

PATHFINDER PROJECT FOR SOUTH DUBLIN ON THE RIGHT TRACK

South Dublin County Council will focus on the Dublin 24 Rapid Build and Castletymon Neighbourhood Scheme, which 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 Minister Ryan took place in Castletymon Library, which is one of the focal points on the proposed Dublin 24 Rapid Build Cycling Network. It 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.

The Active Travel Department in South Dublin County Council is due to commence work on the project in the first quarter of 2023, which aims to add significantly to the Active Travel Plan for the council in building a significant network of walking and cycling lanes across South Dublin.

The Active Travel Team has already completed several large projects such as 'The Grange Road Walking and Cycling Scheme', the first three phases of the Dodder Greenway are now fully complete and open, while the fourth phase will be ready soon.

Other projects also include Monastery Road Walking and Cycling Scheme, N81 Cycling, walking and bus facilities, and several schemes soon to be open. All of these projects will build towards the goal of a walking and cycling network spanning right across South Dublin enabling people to make real choices in now and in the future of Active Travel commuting to work or school.

CYCLE CONNECTS PROGRAMME

The Pathfinder Project is part of the NTA's overall Cycle Connects Programme and will focus on core networks in urban areas, prioritising delivery of parts of the network that will 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 of having 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.

Put together the selected pathfinder projects being worked on by local authorities will begin to transform how we move, work and live across the country. The Pathfinder Programme is focused on reducing carbon emissions in the transport sector, by enabling the shift to cleaner-to-cleaner transport choices. There will be a strong emphasis on experimental and innovative approaches.

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 the infrastructure needed 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. I look forward to seeing more of these schemes across the whole constituency, so we see a complete shift towards active transport."



'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.

COMMITMENT AND AMBITION

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

“It shows the level of commitment and ambition by each local authority to deliver these projects which will drastically enhance our local walking, cycling and public transport networks. We need the continued support from central Government, the National Transport Authority as well as local communities to successfully deliver these projects.”

The Department of Transport has split projects into the following categories:

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



“The Dodder Valley Greenway will 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 greenway” – Francis Noel Duffy, Green Party TD for Dublin South-West



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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, which are all detailed through the council’s Active Travel Website and on the GIS maps page on the website.

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. Overall, the aim of the project is to increase the level of walking and cycling.

The 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 Council, alongside all other local authorities working on pathfinder projects, looks forward to starting work on this innovative scheme and to share ideas collaboratively as the project commences. The Active Travel website for South Dublin County Council includes the details on the Pathfinder Project under ‘Latest News’ category. <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/latest-news/active-travel-2023/january-2023/>