

FUNDING OF €713M ROLLED OUT FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS



This year's investment programme of €713 million for Ireland's regional and local roads represents an overall increase of over 8% in funding for road and safety improvements on the interconnected regional and local road network.

Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien, who announced the funding with Ministers of State Seán Canney and Jerry Buttimer, said that his priority is the ongoing maintenance and renewal of the regional and local road network, alongside strategic investment in developing and improving the road infrastructure network.

"Rehabilitation and maintenance are fundamental to keeping the network in a good condition, and a significant increase in funding has been provided for in 2025, with most of the funding going towards restoration of the network. This is essential for maintaining social and economic connectivity, linking people and places across the country."

In addition to maintaining the current road network, Minister O'Brien said that the infrastructure will be developed and upgraded by investing €70 million in vital strategic projects, which are continuing to be progressed.

"These include those identified for development under the National Development Plan such as the Shannon Crossing and Killaloe Bypass project in Killaloe and Ballina, and the Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road in Limerick City," he added.

As part of the €70 million investment, over €20 million is being allocated under the Specific Grant category for smaller-scale road improvements. These grants will fund a variety of projects, including bridge repairs, junction reconfigurations and initiatives to reduce traffic congestion in towns.

They will also aim to enhance access to educational institutions, businesses and public transport. Funded projects in 2025 include rehabilitation of Ballycorkey Bridge in Westmeath and the R595 Old Court, Skibbereen to Baltimore realignment in Cork.

INCREASE IN ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Minister of State with responsibility for International and Road Transport, Logistics, Rail and Ports, Seán Canney, said the investment will enhance road safety, by allocating funds for over 330 safety projects this year, an increase of 20% from last year.

"These safety schemes aim to implement remedial measures to improve the overall safety of our road network, benefiting all road users. Increasing funding in safety projects is vital in reducing road fatalities and serious injuries and helps to create a safer transport environment for all.

"In response to the constant environmental challenges, we are designating €16.5 million for 315 projects focused on climate change adaptation to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of our roads.

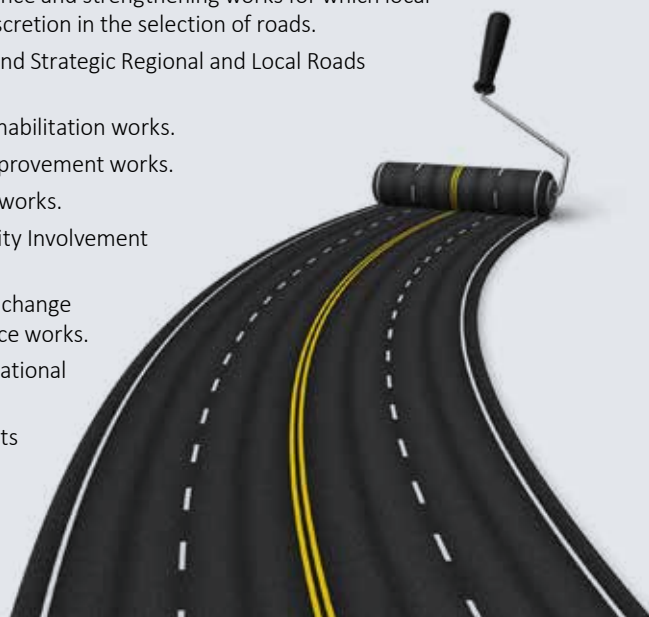
"Projects to be completed in 2025 under the Climate Adaptation grant vary from flood alleviation works at Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan to seawall protection works at Aillroe/Erribul, Co. Clare."

Minister of State with responsibility for Rural Transport, Jerry Buttimer, said that the €713 million funding will "boost connectivity, support businesses, and make daily commutes to school, work, and other activities easier and safer for families".

The 2025 grants programme demonstrates a significant increase in investment across various grant categories, with boosted funding for Restoration Improvement, bridge rehabilitation, safety projects and the Community Involvement Scheme. The Department of Transport will also continue to offer grant assistance to local authorities for the implementation of reduced speed limits on rural local roads.

The €713m investment encompasses key grants including:

- €330m for road pavement strengthening works.
- €75m for preventative surface dressing work.
- €84m for maintenance and strengthening works for which local authorities have discretion in the selection of roads.
- €70m for Specific and Strategic Regional and Local Roads Projects.
- €18m for bridge rehabilitation works.
- €13m for safety improvement works.
- €18m for drainage works.
- €15m for Community Involvement Schemes.
- €16.5m for climate change adaptation/resilience works.
- €12m for Former National Road.
- Miscellaneous grants also provided for several pilot initiatives, salt purchase training, asset management and conducting pavement surveys.



The investment will allocate funds for over 330 road safety projects this year, an increase of 20% on last year.



Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien (centre) pictured with Ministers of State Jerry Buttimer (left) and Seán Canney (right) following their funding announcement.