

PATHFINDER PROJECT FOR SOUTH DUBLIN IN THE PIPELINE

The Pathfinder programme is set to prioritise several key urban locations, and for its part South Dublin County Council will focus on the Dublin 24 Rapid Build, to include the delivery of a cycle network in Tallaght/D24 and the development of walking and cycling infrastructure with public realm improvements.

The Pathfinder Project is part of the National Transport Authority's overall Cycle Connects Programme to focus on core networks in urban areas, prioritising delivery of parts of the network to deliver high-quality cycle routes close to the homes of most people in urban areas.

Similar to Bus Connects, Cycle Connects will create a unified brand and sense of cohesion around these core corridors, with the overall aim to have 70% to 80% of the urban population within 500m of the completed Core Network in 2028. The Pathfinder programme will prioritise several key urban locations, which will tie in with the Five Cities Active Travel Demonstrators.

South Dublin County Council will focus on the Dublin 24 Rapid Build and the Castletymon neighbourhood. This scheme will include rapid delivery of a 11km cycle network in Tallaght/D24, and the development of Castletymon as a 10-minute neighbourhood via walking and cycling infrastructure, with public realm improvements.

The launch of this project by Transport Minister Ryan took place in the Castletymon Library – one of the focal points on the proposed Dublin 24 Rapid Build Cycling Network – which will further connect the community in South Tallaght with the Luas, Tallaght Town Centre, Tallaght Hospital, five schools and sports communities, running in part through Bancroft Park.

Green Party TD for Dublin South-West Francis Noel Duffy said: "This new cycle network in Dublin 24 and the development of the Dodder Valley Greenway will provide needed infrastructure to provide safe routes for cyclists, encourage more people and children to cycle and walk to school, their local clubs, to Tallaght Hospital and the Town Centre or to simply enjoy the Dodder Valley Greenway.

"This new scheme will help us make the necessary changes in our lives to improve our health and protect the environment. I look forward to seeing more of these schemes across the whole constituency, so we see a complete shift towards active transport.

LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

"The Leadership Group through this Pathfinder Programme will continue to engage with all local authorities to ensure momentum and that the lessons and experience of the shortlisted projects are shared for everyone's benefit," said Minister Ryan.

He added: "Decarbonising transport presents an enormous challenge, one which requires a fundamental change in how we travel including a shift in our mindset and choices. By 2025 the selected pathfinder projects will be in action, improving the

communities in which they will be implemented, and demonstrating to other localities how our system can be transformed. By delivering quickly, and by striking out on a path which others will follow, they will help to drive implementation of the Government's Sustainable Mobility Policy."

Michael Mulhern, Director of Planning and Transport at South Dublin County Council said: "The scale of interest shown by local authorities across the country in putting forward so many excellent projects is hugely encouraging.

"It shows the level of commitment and ambition that each local



'The Castletymon Neighbourhood Scheme will include the development of the Tallaght suburb as a 10-minute neighbourhood in the Dublin 24 area, via walking and cycling infrastructure, with public realm improvements.

authority must deliver these projects which will drastically enhance our local walking, cycling and public transport networks. We need the continued support from central Government, the NTA as well as local communities to successfully deliver these projects."

TRANSFORMING IRISH CITIES

Anne Graham, National Transport Authority's CEO, said the pathfinder projects will transform Ireland's cities by reducing car dependency and widening access for active travel and public transport.

She added: "The projects can deliver once-in-a-generation change to active travel through Cycle Connects across all of our cities focussing on the delivery of the core active travel networks and making new connections, such as for example, between Limerick's three higher education institutions.

"The Pathfinder projects also support the delivery of the first zero emission public transport services in Athlone and Dingle and starts us on an ambitious delivery path for zero emission bus services across Ireland."

Projects are split into following categories, according to the Department of Transport:

- * **National Impact:** This includes 'Cycle Connects' – a national brand co-ordinating high-quality cycle routes in urban areas.
- * **Cycle Network/Corridor Proposals:** Projects such as West Wexford Urban Cycle Network, Sligo Cycle Corridor and Meath Rural Cycleway Rapid Development.
- * **Public Transport:** Projects such as Moyross Train Station and Athlone Bus Electrification.
- * **15-Minute Neighbourhoods:** Projects such as the Letterkenny Active Travel Town and Naas Mobility Network and the five Cities Active Travel Demonstrators.
- * **Serving Schools/Universities:** Projects like the acceleration of the 'Safe Routes to School' Programme, Limerick University Connectivity, BusIT2School in Co. Meath.
- * **Workshops and Research:** This includes nationwide Sustainable Mobility Training Workshops and Leitrim 'Green Mile' Mobility Pilot.



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CYCLE SOUTH DUBLIN PROGRAMME

In addition to the Pathfinder Project, South Dublin County Council continues to work on significant Active Travel plans through its Cycle South Dublin Programme. This programme is progressed through 'Now, Soon and Later' projects all detailed through our Active Travel website and on our GIS maps page on the website, which can be found on South Dublin County Council's main website under the transport section.

It aims to deliver over 263km of new and improved cycle lanes across 45 routes over the next eight years and is funded by the NTA. The council has a dedicated team of six executive engineers and Active Travel Officers to project manage each project on the Cycle South Dublin Programme.

Projects are divided into three phases based upon the following timeframes:

Now: Progress projects within the next two years
 Soon: Progress projects within the next five years
 Later: Progress projects within the next eight years

South Dublin County also has a programme of NTA-funded bike parking installations across schools, sports clubs and public parks. During the summer of 2021 applications were open to schools and sports clubs, while a contractor was appointed in November 2021 to manufacture bike racks and bike shelters.

To date working through the Active Travel Department, over 650 new bike parking spaces have been installed across the constituency of South Dublin County Council. Phase 3 of the bike parking initiative will be rolled out in early 2023, with a focus by the council on delivering bike shelters and bike repair stations alongside their bike parking stands.

This programme is to support the Active Travel Infrastructure, which has been significantly expanded by South Dublin County Council and to ensure that public parks/schools and sports clubs, where needed, have adequate bike parking spaces.



"The development of the Dodder Valley Greenway will provide infrastructure needed to provide safe routes for cyclists, encourage more people and children to cycle and walk to school, local clubs, Tallaght Hospital and the town centre or to simply enjoy the Dodder Valley Greenway" – Noel Duffy, Green Party TD for Dublin South-West Francis