards pavement & road maintenance.
- Merge CMAL and CalMac organisations into one, saving taxpayers money.
- Open up a new Small Town and Rural Bus Services Fund

Buses

- Open up a new Small Town and Rural Bus Services Fund that would allow councils to apply for additional funding to keep bus routes open, ensuring that rural communities and those living in small towns continue to be served by bus.

Ferries

- Implement a new ferry procurement strategy that delivers the equivalent of three ferries every two years with aim of reducing the average age of the fleet down to 14 years.
- Merge CMAL and CalMac organisations into one, saving taxpayers money.
- Boost investment in Ferguson Marine Shipyard.

Rail

- Make the scrapping of peak rail fares permanent.
- Conduct a full economic impact assessment of reopening these shuttered railway stations.
- Commit to opening all stations that demonstrate a viable economic case for doing so.

Roads

- Ensure that as part of our plans to upgrade Scotland's roads, rural communities would get their fair share.
- Establish a National Bridge Restoration Fund to fix our rural bridges.
- Introduce a new law to fast-track the upgrade of trunk roads.

Cars

- Abolish and oppose any targets that aim to reduce the use of cars in Scotland.
- Block the introduction of the SNPs proposed car park tax that would allow councils to charge people for driving to work.
- No mention of EVs in their manifesto.

Active, Accessible & Integrated Travel

- Cut the active travel budget & redirect funding towards pavement & road maintenance.
- Make space for drivers & pedestrians by encouraging councils to ensure that new cycle paths are clearly segregated from existing roads and pavements.
- Work with disability charities to see how access to public transport issues can be resolved.

LIB DEMS PARTY

Headline Policies

- Subject new policies and legislation to Rural Communities Impact Assessments to put the interests of rural and remote communities at the heart of decision-making.
- Open up new ways to connect villages, towns and cities, making it more convenient and affordable to reach public services and get to appointments, travel for education and recreation, or bring up a family.

Buses

- We will introduce a Transport for London-like model that puts communities in charge of when and where their buses go, as part of a complete revamp of ailing local bus services.

Ferries

- Make it a new legal requirement for the Government to produce a rolling 30-year ferry and port infrastructure replacement strategy, renewed every 5 years and approved by Parliament.
- Reform the booking system to get rid of cliff-edges that stop islanders being able to plan ahead.
- Bring back cabin sharing

Rail

- Establish a commuter friendly guarantee, increasing late night services & opening up new stations.
- Work with stakeholders such as the Campaign for Borders Rail on a potential extension of the route to Hawick and Carlisle.
- Remove as much freight as possible from road to rail.

Roads

- Create a new data-driven Dangerous Roads Programme to ensure that where there is a dangerous road - no matter where you live - government can't ignore it.
- Deliver a programme for significant improvements to roads including the A83 and Rest and Be Thankful, A82 and A75

Cars

- Make it cheaper and easier for drivers to switch to EVs by rapidly rolling out far more charging points, including on-street points and ultra-fast chargers at service stations.
- Require that all charging points to be accessible with a bank card and without the inconvenience of downloading app.

Active, Accessible & Integrated Travel

- Make it easier for more people to choose walking, cycling and wheeling by investing in active travel for the first and last mile, cutting car use, boosting health and connecting communities.
- Initiate a nationwide tap-and-go transport system using only your phone or bank card and ensure passengers can easily switch between different types of transport at interchanges.

REFORM PARTY

Headline Policies

- We will end the SNP war on the motor car, fix pot-holes, and abolish ULEZ.
- Scrap the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) and introduce dynamic pricing for large tourist vehicles on ferries to subsidise essential travel for Islanders.

Buses

- Support and invest in bus corridors in our major cities.

Ferries

- Embark on a 10-year rolling ferry renewal programme to reduce the age of ferries and improve reliability across the network.
- Scrap the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) and introduce dynamic pricing for large tourist vehicles on ferries to subsidise essential travel for islanders.
- Embark on a 10-year plan to modernise our harbours.

Rail

- Embark on a 10-year modernisation programme of our railways for both passenger travel and freight

Roads

- Create a new data-driven Dangerous Roads Programme to ensure that where there is a dangerous road - no matter where you live - government can't ignore it.
- Deliver a programme for significant improvements to roads including the A83 and Rest and Be Thankful, A82 and A75

Cars

- Ease congestion and improve efficiency of roadworks by adopting Lane Rental Schemes to charge utility companies and contractors for road space during busy times, encouraging works to be completed quickly.
- No mention of EVs in their manifesto.

Active, Accessible & Integrated Travel

- No mention of active and accessible travel policies in manifesto.
- No mention of integrated transport policies in their manifesto.

Headline Policies

- We will press for the devolution of roads taxation to Scotland, raising funds to reinvest in a transport system fit for the future.
- We will create a minimum service guarantee for bus routes in rural areas to ensure no community is cut off from public transport.
- We will allocate at least 10% of the national transport budget to active travel.

Buses

- Create a minimum service guarantee for bus routes in rural areas to ensure no community is cut off from public transport.
- Support the manufacturing of Scottish-built zero-emission buses, targeted to publicly-run and community fleets.

Ferries

- Develop a funded long-term green fleet replacement strategy to ensure all ferry services throughout Scotland are reliable, efficient and zero carbon;
- Bring all ferry ports running lifeline services into public ownership.
- reinstate the ferry route from Ardrossan to Campbeltown.

Rail

- Invest in new stations, new routes & better accessibility for all, on an expanded & publicly owned network.
- Explore options to open new railway stations on the existing network, including in Newburgh, Tomatin, Halbeath and Hawick.
- Establish a nationalised Scottish Rail Freight Operator.

Roads

- Explore the feasibility of bridges, tunnels and causeways across the sounds of Harris and Barra, and in the Northern Isles to provide connectivity for islanders.
- Support the reduction of national speed limits on single carriageway roads, including extending 40mph speed limits on roads popular with walkers & cyclists around villages and towns.

Cars

- Make EV charging cheaper and easier by changing planning regulations to make home EV charging easier kerbside and investing in municipal EV charging hubs with embedded solar generation.

Active, Accessible & Integrated Travel

- Allocate at least 10% of the national transport budget to active travel
- Ensure that all newly procured train, buses, trams and other transport infrastructure are fully accessible.
- Deliver a national blueprint of walking, cycle and wheeling networks, including better connections for active travel infrastructure with public transport.

Contact SRITC



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A Community Interest Company