

# A Transport Plan for the Limerick-Shannon Area 2040



**Easy to Read information leaflet**

**New version for March 2022**

# What is this Information Leaflet about?



This information is about a transport plan for the Limerick-Shannon area.



This plan is called the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy. It looks as far ahead as 2040.



The plan was put together by the National Transport Authority, or the NTA for short.



The NTA worked on the plan with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

# About our Transport Plan



There are 8 parts to our plan:



**1.** Cutting down traffic and pollution, and looking after the environment.

We want people to use cars less.

We want them to walk, cycle, and use public transport more.



We want more electric cars and public transport vehicles that are better for the environment.



**2.** Bringing the areas of Limerick and Shannon together.

We will make it easier to travel between Limerick and Shannon.

# About our Transport Plan



**3.** Improving Limerick City Centre and protecting its historic places.

Making it a better place for people and families to live in, work in, and visit.



**4.** A transport system that everyone can use no matter where they live.



**5.** Supporting people in poorer areas to get to places with jobs, schools, and colleges.

Better public transport in these areas as well as better, safer ways to walk and cycle.

# About our Transport Plan



**6.** Better open spaces in cities and towns where people can sit and relax.

Managing how big trucks move around the city.



**7.** Universal Design so everyone can use public transport no matter what their age, size, ability, or disability.

Talking to persons with disabilities about our plan.  
Having information that everyone can understand.



**8.** A public transport service that supports people to get to school, college, work, and to social and leisure activities.

# Our Goals



To put our transport plan into action, we need to set goals.

Our goals are:



To spend money carefully on a good public transport system that works now and into the future.



To make sure that the public transport system helps people to get to more places.



To make sure that more houses can be built in places where there is good public transport.

# Our Goals



To have a transport system that everyone can use.



To have a plan for moving goods around the area with better connections to Shannon-Foynes Port and Shannon Airport.



To make the roads safer and improve public health.



To cut down the effect of traffic in city and town centres.

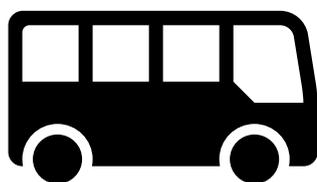
# Travelling in the Limerick-Shannon area



Limerick City is the largest city in the Mid-West. Most people in the area live in or around the city.



Shannon is a big centre for jobs.



The Limerick-Shannon area has bus and coach services.

The one-way traffic system in the city can be a problem for buses.



There is a network of roads in the area.

Traffic can be heavy in some places at busy times of the day.

# Travelling in the Limerick-Shannon area



There are some cycling paths.

There are things that make cycling hard, for example, rivers, railway lines, busy roads.



Some parts of the Limerick-Shannon area have better paths and walking spaces than others.



There is a rail service with InterCity trains to Dublin, Cork, Galway, and other cities.



There is an airport at Shannon.

# Working with other Plans for the Limerick-Shannon Area.



There are many plans for Ireland and for the Limerick-Shannon Area.

We need to look at national, regional, county, and local plans.



World Health Organization

There are plans from the European Union, the United Nations and the World Health Organisation.

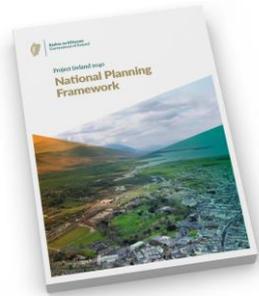


We have to think about how our transport plan fits with these other plans.



These plans are about travel, the environment, health, road safety, accessibility, and the way we use land.

# The National Planning Framework



One of the most important plans we have to think about is the National Planning Framework.



It looks at how Ireland will grow and change.



The Framework says that there could be one million more people in Ireland by 2040.



The Framework says the Limerick-Shannon area will be very important in the future.

# The National Planning Framework



More people will live and work in this area.  
Many will need to live near or be able to get to  
the city centre.



The economy will grow.



Houses will need to be built in the city, and in  
towns and villages.

# How did we put our Transport Plan together?



We looked at different policies and advice.



We looked at the transport services in the Limerick and Shannon areas now.



We agreed on the most important things when it comes to transport.

We made a list of all the challenges.



We looked at different transport choices.

# How did we put our Transport Plan together?



We came up with and tested different transport ideas.



We put together a transport plan that we felt would work well and meet our goals.



Then, we looked in more detail at each part of this plan.

# Talking to the Public about our Transport Plan



The draft plan was on our website.

The draft plan was a first go at writing the plan and could be changed.



We talked to the public and interested groups about our draft transport plan.

We did this in September and October 2020.



We held events and talked to people online.

We could not meet people face to face because of COVID-19.



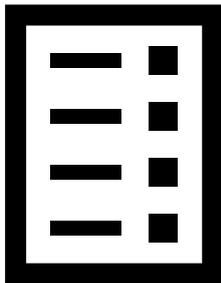
Over one hundred individuals and groups sent us their views.

We read them all and listened to what people had to say.

# Talking to the Public about our Transport Plan



We changed the plan when we heard the different views.



For example, we changed the report and added in extra information.



We put in information about COVID-19.



We added a new part to our plan and a new goal.

# COVID-19



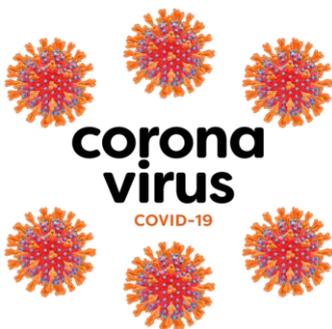
The first draft of our plan was ready in March 2020.

This was just before Covid-19 started to cause problems in Ireland.



The NTA tried to keep as many public transport services working as possible.

We wanted to keep staff and passengers safe.



We do not know yet how COVID-19 might change our travel needs in the future.

For example, people working from home or learning online.



We looked at how this might change our transport plan.

We will keep looking at the demands for transport into the future.

# What does the Transport Plan say?



## Revised Draft Limerick | Shannon METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2040



# Walking



Walking links all the different types of transport. For example, you might walk to get a bus or from a bus to a train.



We will make changes so people of all ages and abilities can walk safely in our villages, towns, and cities.



We want nice, interesting places to walk. There should be good lighting, seating, and accessible toilets.



We will have better paths, streets, bridges, and crossings that are safe and easy to use. We will have maps so people can find their way.

# Cycling



Cycling is good for the environment.  
This type of transport does not cost much money and is getting more popular all the time.



Limerick is a small and flat city which is very good for cycling.



We will have a cycle network for the Limerick-Shannon area.  
We will have cycle routes in towns and in the city.



There will be quiet cycle routes in the countryside too.

# Cycling



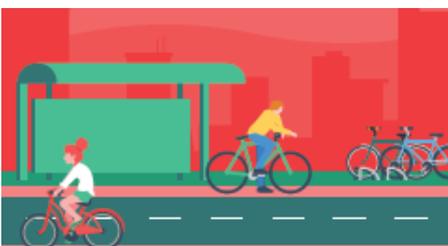
We will make routes as safe as possible.  
We will try to keep cyclists away from cars, buses, and trucks.



We will have better road layouts, traffic calming, and lower speed limits.



We will make the bike sharing scheme bigger as demand grows.



We will have safe places to park bikes, and lockers and showers for cyclists.

# BusConnects Limerick



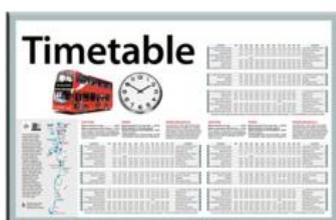
Buses are part of the public transport system in the Limerick-Shannon area.



We will have new and faster bus services.  
Routes will go to more places as the area grows.



People will be able to use buses to go from the city centre to Shannon Airport, the University, or the National Technology Park.



BusConnects Limerick will have buses that come regularly and on time.

# BusConnects Limerick



There will be new buses that cause less pollution and so are better for the environment.



There will be road changes, more bus lanes, and bus gates.

This will help buses to get around faster.



There will be new fares and tickets.



Bus stops will be safer and more comfortable..

# Rail



We will work with Iarnród Éireann and others to improve the InterCity rail services.



We will have a better track between Limerick Colbert and Limerick Junction stations.

This will give a quicker service that could run more often.



We will have new and better rail stations.

They will be safer, more comfortable, and easier for everyone to use.



The rail service will link with other public transport, for example, buses.



This will make it easier for people to travel in the area and around the country.

# Rail



Trains will come more often and will go to more places.



We will look at a new station at Ballysimon. It will have a Park and Ride; this is where you can park your car and take the train to the city.



We will try to make the rail system better for the environment, for example, by using electric trains.



We will find out if we can turn old railway lines into greenways.

A greenway is a path for walkers and cyclists.

# Roads



We will manage the road network better and cut down the number of short trips that people take by car.



We will have less parking spaces on our streets.

We will look at anew idea called Mobility Hubs.



We will have Park and Ride spaces.

These are car parks where you can leave your car and finish your journey by bus, for example, if you are going into the city centre.



We will need to spend money to keep our roads in good condition.

This means they are safer too.

# Moving Goods around the Area



New homes, offices, and schools will mean that we need to move more goods around.

Goods are things that we use and want.



This means more vans and trucks on the roads.



There will be more deliveries, bin collections, and other services.



We will look at the routes used by trucks and vans.

We will plan the best ways to move goods in the area.

# Other Important Things in the Plan



Housing, jobs, education, and transport need to be planned together to cut down car use.



We would like to have walking and cycling officers in the local areas.



We need good local plans to help to put this transport plan into action.



We will design our streets, towns, and cities to be nicer, healthier, safer public spaces. There will be less car traffic and public spaces will be easier for everyone to use.

# Other Important Things in the Plan



We will need money to put all the parts of our plan into action.



We want to use technology to make the public transport service better and to give information.

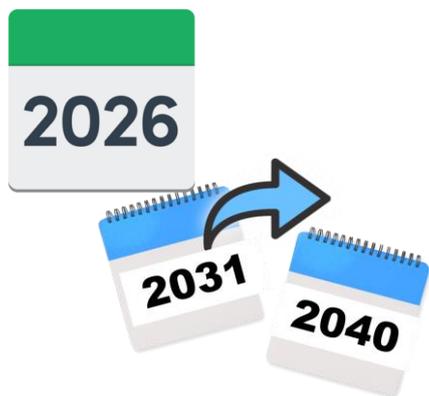


We want to give clear, accessible information that everyone can understand.



We will have campaigns to tell the public about the plan and our goals.

# Next Steps



Some of our actions will happen before 2026.  
Some will take longer, up to 2031 or 2040.



We have short, medium, and long-term goals.  
We say how we will measure our progress on our goals.



We will review our progress every 6 years.  
We will find out if our actions mean good changes are happening.



We will keep talking to local communities about their transport needs.  
We will work with other groups and organisations such as the County Councils.

# More Information



You can get more information on the plan and look at maps and routes at

[www.nationaltransport.ie](http://www.nationaltransport.ie)



There is more information on all our planned changes in the main report.



This report was put together by the National Transport Authority.



Experts by Experience from ACE  
Communication helped with this Easy to Read report.

