

Volt Malta Manifesto 2022

**A Forward-Looking
Transport System**



**Ivvota Aħjar.
Ivvota Volt.**

Is-Sibt, 26 ta' Marzu

A Forward-Looking Transport System

Before committing to a massive decision and jumping to a project, it is important to look into every possible solution and make an informed decision that can't be disputed for lack of research or consideration of other options.

An innovative way forward

- **Initiate a national research project in the viability** of having **just** and also **every combination possible** of the following modes of transport in Malta.
 - Metro system
 - Tram system
 - Light rail system
 - Ferry system
 - Rapid Bus Transit system
- **Include the introduction of a one-card system** for all public transport alongside the national research project, promoting accessibility/ease of access.
- **Considering the following factors;**
 - Cost to establish
 - Return of Investment Duration
 - Change in Car-Use
 - Environmental Impact/Benefit
- **Ensure both Malta and Gozo** are included within any research.
- **Conduct the research with an Integrity Pact** to ensure the research is done fairly and transparently.
- **Consider both the scenarios in which a Malta-Gozo** tunnel exists or doesn't with the integration of the possible mode of transport.
- **Ensure all data is publicly accessible digitally**, up to date, and also physically available on request.
- **Set a 4-year deadline for the research**
 - Ensure new data is published publicly every 6 months, in Spring and Autumn.
 - Extend the deadline for 2 years if research is incomplete.

Malta-Gozo road tunnel

- **Pause the Malta-Gozo road tunnel project** and wait until the studies are complete.
 - The Malta-Gozo tunnel may not be a viable solution if the studies show that the best solution does not involve any Malta-Gozo tunnel.

Pedestrian

- **Conduct research** on the state of Malta's pedestrian space.
- **Expand the 'Slow Streets' project to more localities.**
- **Transition into permanent pedestrianisation of village cores.**
- **Create a Walkable Malta.**

- **Ensure shaded pavement** to whatever extent possible. The choice of shade will be in the following order of priority according to possibility.
 - Natural shade (Flora that can grow, or already exists that covers pedestrian space.)
 - When creating additional natural shade, ensure flora is indigenous.
 - Artificial shade
 - Artificial shade should also take into consideration different weather events (ensure it is effective when it rains)
- **Ensure pavement is accessible** to individuals who use wheelchairs and pushchairs.
 - If the space is occupied with bags pending garbage collection, seek out alternative waste collection solutions.
- **Ensure pavement is maintained**, to ensure it is usable by all individuals, especially those who make use of wheelchairs, pushchairs, blind individuals, and other possible situations.

Bicycles, Electric Scooters

- **Ensure bike-sharing is possible nationwide.**
 - Create grants to set up bicycle parking stations in more locations.
- **Set up more bicycle parking stations** across Malta for privately-owned bicycles.
- **Ensure strict penalties** tied to the driving licence of individuals who use the priority lane illegally.
- **Create effective security barriers for bicycle lanes** that are adjacent to the road to protect individuals using the alternative routes.
- **Expand the bikeability of Malta.** Cooperate with NGOs to expand the network of roads usable by alternative methods.
 - Ensure road networks between localities are safe for individuals commuting with alternative transport.
- **Any road expansion must only be possible if it first creates a safe bicycle** lane zone, and secondly the space for priority lanes, thirdly for regular automobiles.
- **Solve existing road bottlenecks**, especially those inflicted by recent road expansions, by slimming the roads around the bottlenecks, and adopting a safe bicycle lane where possible.
- **Enforce laws pertaining to bicycles & electric scooters.**
- **Introduce Presumed Liability for motor vehicle users** to provide cyclists legal protection.
- **Introduce government-funded personal and vehicular insurance** for bicycle users.
- **Increase lighting** for footbridges, alleyways and other roads not sufficiently lit for evenings.
- **Ensure widespread setup of Sheffield Bicycle Racks** across Malta and Gozo.
- **Introduce Contraflow exemptions** for cyclists akin to those for buses.

Busses

- **Work towards a 24/7 bus system.** To effectively increase uptake of public transport.
 - **Regular bus schedules should continue** until midnight.

- **Ensure a consistent, nationwide, night bus schedule.**
 - Maintain the current night bus routes.
 - Create routes for every locality in Malta that is serviced hourly.
- **Increase the number of priority lanes**, ensure they are considered during road expansion after bicycle lanes and before regular roads.

Roads

- **Develop conditionalities for when road expansion** may/may not be acceptable.
 - Ensure a condition is that the road must attempt other modes of increasing connectivity through 0/low emissions mobility first.
- **Create metered parking** in, and around village cores.
- **For individuals who own 2 or more vehicles, and do not have enough garage space to accommodate all cars**, create a regular penalty fee for every car the individual can not accommodate in a garage space, excluding the primary car. The annual penalty will be €1,500 per year, per car.
 - E.g If the person owns 2 cars but has no garage space or has only 1 garage space, they are penalised for 1 car.
 - If the person owns 4 cars but has no garage space or only 1 garage space, they are penalised for 3 cars.
 - If the person has 2 garage spaces they are penalised for 2 cars.

Fossil Fuel Free Personal Vehicles

- **Ban the use of fossil fuels in road vehicles by 2035.** This does not ban the sale or use of internal combustion engines as long as they burn biofuels or synthetic fuels.
- **Facilitate conversion of internal combustion engines** which can process biofuels or synthetic fuels.
 - Ensure nationwide access to biofuels and synthetic fuels.
- **Conduct research on the potential** demand for fuel for Hydrogen-powered vehicles.
 - Involve research to map out nationwide coverage for hydrogen fuel stations within existing fuel stations
 - Ensure that there is not more than 1 hydrogen fueling station per locality.