

Inclusive Pavements: Making the streets accessible to all

With Tim Burns, Head of Policy at Sustrans and Alisha Pathania, Research Officer at Transport for All



Tim Burns – Head of Policy – Sustrans

Tim leads policy across Sustrans, the charity working to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle. Tim is also the Strategic Lead for the Walking and Cycling Index, the largest assessment of walking, wheeling and cycling in the UK and Ireland.

Tim has over 20 years' experience working in the third sector and founded Keep Britain Tidy's award-winning Centre for Social Innovation. Tim has widespread knowledge and experience in both qualitative and quantitative research, stakeholder engagement, inclusion, policy, public affairs, and strategic communications.

Tim has work on many transport projects focusing on inclusion and equality, including with and for disabled people. These include Walking and Cycling for Everyone, and the Disabled Citizens Inquiry.

Alisha Pathania – Research Officer – Transport for All

Alisha supports in the design and delivery of Transport for All's partnership research, in collaboration with various partners, including government, universities, and charities. Alisha joined Transport for All from NatCen, where she primarily worked on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), supporting in the successful delivery of the Wave 10 pilot and mainstage fieldwork. Alisha's current work at Transport for All includes research into inclusive street infrastructure, such as bus stop bypasses and continuous footways, in partnership with Living Streets. Alisha's role in the LGA Inclusive Pavements project has involved contributing to the literature review and conducting stakeholder interviews with officer and councillors.



Our work for the LGA

Councils face significant challenges in providing high quality pavements and footways that are accessible to all. Poor quality and obstructed pavements make short journeys difficult and potentially dangerous for everyone, especially those with difficulty walking or wheeling. 31 per cent of adults over 65 walk less or not at all due to uneven pavements, and 30 per cent have a fall at least once a year, about a third outside the home.

Local highways maintenance funding has fallen by half since 2006, reducing the amount available for footways. Car ownership levels have grown significantly, and more cars parked

on pavements, and increasing numbers of charging cables for electric vehicles (EV) have added to overgrown hedges, wheelie bins and shop advertising boards turning pavements into obstacle courses.

Tim and Alisha, respectively from Sustrans and Transport for All, will share their emerging findings of an upcoming report commissioned by the LGA. The report will highlight best practice from across local government in overcoming these challenges and will put forward recommendations to central government.