

COUNCIL ROLLS OUT AMBITIOUS CYCLE SOUTH DUBLIN PROGRAMME

South Dublin County Council has rolled out its new Cycle South Dublin (CySD) programme which proposes up to 63 projects to deliver 260km of new and improved cycle lanes across the county within the next ten years, in a bid to become one of Ireland's most cycle-friendly counties.

South Dublin County's population is set to grow to nearly 330,000 people by 2030, which would represent an increase of nearly 50,000 people living in the county since 2016. And in recent years traffic congestion in the county has grown by 11% on main roads and this will become ever more challenging as the population continues to grow.

Congestion results in lost time, which has a negative economic impact, and also has negative environmental and health implications. Private vehicles will always have an important role to play in how people move around the county, but there is a need to quickly offer high-quality public transport alternatives; active travel and, in particular, cycling are critical to this.

Cycling can offer a credible alternative for short and medium-length journeys. Within the Dublin Metropolitan area, 60,000 trips are made daily by bike that would otherwise have been made by car (NTA, Bike Life, 2019).

Providing access to an improved cycle infrastructure will encourage more people to choose cycling, thereby increasing this number further and reducing unnecessary car trips.

'CYCLE SOUTH DUBLIN' PROGRAMME
SDCC's mission is for cycling to become a credible alternative to the private vehicle. However, believing that it must deliver a well-designed, safe and well-connected walking and cycling network for people of all ages and abilities, the council aims to:

- Provide a comprehensive and connected cycle network across South Dublin;
- Increase participation and make cycling a more achievable mode of transport



The scheme for Tallaght aims to improve the public realm and provide two new public spaces within the town centre.

- for all adults and children; and
- Improve the cycling identity of the county.

To this end, the council has prepared the Cycle South Dublin (CySD) programme to reflect the increasing importance of making cycling a realistic and integral part of how people move around the county.

There is currently 207km of cycle lanes across South Dublin. In recent years, the council has progressed eight active travel

projects totalling approximately 21km of new and improved cycle lanes. However, SDCC recognises that more needs to be done.

The CySD programme proposes a set of 63 projects to deliver nearly 260km of new and improved cycle lanes across the county within the next ten years. The projects are divided into four council-led phases, including improvement works to the existing network, and new schemes to be delivered in the 'Now, Soon and Later'

Cycle South Dublin aims on track to deliver

- **Existing:** Maintenance, upgrades and light segregation
- **NOW (next 4 yrs)** 19 projects totalling c.95km for c. €130m
- **SOON (4-8 yrs)** 12 projects totalling c.40km for c. €60m
- **LATER (8-10 yrs)** 10 projects totalling c.35km for c. €50m
- **Total (10 yrs)** 41 projects totalling c.170km for c. €240m
- **NTA Bus Connects** 6 projects totalling c.40km by 2027

timescales. A fifth separate works phase will be delivered by the National Transport Authority (NTA) via Bus Connects.

In preparing the CySD programme, SDCC has engaged with the NTA and the Department of Transport. The NTA will fund the majority of projects identified for delivery over the next five years, which has been demonstrated in its commitment to increase SDCC's active travel funding from €8.9m in 2020 to €20.7m for 2021.

ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES

The council is making progress to deliver the programme and is currently progressing works on the following active travel schemes, which are already on-site, or are due to start shortly.

Dodder Greenway: The 14km route stretches from the foothills of the Dublin Mountains at Kiltipper to the eastern county boundary with Dublin city. SDCC has delivered three new pedestrian

and cycle bridges, and has started work on new links within the Dodder Valley. Improvements are being made to several streets in the surrounding area to improve access.

New streets at both Celbridge Link Street in Adamstown and Belgard North Link Street in Tallaght: Both new streets will provide improved pedestrian and cycle access into key regeneration lands from surrounding areas in South Dublin.

- **Monastery Road:** This active travel scheme will deliver improvements for cyclists and pedestrians on a key approach road into Clondalkin Village.
- **Grange Road and the N81 Jobstown Junction schemes:** Contractors have been appointed for both schemes which will deliver new walking and cycling improvements at both locations.



Cyclists pictured in Tymon Park during the National Bike Week Cycle in September 2020 from SDCC County Hall to Templeogue.



Pictured at the start of National Bike Week Cycle 2020 from SDCC County Hall to Templeogue: SDCC's Ally Menary (Road Safety Officer), Cllr Eoin O'Broin, Cllr Vicki Casserly, Cllr Carly Baily, Cllr Peter Kavanagh, Cllr David McManus (Deputy Mayor of South Dublin), Cllr Emma Murphy, Jennifer McGrath (SDCC), Mairead Forsyth (Dublin Cycling Campaign) and Lorraine Butler (SDCC).

In addition to those on-site schemes, SDCC is making progress on several new schemes, which are at varying stages in the process, such as feasibility, pre-planning, public consultation, or detailed design:

- **Wellington Lane:** SDCC is currently trialling improvements on this 3km street, using feedback from this trial to inform the final design to be taken forward.
- **Lucan Canal Loop:** This 4.5km section of new cycle-way will link the Grand Canal to the River Liffey in Lucan which, in time, would link onwards to the Royal Canal.
- **Dodder Lower Road:** This scheme, which will support improved access for active travel into the Dodder Valley Greenway, has completed Part 8 public consultation.
- **Tallaght Town Centre:** This scheme aims to improve the public realm and provide two new public spaces within the Tallaght Town Centre. Part 8 approval is in place and SDCC is now working towards appointing a contractor to deliver the works.

There are also sections of the existing road network where quick safety improvements can be delivered to make it safer for people to walk and cycle. These works are generally delivered through the quick installation of extruded curbs, bollards, lines and signs.

SDCC has completed schemes on Wellington Lane, Fortunestown Drive and is also progressing designs for schemes on Templeville Road, Castletymon and Limekiln and Whitehall

Road West.

The successful delivery of such a network does not solely rest with the council. Over the coming years, the comprehensive delivery of this programme of work will require increased political and community support to make this a reality, whilst it will not always be easy to build this support, SDCC is committed to working with people and to listening to different views.

GROWING LEVEL OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

The early years will be the most challenging. However, as they make progress and people begin to see the benefits on the ground and in what this can mean for them, SDCC hopes that support will grow.

South Dublin County Council has been hugely encouraged by the scale of responses and the general level of support for what it proposes to deliver. The council is currently reviewing these comments and considering how best to prepare a final programme.

There will likely be a need to add new routes or amend proposed routes already identified. There may also be changes to the prioritisation of schemes and the overall length of the improvement works to be delivered.

With the final programme presented to the council's elected members for agreement, SDCC hopes the Cycle South Dublin programme will become a cornerstone for the proposed walking and cycling improvements across the county.

NEW BRIDGES CROSS NEXT PHASE OF DODDER GREENWAY

The Dodder Greenway forms a major part of South Dublin County Council's Cycle South Dublin strategy, with the 17km route representing a major new transport and recreational facility linking Dublin City Centre to the Dublin Mountains. A key milestone in the overall vision for the Dodder Greenway has been the opening of three new pedestrian and cycle bridges.

Developed as a route of international renown and on par with the best greenways in the world, the Dodder Greenway will link Sir Rogerson's Quay in Dublin's city centre to the entrance of the Bohernabreena Reservoirs at Glenasmole in South Dublin.

And as part of the Bridges Phase of the Dodder Greenway initiative, South Dublin County Council has built three new pedestrian and cycle bridges, 750m of new pathway and 2.6km of upgraded paths.

This phase of the project is being delivered with funding by the National Transport Authority (€4.3m) and the European Regional Development Fund's S&E Regional Programme (€1.5m).

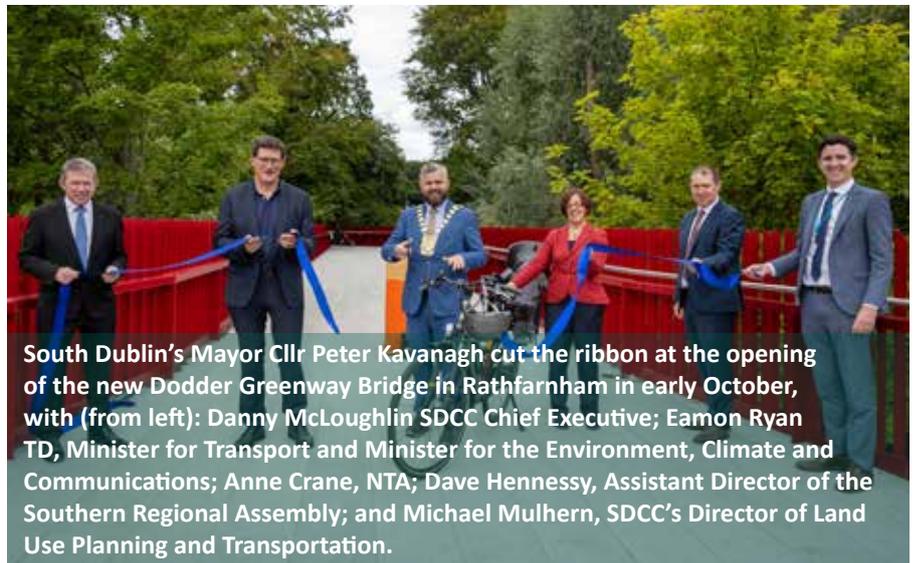
The opening of the bridges is a key milestone in the overall Dodder Greenway vision to link Dublin City Centre to the Dublin Mountains via Ballsbridge, Milltown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse and Tallaght. The South Dublin County section of the Greenway stretches from the Bohernabreena Reservoir in Tallaght to Orwell Park in Rathfarnham.

The Dodder Greenway represents a major new transport and recreational facility for Dublin, catering for both commuter and social cyclists. The route is a combination of off-road and on-road cycleways utilising existing facilities within the Dodder Valley and connecting the linear parkland along the route.

PROVISION OF ACTIVE AND SAFE TRAVEL

Michael Mulhern, Director of Services for Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT), at South Dublin County Council, described the Dodder Greenway as a "fantastic new walking and cycling route for South Dublin".

"We have already seen a huge increase in the numbers of people using it for leisure, recreation and commuting and we have even small café businesses opening up along it. Once the whole route is completed it will be great for the whole of Dublin."



South Dublin's Mayor Cllr Peter Kavanagh cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Dodder Greenway Bridge in Rathfarnham in early October, with (from left): Danny McLoughlin SDCC Chief Executive; Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Transport and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications; Anne Crane, NTA; Dave Hennessy, Assistant Director of the Southern Regional Assembly; and Michael Mulhern, SDCC's Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation.

Transport Minister Eamon Ryan TD said that the Cycle South Dublin strategy is "one of the most ambitious programmes for cycling in the country", which will deliver a 260km network of cycle lanes connecting homes with the places people need to go on a daily basis.

"By improving and expanding these facilities, we can ensure our cities, towns and villages are more connected and accessible while making sustainable travel a real alternative to private car use. That's why we are investing €360 million per annum over the ten years to 2030, with a view to providing active and safe ways of travelling right across the country."

Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transport Authority, said, "NTA is delighted to have co-funded this phase of work on the Dodder Greenway. We worked closely with South Dublin County Council to deliver this scheme, which will make walking and cycling safer and more attractive for more people in this part of Dublin and beyond.

"The Dodder Greenway is precisely the kind of project that we need to focus on as part of the effort to tackle climate change and provide an alternative to the private car."