

## Future of Rural Mobility Study

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"Midlands Connect is the strategic transport partnership of our region. We turn evidence into investment for long-term projects that will deliver real economic, social and environmental benefits for the Midlands and the UK"

## The Future of Rural Mobility Study

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The Future of Rural Mobility Study (FoRMS) October 2019

Gary Bosworth, Charles Fox, Liz Price & Martin Collison University of Lincoln

- Commissioned the University of Lincoln on behalf of our partners
- Focused on the human and business needs of rural areas
- Assessed new and future mobility tools
- Toolkit/menu of options including technical and non-technical



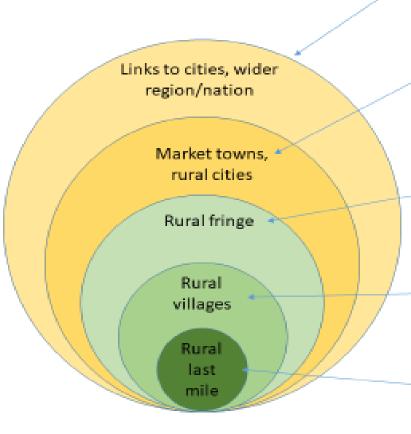
### Rural areas are different



- Not homogenous
- Varied economy
- Ageing population
- Reduced bus services
- 'Last mile' concept



# Geography of need



Access to regular trains and buses via passenger transport hubs, and park & ride schemes. Autonomous/semi-autonomous pods linking to market towns and rural cities, real time information on buses and trains freely available.

- Market towns may have park and ride/chose, more regular bus services and reasonable mobile and broadband coverage. Last mile can be active travel. Real time information on buses, app based demand responsive transport, car share via an app, deliveries to hubs.
- Rural fringes have poor public transport, patchy mobile and broadband coverage, reliance on private cars. Part/full time home working, real time information on buses, app based demand responsive transport, car share via an app, deliveries to hubs.

Rural villages may have limited or no public transport, mobile and broadband likely to be very patchy, heavy reliance on private cars. Home working, real time information on buses, village hubs, bundling demand for transport.

'Last mile' may be much longer distance to final destination. Demand responsive transport to access bus stops or the train; semi-autonomous pods, provision at village hubs if service users can get there.

# Three broad options of serving rural mobility needs

- Taking people to places
- Taking goods and services to people
- Replacing transport with communications





## Phase 2: exploring rural hubs

FoRMS phase 2 aims to:

- Develop guidance for local authorities
  - Identification of hub locations and requirements
  - Commercial considerations







## What are hubs and how do they improve rural mobility?

A local hub is a public space which is designed to accommodate multiple local level activities, and to provide transport services, supporting access to nearby communities

#### Benefits:

- Reducing length of the "Last Mile"
- A public space with many potential activities





### Phase 2: developing guidance on rural hubs





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## Typology and characteristics identification

Broad steps:

- Case studies
- Rural typologies
- Rural personas
- Hub components and concepts









### Phase 2: developing guidance on rural hubs





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### Next steps

- Just commented the draft guidance
- Guidance applied in four pilot areas
- Share it!





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