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# Welcome to the Transport 21 Newsletter for Winter 2009.

This is the fifth edition of the newsletter and progress continues at a fast pace, with a number of projects reaching completion since our last edition. Two new road schemes have opened, the N25 Waterford City Bypass and the N52 Tullamore Bypass. In addition, the new terminal at Ireland West Airport Knock opened in October.

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## Progress Updates

### September

- > Commencement of track laying on the Citywest Luas line extension.



- > Completion of Phase 2 of the Luas Capacity Enhancement project

### October

- > Opening of the N25 Waterford City Bypass
- > Opening of the N52 Tullamore Bypass



- > Opening of the new Terminal at Ireland West Airport Knock
- > Commencement of track laying on Phase 1 of the Navan rail line at Hansfield Station

### November

- > Reopening of the Malahide Viaduct

### December

- > Establishment of the National Transport Authority
- > Opening of the Dockland Luas Line Extension

## Minister's Message Continued

Work is ongoing on many other projects, with all of our Major Interurban Motorways on target for completion in 2010. Trackworks have begun on the Luas line extension to Citywest and on the Navan rail line Phase 1. The Kildare rail project and the Western Rail Corridor Phase 1 will be completed by the end of this year, and the Luas red line extension to the Docklands opened on 8th December.

The difficult economic circumstances have required some changes to our plans for the coming years. Transport 21 was drawn up while our economy was still growing strongly. Now with fewer resources, we will not achieve everything we had hoped for within the original Transport 21 timetable. However, I believe that investment in our strategic infrastructure is even more important than before.

A strong transport network will be vital in strengthening Ireland's competitiveness internationally and in helping Irish business and industry to grow in the future. Continued investment in our transport infrastructure and services will play a key role in facilitating a return to economic growth in the coming years. The Renewed Programme for Government gives special priority to key Transport 21 projects such as Metro North and the Dart Underground and highlights the need to maintain planning on other projects so that they can also move forward quickly when resources allow. No projects have been cancelled, planning continues and Transport 21 remains the strategic framework for investment in Ireland's transport network for the years ahead.

*Noel Dempsey*

**Noel Dempsey T.D.**  
Minister for Transport



## N25 Waterford City Bypass

On 19th October Martin Cullen TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, opened the N25 Waterford City Bypass, 10 months ahead of schedule. The 23 kilometre scheme commences at Kilmeaden, west of Waterford City, crosses the River Suir and ties in with the existing N25 (Rosslare to Cork route) east of Slieverue in Co. Kilkenny.

One of the project's main features is the cable-stayed bridge crossing the River Suir at Grannagh. The new bridge is the State's longest cable-stayed bridge (465 metres long with a span of 230 metres). The new bypass will:

- > Reduce traffic levels on Waterford city's quays by 30%
- > Reduce cross city journey times
- > Take 20 minutes off peak journey times on the N25 Rosslare/Cork route
- > Cater for 14,000 vehicles per day, 10% of which are estimated to be heavy goods vehicles
- > Allow long distance traffic to bypass Waterford city



### Tullamore Bypass

The Tullamore Bypass was officially opened on 23rd October by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen TD. The project involved the construction of approximately 11.5 kilometres of standard single carriageway and 2.5 kilometres of wide single carriageway. The road is expected to remove 10,000 cars from Tullamore town every day.

### Smarter Travel Areas Competition

The Smarter Travel Areas Competition was launched by the Minister for Transport, Mr. Noel Dempsey TD, in July 2009. The competition has been established to deliver outstanding and innovative examples of sustainable travel in urban and rural areas and €50 million is available for investment in these projects.

The purpose of this competition is to encourage people to leave their cars at home and to walk, cycle or use other more sustainable forms of transport instead, particularly for short journeys.

The competition is being run by the Department of Transport and it was open to local authorities to submit proposals for developing sustainable travel solutions in rural areas and towns.

The closing date for the first round of proposals was 5pm on Friday 30th October 2009 and thirty-nine bids were received.

Smarter Travel area bids are to be co-ordinated by the relevant local authorities, and further details can be found at

[www.smartertravel.ie/smarter-travel-areas](http://www.smartertravel.ie/smarter-travel-areas)

### European Mobility Week

European Mobility Week ran from 16th to 22nd September. The theme for the 2009 campaign was "Improving City Climates". In support of European Mobility Week the Department of Transport provided funding to nine local authorities for projects which promoted and supported sustainable modes of travel and transport. The projects undertaken ranged from the installation of periodic speed limit signs, protecting vulnerable road users, to the creation of a comprehensive walking trail for the city of Cork. Each local authority provides details of its project on the [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.eu) website.



## Cork Commuter Rail Line

Scheduled services commenced on the Cork- Midleton Rail line on 4th August 2009 following a very successful launch day on Thursday 30th July. Approximately 3,000 people attended the official opening at Midleton and many more availed of the free service in and out to Cork for the day.

A total of 21 trains each way operate daily between Cork and Midleton, with services running every 30 minutes at peak times and every hour at off-peak times, Monday to Friday. Seventeen trains each way operate on Saturdays, and eight trains operate each way on Sundays.

Passenger numbers are particularly high off-peak with many customers opting to take the train for shopping and leisure pursuits.

## Phase 1 Navan Rail Line

On 30th October the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey TD, was joined by the Chairman of CIÉ and Iarnród Éireann Dr John Lynch to mark the first track being laid on Phase 1 of the Navan Rail line at Hansfield Station.

Construction is well underway on the 7.5 kilometre double track rail line, which will branch off the Maynooth line at Clonsilla and terminate at the interchange with the M3 motorway at Pace. 170 people are currently employed on the project.

The station at Pace on the M3 will have a 1,200 space car park, the largest park and ride facility in the country. There will also be 300 spaces at Dunboyne.

The line is scheduled to open in the latter half of 2010.

## Phase 1 Western Rail Corridor

Phase 1 of the Western Rail Corridor is nearing completion. Construction work has finished and commissioning works are currently taking place on the line. The line is due to open in January 2010. Phase 1 sees the reinstatement of the line from Ennis to Athenry and will include the introduction of Galway to Athenry commuter services. When the line opens there will be regular services between Galway and Limerick via Ennis. New stations will be opened at Sixmilebridge, Gort, Ardrahan and Craughwell. A new station at Oranmore will open in early 2010.

## Malahide Viaduct

In August subsidence under the seabed at the Malahide Viaduct in North Dublin caused a section of the main Dublin to Belfast railway line to collapse. Repair work began almost immediately and the viaduct was reopened on 16th November with full service restored on the line from that date.

## Kildare Rail Project

The Kildare Rail project is nearly complete. Construction work will be finished by the end of 2009 and services will begin on the line in the New Year. The project involved the quadrupling of a critical section of track between Cherry Orchard and Hazelhatch on the Heuston-Kildare line, as well as associated ancillary works such as signalling and station developments. The project will allow separation of long distance and commuter services and improve speed and capacity for commuter, regional and intercity services. Four new stations have been built on the line: Adamstown, Park West & Cherry Orchard, Clondalkin Fonthill and Hazelhatch & Celbridge.



## Docklands Luas Extension

The Tallaght Luas Line extension to the Docklands opened on 8th December. This 1.5 kilometre track extends the Tallaght/Connolly line from Connolly Station, through the Docklands, to the Point.



## Citywest Luas Extension

On 23 September, the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey TD was in Citywest to mark the start of the installation of the first section of trackworks for the new Luas link to Citywest and Saggart. This line is on target for completion in 2011.

## Cherrywood Luas Extension

The Luas extension from Sandyford to Cherrywood is also on target, with a completion date of 2010. This is a 7.5 kilometre extension of the existing Luas Green Line from St. Stephen's Green to Sandyford.

## Luas Capacity Enhancement Phase 2

Phase 2 of this project involved the provision of eight new trams for the existing Red and Green Luas Lines. The new trams became fully operational and available for passenger service at the end of September 2009.

## Lucan Luas Line

On 22nd October 2009, the RPA published a notice inviting observations from interested parties on the environmental impact assessment process for the proposed Luas Line F1. Line F1 is Phase 1 of the proposed new Lucan line and will run from Newcastle Road in Lucan to the Blackhorse Stop on the existing Tallaght Luas Line. Phase 2 of the project (Line F2), which will be the subject of a separate railway order application and EIS, will involve a spur from the Tallaght Luas Line on James's Street via Thomas Street and Christchurch to Dame Street.

## Metro North

On 19th October 2009, the RPA published a statutory notice informing interested parties that it had, on 1st October, submitted further information to An Bord Pleanála on the likely effect on the environment of the proposed Metro North project. This further information was on public display until 16th November 2009. The documents may also be viewed at [www.dublinmetronorth.ie](http://www.dublinmetronorth.ie). The oral hearing for Metro North recommenced at the end of November.

## Dublin Bus

Dublin Bus has begun trials of its Automatic Vehicle Location and Control (AVLC) system. The AVLC system will be the platform upon which Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) can be introduced.

The programme is part of an overall plan to ensure a greater predictability of service. As part of the AVLC installation process, each bus is equipped with an on-board computer that will interface with the existing bus radio system and transmit location data back to depots and other monitoring points. In addition to this, bus location data will be transmitted from the AVLC central computer system to Dublin City Council's traffic control central computer. This will allow for greater bus prioritisation at signal controlled junctions.

The first bus route to trial the AVLC is route 123, which is a cross-city service travelling from Marino to Walkinstown. Once successful on this route, AVLC will be rolled out to all other routes in the Summerhill Garage, and then on to all bus garages.

It is anticipated that AVLC will be fully operational by end 2010. At this point, it will be possible for Real Time Passenger Information to be fed back to screens at bus stops informing customers when their bus is due and Dublin City Council is undertaking a project that will see the erection of display screens at bus stops across the city. This information will

also be accessible through mobile phones and the internet.



## Bus Éireann

Bus Éireann has recently launched a number of social media initiatives in order to extend its customer base and increase on-line sales.

As part of the company's e-marketing strategy, it has launched a Twitter page – [twitter.com/buseireanndeals](https://twitter.com/buseireanndeals) – which is used to communicate special offers, promotions, new services, and answer customer queries. In just a few months the site already has attracted nearly 1,100 'fans'.

According to industry experts, Bus Éireann is one of just a few Irish companies that are using Twitter to sell products. Bus Éireann has been offering Twitter-only €2 single fares on off-peak services across a number of its inter-city routes such as Limerick-Cork, Dublin-Ballina and Dublin-Waterford.

Bus Éireann also has a very active presence on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/buseireann](https://www.facebook.com/buseireann), which the company uses to offer special fares,

promote deals, run competitions, and interact with customers. The site already has over 1,400 'fans'.

Bus Éireann also used its Twitter and Facebook pages during the recent flooding in the West and South of the country to keep the public regularly updated about any disruption to services and to answer customer queries on services.



## Update on College Green Bus Corridor

The Bus Corridor at College Green in Dublin City Centre, which began operating on 27th July, is one of the most successful elements of Dublin city's bus priority programme.

Dublin Bus has been monitoring the services that operate through the bus corridor and has found that reliability and timekeeping have improved significantly from city termini. According to Dublin Bus, major cross city routes previously took up to 40 minutes to travel through the city centre but this is now consistently taking less than 10 minutes.

Dublin City Council were to review the Bus Corridor scheme after 6 months but in November Dublin City councillors, at the request of business interests, decided that the corridor should be suspended during the hours of 16.00 to 19.00 from 18th November 2009 until 18th January 2010. This is to facilitate the busy pre and post Christmas shopping period. The corridor will still operate during the morning peak from 07.00 to 10.00. A full review of the

scheme will now be carried out at the June meeting of the City Council.



## National Transport Authority

The National Transport Authority (NTA) was formally established on 1 December 2009. The new Authority has the following responsibilities: At a national level the NTA will contract for the provision of all bus and rail services and will have responsibility for the allocation of subvention in respect of public transport services, which are provided on a public service obligation basis. During 2010, it is envisaged that the NTA will also assume responsibility for commercial bus route licensing and the regulation of small public service vehicles nationally.

Within the Greater Dublin Area or GDA the Authority will be responsible for preparing a strategic transport plan for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services, which is consistent with the relevant Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA. The NTA will also have responsibility for the capital funding of all major public transport infrastructure projects planned for the GDA.

Arising from the establishment of the NTA, the Dublin Transportation Office was dissolved on 1 December 2009. It is expected that the Commission for Taxi Regulation will be dissolved during 2010.

Last October the Minister for Transport announced his intention to amalgamate the Commission for Aviation Regulation and the regulatory functions of the Irish Aviation Authority with the National

Transport Authority and to bring forward legislation in that regard at an early date. More detailed information about the National Transport Authority and its functions is available on the Authority's website [www.nationaltransport.ie](http://www.nationaltransport.ie).



## Regional Airports

On Friday October 16th Minister Dempsey officially opened the new Terminal at Ireland West Airport Knock. To date, under Transport 21, over €9.4 million has been spent at the airport, mainly on the terminal extension, an Instrument Landing System and a perimeter fence and road. The terminal was named after Mr. Joe Kennedy, Honorary President of the Airport's Board of Directors and former Chairman for over seven years.

# List of Completed Projects

> 67 new intercity rail carriages deployed on Dublin-Cork line	> N8 Cashel to Mitchelstown
> Introduction of intercity railcars on Dublin - Sligo, Dublin-Limerick, Dublin-Westport, Dublin-Galway, Dublin-Waterford, Dublin - Kerry and Dublin - Gorey lines	> M8 Cullahill to Cashel
> Portlaoise Traincare depot	> M8 Fermoy to Mitchelstown
> Docklands railway station	> N9 Carlow Bypass
> Parkwest and Cherry Orchard Station	> N11 Arklow to Gorey Bypass
> Clondalkin Fonthill Station	> N11 Enniskerry Junction improvements
> Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station	> N11 Kilpedder-Delgany Junction
> Cork - Middleton Commuter Rail Line	> N15 Ballyshannon-Bundoran Bypass
> Phase 1 Luas Capacity Enhancement	> N18 Ennis Bypass
> Phase 2 Luas Capacity Enhancement	> N21 Castleisland-Abbeyfeale
> Docklands Luas Line extension	> N25 Kinsalebeg
> Terminal at Ireland West Airport Knock	> N25/27 Kinsale Road Interchange
> M1 Dublin - Border	> N25 Waterford City Bypass
> N2 Monaghan Town Bypass	> N30 Enniscorthy-Clonroche Realignment
> N2 Ashbourne Bypass	> M50 Dublin Port Tunnel
> N2 Castleblaney Bypass	> M50 Upgrade Phase 1
> N4 Edgeworthstown Relief Road	> M50 Upgrade Phase 3 and introduction of barrier free tolling
> N4 Dromod to Rooskey	> N51 Navan Inner Relief Road
> N5 Charlestown Bypass	> N52 Mullingar Eastern Bypass
> N6 Tyrellspass to Kilbeggan	> N52 Mullingar to Belvedere
> N6 Kilbeggan to Athlone	> N52 Tullamore Bypass
> N7 Naas Road widening	> N55 Cavan Bypass
> N8 Rathcormac - Fermoy	> N56 Mountaintop to Illistrin Phase 1 and 2
> N8/N73 Mitchelstown Relief Road	> N77 Kilkenny Ring Road Extension
	> N85 Western Relief Road

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