

Spending money on accessible transport

An easy-read summary



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This report uses **blue words**.

When a word or phrase is difficult, we have written it in **blue writing** and explained it.

Introduction



We are the National Centre for Accessible Transport, called 'ncat' for short.



We work to make transport more accessible for disabled people.



This report is about what we need to do to make spending more money on accessible transport happen.



We call this: **the economic benefits of accessible transport**



Economic benefits happen when an organisation does something which means:



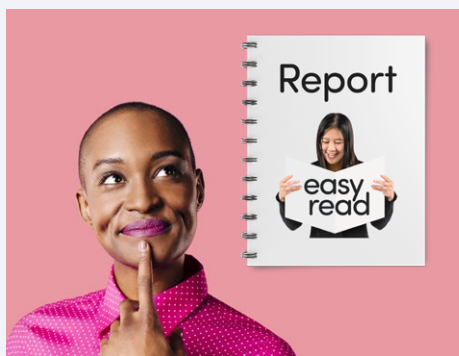
It is working better so it costs less, or makes more money.



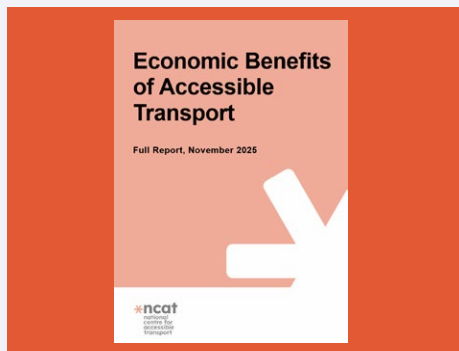
For example, buidling a lift under a train station platform means more people can use the station.



This is an **economic benefit** because it means more people spend money on travelling through the station.



This is an easy read version of the highlights report.

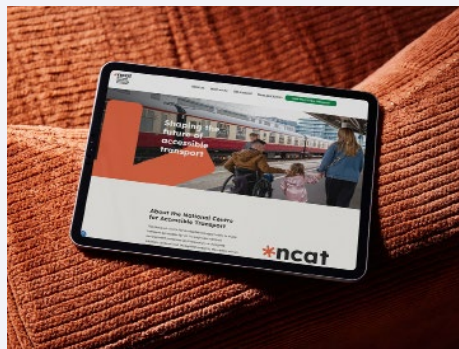


The full highlights report link is here:

ncat Economic Benefits of Accessible Transport November 2025



We started making disability and transport reports in 2023.



It is important to read these other reports as well. They are on our website:

www.ncat.uk



ncat encourages you to use the information in this report.



***ncat**

When you use information from this report, please say it is from:



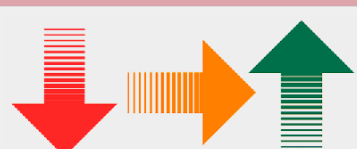
'ncat (2025). Economic Benefits of Accessible Transport November 2025

Available at www.ncat.uk

Why do we do this work?



ncat's reports have already talked about lots of difficulties disabled people have when they use public transport.



**Things need to
change**

We have explained what changes are possible and how they can happen.



But - we have also found out that people believe it is too expensive to make transport accessible.



We decided to find out if it is true that making transport accessible is too expensive.



This report explains what we found out about:



What stops us spending money to make sure disabled people can use public transport



What we can do to make spending on accessible transport happen

What did we do and how did we do it?



Our project had 2 parts.



The first part was to read everything we could find that was about spending money on accessible transport.



This included information about how the British Government decides to spend its money on providing [services to the public](#).



Services to the public are things like:



the NHS



our roads and railways



our schools



our army, navy and air force



our social services



accessible transport.



We also talked to people who work to make our transport happen such as:



1

people who work for the British government and who plan how to build our transport system



2

people who work for the organisations who run our transport system:



roads



railways



**train
stations**



**bus
stations**

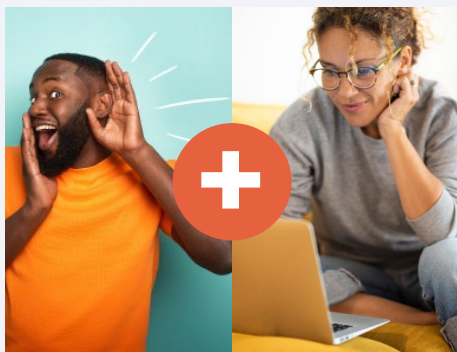


**streets
in towns
and cities**



3

people who belong to disability organisations who want to make transport more accessible.



We carefully joined together what we found out from the people we spoke to and what we had read about.



Working together, we then used all this information to explain:



1

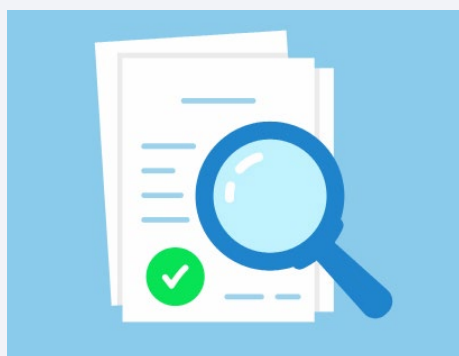
what stops people spending money on accessible transport



2

what needs to change so that people do spend enough money on making transport accessible.

What did we find out?



What stops people spending money on accessible transport?



1 There isn't a pot of money for making transport accessible for disabled people.



This means even if people want to make transport accessible, they do not have the money to do it, or they must take money from somewhere else.



2

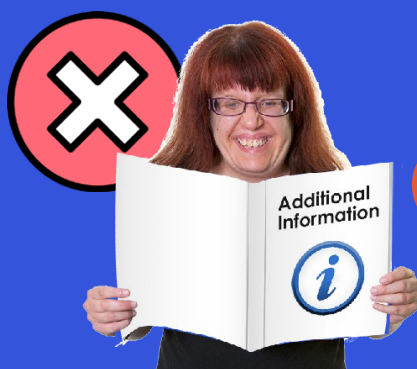
Some of the Government's spending rules stop accessible transport improvements from happening.



Getting money from the Government for something new is difficult and really slow.



The Government is thinking about changing its rules but that has not happened yet.



3

There is not enough information about how changes that happen, actually help disabled people.



Transport changes that could help disabled people are not in the rules for what is important.



It is difficult to understand how to do things better as there is a lot of secrecy about how spending decisions happen.



4

Transport organisations do not have people working for them with good accessibility knowledge.



They do not spend enough money on accessibility improvements.



Senior transport managers and the rules they make often stops spending on accessibility improvements.



There is not enough up to date information about how making transport accessible can bring **economic benefits** to everyone.



5

Making everyone's lives better by travelling more easily, is not seen as an important reason for spending money on accessible transport.



Trying to get money for accessible transport changes is slow, expensive, and never certain.

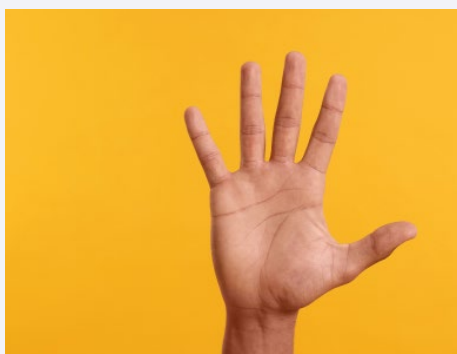


People who do want to make changes just stop asking.



Involving disabled people in transport spending decisions usually does not happen well.

What should happen next?



We worked with everyone who took part in this project to make 5 **recommendations**.



A **recommendation** is advice to someone about what they should do next.



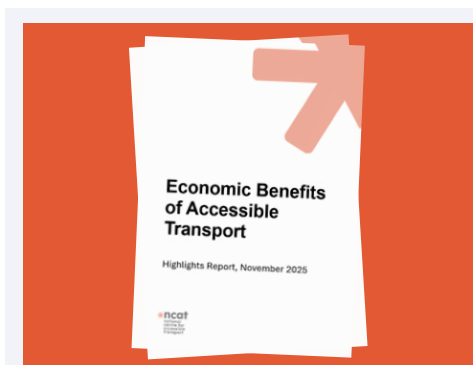
Our advice about what to do next is for:



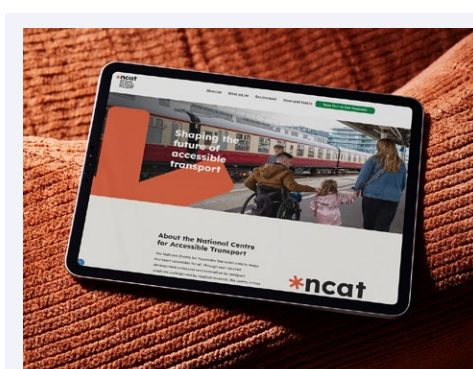
The organisations that run our public transport services



The UK Government – especially the Department for Transport.



We say a lot in our advice. Please read the full highlights report to find out about everything we said.



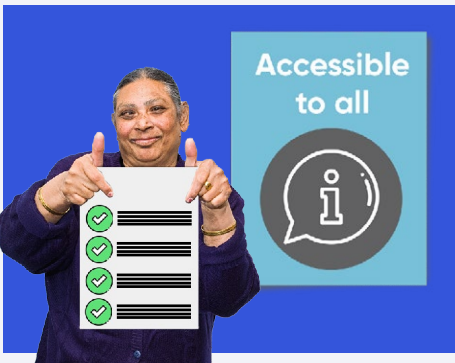
Here is the link to the highlights report:

ncat.uk/projects/economic-benefits-of-accessible-transport



Recommendation 1

The people who lead public transport must learn about and understand what accessibility is.



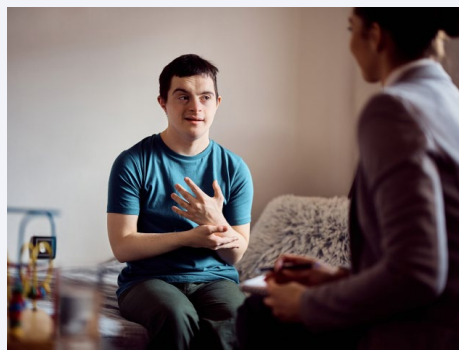
They must understand why transport has to be accessible for everyone.



They must make accessibility part of all their funding decisions.



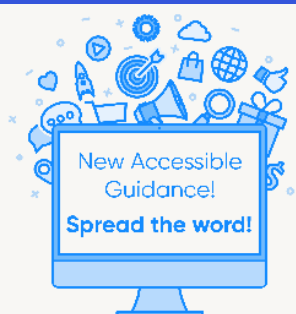
They must involve disabled people in their plans and decisions.



Then, they must teach everyone in their organisations to do the right thing.



They must employ people who know how to make public transport accessible. This must include people with lived experience of disability.



Recommendation 2

The Government must change the rules for spending money on public services. They must include an accessibility rule.



The Government must make new laws to say organisations must make public transport accessible.



All public transport organisations must put accessibility into the centre of their plans.



Local Councils must put accessibility into their local transport plans – and find the money to make it happen.



Recommendation 3

All organisations must share the information they have about funding accessible transport – no secret decisions.



Keep checking what improvements are happening – how they happened and how they were funded.



The Government must properly collect and share accessible transport information.



It must check how many disabled people need transport and share this information with the public.



It must explain what kinds of accessible transport are needed by people who have different disabilities.



It must explain why accessibility improvements are left out of public service funding.



The Government needs to check everything that needs to happen to improve public transport accessibility.

It must make organisations:



1 Share what they know



2 Share what they do to improve accessibility



3 Talk about the things they are still finding difficult.

Recommendation 4

Have more checks on decisions that are made about funding accessible transport.



These checks must think about the lived experiences of disabled people.



They must look properly at the benefits of accessibility, including the quality of peoples' lives.



They must use the new information that is collected because of Recommendation 3 – such as:





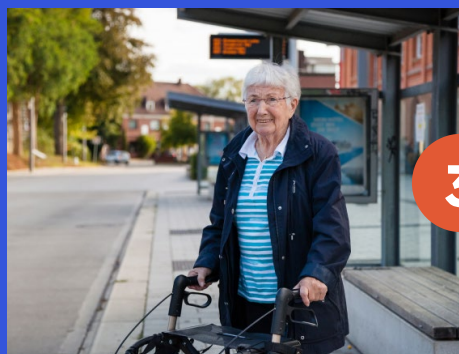
1

**finding your way around using
public transport**



2

seating



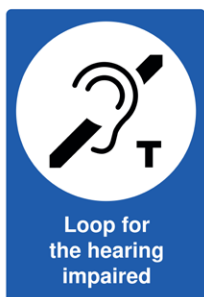
3

shelter



4

step-free access



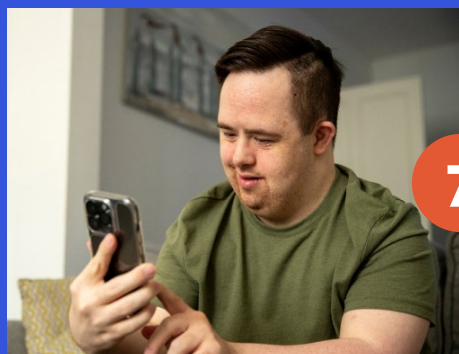
5

hearing induction loops



6

travel assistance



7

digital apps.



Organisations must work with disabled people to do this.

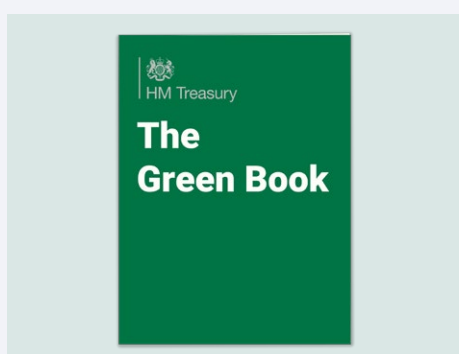


They must make sure people are supported and not worn out when they do become involved.



Recommendation 5

Make changes to the Government's rules about how it spends its money.



These rules are called the Green Book.



The rules need to change to encourage spending on accessible public transport.



The new rules need to explain why accessible transport is good for everyone.



For more information about ncat:



visit our website:

www.ncat.uk



send an email to this address:

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follow us on LinkedIn:

linkedin.com/company/ncat-uk

The information in this booklet was adapted from an original written by ncat.

This easy-read version has been created with the help of the people below who use easy-read materials themselves.



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