# Redbridge Council targets safer travel with cycle upgrades despite £25m bridge repair funding gap



Redbridge Council has unveiled an ambitious plan to improve transport routes within the borough, focusing on enhancing safety and public health through better cycling infrastructure and pedestrian facilities. The council aims to encourage residents to shift away from car usage towards more affordable and sustainable modes of transport. This plan includes investments in well-maintained pavements, safer crossings, kilometres of new cycle lanes, new bus routes, and improved accessibility at stations.

Councillor Jo Blackman, the cabinet member for sustainability, described the strategy as crucial to “keep Redbridge moving,” ensuring that the transport system meets the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors both now and in the future. The initiative follows public feedback collected during a consultation period, where many respondents criticised the borough’s cycle infrastructure as inadequate and unsafe, especially in contrast with neighbouring Waltham Forest. Concerns over poor cycle lanes, insufficient parking, unsafe conditions, traffic congestion, overcrowded buses, and reduced public transport frequencies were highlighted.

The sustainable transport strategy aligns broadly with the Mayor of London’s target of making eight out of ten trips in the capital by foot, cycle, or public transport by 2041. However, the council characterises the strategy as “aspirational” and acknowledges that its success will be contingent upon securing external funding. Without intervention, the council warns of increased road injuries, worsening congestion, and an environment that suffers from noise, pollution, and deteriorating public health.

One significant challenge confronting Redbridge’s transport planning is the closure of Broadmead Road Bridge, a critical transport link that has been out of service since July 2023 following the discovery of serious structural defects. The bridge, located in Woodford, was closed to motor traffic due to cracks and corrosion, with only pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists currently permitted to use it. Repairing the bridge is expected to cost in excess of £25 million, a figure well beyond the current council budget.

Top council leaders have been vocal about the urgency of the bridge’s repair. Councillor Paul Canal, leader of the Redbridge Conservatives, criticised the council for what he described as a failure to adequately plan and secure funding over several years, calling it “not good enough” and accusing the council of "kicking the can down the road." Meanwhile, the council has been actively lobbying government bodies, including the Department for Transport and Transport for London, seeking financial support. They have even requested the release of funds from the High Speed 2 project to help cover the costs.

The council has initiated an online public meeting to discuss the bridge’s future and expects to receive a detailed options report in spring 2025. In the meantime, essential works such as structural assessments and drainage improvements are underway to prevent further deterioration. Despite the significant funding gaps, the bridge’s repair is listed as a target within the borough’s broader transport strategy, though no specific timeline or detailed progress updates have been provided.

In tandem with addressing the bridge issue, Redbridge is moving forward with other transport enhancements. For instance, plans are underway to upgrade the cycle lane in Cambridge Park by creating a segregated footway-level cycle lane and improving pedestrian crossings to boost safety. Construction for this project is scheduled to begin in early 2024, demonstrating the council’s commitment to developing safer, more accessible infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians across the borough.

While the council’s sustainable transport strategy represents a proactive effort to improve mobility and reduce reliance on cars, it highlights the significant infrastructure and funding challenges ahead. Its ongoing revision every five years will likely be essential to adapt to funding realities and evolving community needs.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health), [[7]](https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/cambridge-park-cycle-and-road-safety-improvements)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health), [[3]](https://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/news/24734120.broadmead-road-bridge-repairs-woodford-expected-cost-25m/), [[4]](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/have-your-say/broadmead-road-bridge/frequently-asked-questions)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxe88y5ypvlo), [[6]](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/nov-2023/redbridge-council-calls-on-government-to-free-up-25million-of-high-speed-2-cash-to-help-fund-stricken-east-london-bridge/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/october-2024/broadmead-road-bridge-join-our-online-meeting/), [[4]](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/have-your-say/broadmead-road-bridge/frequently-asked-questions), [[6]](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/nov-2023/redbridge-council-calls-on-government-to-free-up-25million-of-high-speed-2-cash-to-help-fund-stricken-east-london-bridge/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[7]](https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/cambridge-park-cycle-and-road-safety-improvements)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yellowad.co.uk/redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=redbridge-to-improve-transport-routes-to-boost-safety-and-health> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/october-2024/broadmead-road-bridge-join-our-online-meeting/> - Redbridge Council has initiated an online meeting to discuss the future of Broadmead Road Bridge, which has been closed since July 2023 due to structural issues. The council anticipates receiving a report in spring 2025 detailing repair options and timelines. Immediate actions include structural assessments and drainage improvements to prevent further deterioration. The estimated repair cost exceeds £25 million, with funding discussions ongoing with the Department for Transport and Transport for London. ([redbridge.gov.uk](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/october-2024/broadmead-road-bridge-join-our-online-meeting/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/news/24734120.broadmead-road-bridge-repairs-woodford-expected-cost-25m/> - Broadmead Road Bridge in Woodford was closed in July 2023 after extensive structural defects, including cracks and corrosion, were discovered. The council estimates that repairs will cost at least £25 million. Reopening the bridge to vehicular traffic may require partial renewal or full reconstruction. Pedestrians have access, and the bridge has been reopened for motorbikes and bicycles. ([ilfordrecorder.co.uk](https://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/news/24734120.broadmead-road-bridge-repairs-woodford-expected-cost-25m/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/have-your-say/broadmead-road-bridge/frequently-asked-questions> - Following the closure of Broadmead Road Bridge in July 2023 due to safety concerns, Redbridge Council has conducted detailed inspections revealing extensive defects compromising the bridge's integrity. Reopening the road will require significant construction work and time. Essential repairs are expected to cost over £25 million, beyond the council's budget, prompting requests for government funding. ([redbridge.gov.uk](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/have-your-say/broadmead-road-bridge/frequently-asked-questions?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxe88y5ypvlo> - Broadmead Road Bridge in Redbridge has been closed to motor traffic for nine months due to structural defects, including cracks and corrosion. The repair cost is estimated at over £25 million, with no current funding available. The closure has caused significant disruption, affecting local businesses and residents. The council is seeking government assistance to fund the repairs. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxe88y5ypvlo?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/nov-2023/redbridge-council-calls-on-government-to-free-up-25million-of-high-speed-2-cash-to-help-fund-stricken-east-london-bridge/> - Redbridge Council has appealed to the government for urgent financial support to repair Broadmead Road Bridge, which has been closed since July 2023 due to structural defects. The council estimates repair costs at over £25 million, beyond its budget. The council is calling for the release of funds from the High Speed 2 project to assist with the repairs. ([redbridge.gov.uk](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/nov-2023/redbridge-council-calls-on-government-to-free-up-25million-of-high-speed-2-cash-to-help-fund-stricken-east-london-bridge/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/cambridge-park-cycle-and-road-safety-improvements> - Redbridge Council is proposing upgrades to the cycle lane in Cambridge Park, including the creation of a segregated footway-level cycle lane and improved pedestrian crossings. The project aims to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians, with construction expected to begin in early 2024. ([engage.redbridge.gov.uk](https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/cambridge-park-cycle-and-road-safety-improvements?utm_source=openai))