

The Disabled Citizens Inquiry

Making walking and wheeling more accessible – an intersectional approach

Tim Burns, Sustrans



Sustrans

We work to make walking, wheeling and cycling easier for everyone.

Our approach:

- Improving places
- Working with communities
- Using our voice



Wheeling - some people do not identify with the term 'walking' and prefer wheeling, for example wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

The need for an inquiry

Disabled people take 38%* fewer trips than non-disabled people, and 30% fewer walking trips**

*Motability

**National Travel Survey

- Disabled people face greater barriers which stops people accessing what they need
- Making walking and wheeling inclusive is a fundamental human right
- The social model of disability
- The transport sector is not representative

The Disabled Citizens' Inquiry

A pan-impairment approach to understand what disabled people need to make walking and wheeling inclusive, accessible and desirable.

- Partnership with Transport for All
- Funded by Motability
- Mix of qualitative and quantitative research
- Ensuring disabled people led



The Disabled Citizens' Inquiry

Reviewed Walking and Cycling Index data



Four public citizens' workshops



A stakeholder workshop



UK-wide survey of disabled people



Parliamentary launch (8 Feb 2023)



Key findings - Walking and Cycling Index

Disabled respondents:

- 35% do not own a car (*non-disabled - 21%*)
- Only 56% feel welcome spending time on the streets in their neighbourhood (*non-disabled - 69%*)
- Only 35% feel able to participate in making their neighbourhood a better place (*non-disabled - 45%*)



Key findings - Intersectionality

We took an intersectional approach to explore data from the Disabled Citizens Inquiry

We explored:

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Levels of income

Barriers are compounded for disabled women, people of colour and people on a low income.



Disabled women are worse affected

Care responsibilities

- 45% often experience problems reaching their destination (disabled men - 35%)

Street harassment

- 37% are afraid of negative comments from others due to a physical or mental health condition (disabled men - 28%)

Cost-of-living crisis

- 62% had to reduce the amount they travel because of the cost-of-living crisis (disabled men - 55%)



Solutions

During the citizens' workshops 43 disabled people developed nine solutions.

These were tested through a survey of 1,183 UK disabled people.



Most solutions have greater benefit for disabled women

Involve disabled people in decision making

- 83% of disabled women said disabled people's panels would help them walk or wheel more

Long term funding

- 82% of disabled women said a dedicated pavement fund would help them walk or wheel more

Manage pavement clutter

- 77% of disabled women said banning vehicles parking on the pavement would help them walk or wheel more

Planning

- 89% of disabled women said ensuring services are within walking or wheeling distance of where people live, would help them walk or wheel more



See streetlights, think 20.

Across Wales,

from 17th September, if you see streetlights close together you're probably on a 20mph road.

#ReadyFor20mph



Success so far in the UK?

The Inquiry has:

- Helped set up national advisory groups that includes disabled representation
- Kept pavement parking in the spotlight in England
- Supported Active Travel Fund 4 - £200m for walking, wheeling and cycling
- Sustrans development of a map and journey planning tool for the National Cycle Network



“

I think at least a quarter of people on transport committees should have some sort of disability. And not just a physical or visual disability, but invisible disabilities should be represented too, like learning disabilities.

”

Mikla, Norwich

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey.

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