



South Bristol Link

The South Bristol Link (SBL) was a partnership project with North Somerset Council (NSC), Bristol City Council (BCC), MetroBus (MB) and Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd (AG) being responsible for the design and construction at an overall cost of £47m. The scheme forms part of the wider West of England MetroBus Project and comprises a 4.5km express bus route and roadway, including new cycle and pedestrian paths.

The SBL is a significant addition to the local transport network, which provides improved links to the M5 and other principal roads. It included: 4.5 km of new road, bus lanes, walking and cycling paths; 2 road bridges; 2 signalised roundabouts; 3 signalled junctions; major landscaping; and the restoration and preservation of three historic lime kilns on the A38 roundabout.

SBL aims to create valuable new jobs with new business opportunities to help the local economy grow; it encourages *healthier lifestyles* with new walking and cycling paths along its entire length, making it easier for people to access leisure activities and the nearby countryside. It also *creates better neighbourhoods* with the provision of easy access to bus and rail services reducing congestion, encouraging economic investment and improving air quality.

The project much improves the connection between the A38 and the A370, again reducing congestion and improving sustainable travel whilst encouraging economic growth in South Bristol and access to the growing Bristol Airport. The project allows the transport of passengers into South Bristol, linking with the Long Ashton Park and Ride facility.

The investment of £47m in this infrastructure project is anticipated to bring £245.4m of economic benefit with a BCR (benefit cost ratio) of 6.23 and will unlock approximately 2,500 jobs in the locality. Construction started in March 2015 and was completed in December 2016.

