

Argyll & Bute Council

**Oban Town Centre  
North  
Active Travel Project**



Breadalbane Street

Dunollie Road

Project Study Area

Oban North Pier

Corran Halls

05/10/2022





# Project Aims & Objectives

Make walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred mode choice in Oban Town Centre North.

Make walking, wheeling and cycling the most enjoyable way to get around.

Identify and remove real and perceived barriers to active travel.

Reduce the impacts of A85 traffic on the study area.

Safeguard Oban's strategic transport facilities and High Street business operations.

Identify and future-proof connections to the wider town.



# Oban's Context

- Position in a natural harbour has shaped the town's importance as a **transport hub**.
  - One of the **busiest ferry ports in the UK**
  - A85 trunk road
  - Rail links
- ...all converge within the **compact town centre**.

- The town centre serves:
  - Oban's **residents**
  - Substantial **tourist** population
  - Wide-reaching catchment of **rural areas and the Isles**.



# Walking and Cycling

## Challenges

- Historic, narrow and winding roads.
- Steep gradients a barrier to cycling and for those with mobility difficulties.
- Lack of footway a common feature.

## Positives

- Narrow winding roads create a natural traffic calming function.
- Pedestrian vennels and stairwells create 'short-cuts' and a natural incentive to walk short journeys.



Pedestrian Lanes & Vennels



NCN 78 Cycle Route

# Barriers to Accessibility

- We have reviewed a detailed accessibility audit undertaken by Transport Scotland.
- Common issues:
  - Narrow or lack of footways (<1m) preventing wheelchair access
  - Lack of dropped kerbs
  - Lack of tactile paving
  - Footway obstructions without colour contrast banding
  - Bus stops lacking shelters or with narrow seating.



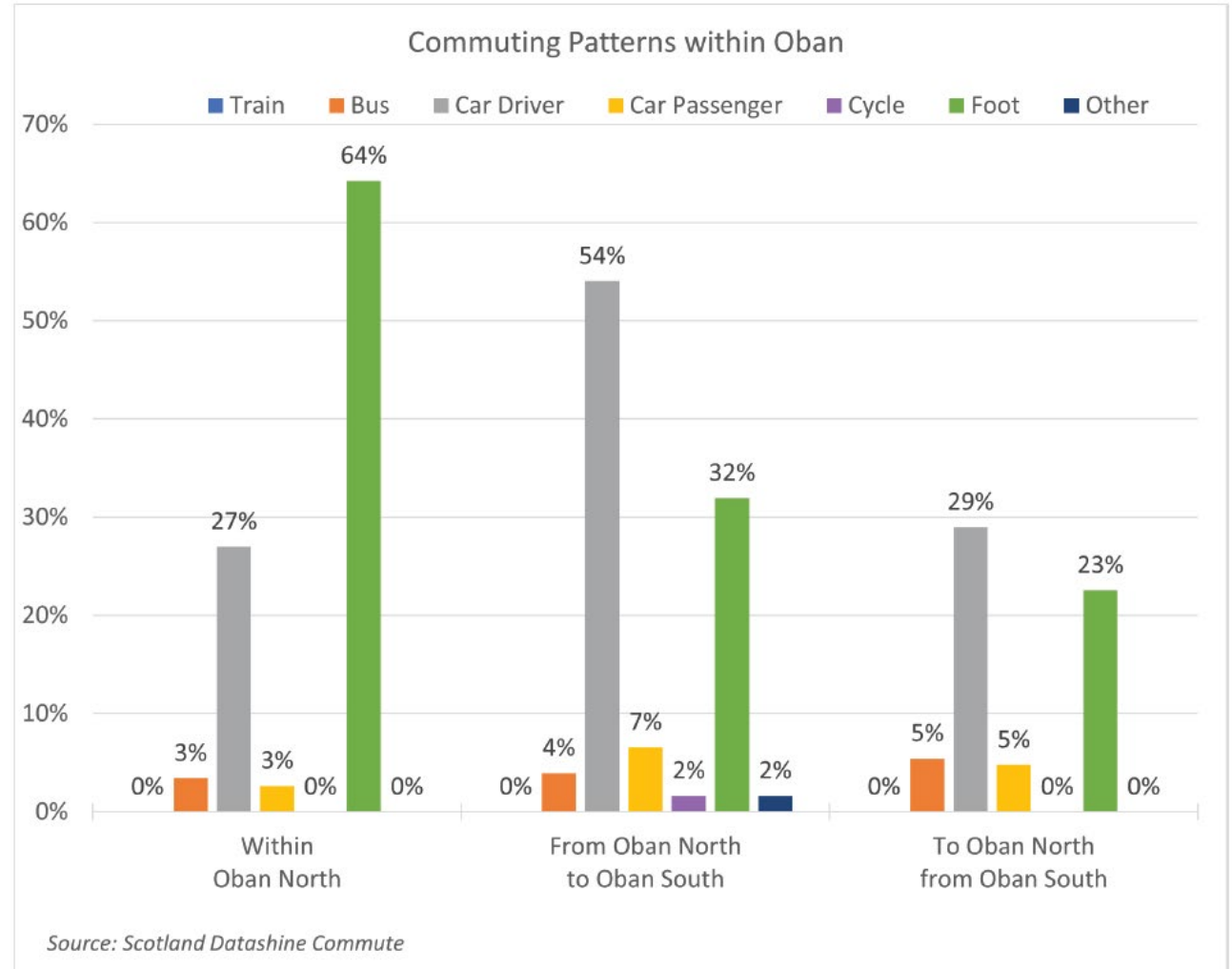
# Oban's Travel Characteristics

## The A85

- Consistent stream of traffic **c. 16,000 vehicles per day**.
- Stark seasonal difference; **c. 2,450 additional vehicle trips** per day recorded during summer.
- **c.85%** of vehicle trips either originate or terminate within Oban, or travel via the ferry terminal.

## Car Commuting

**c. 27%** of commuters travelling **within** Oban North travel by car.



# Key Constraints

- Completing demands on road space:
  - Active travel
  - Vehicle flow
  - Parking
  - Loading / servicing
- Widespread challenges in beach access and clarity of pedestrian routes.
- Potential for pedestrian/vehicle conflict due to:
  - Lack of footway and crossings
  - Complex junction arrangements
  - Pedestrian desire lines not met
- Poorly defined access and landscape setting of listed buildings, landmarks and key vistas.





# Key Opportunities

- Reduce carriageway width to enable footway / cycleway expansions.
- Reduce vehicle dominance.
- Enhance landscape setting of key civic and historic gateways incl:
  - Piermasters' Office
  - Columbia Hotel
  - Sea vistas
  - War memorial
- Improve access to the beach and sea.
- Create a welcoming arrival to Oban at the A85 gateway.





# Next Steps

- Analysis of the information received through this consultation.
- Development of strategic design principles and options for potential interventions.
- A further public consultation event to present and gather feedback on initial options.



Thank you for your input.

