

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

OCTOBER 2025



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority

Welcome to the first edition of Galway City Council's Active Travel and Sustainable Transport newsletter. Going forward, this newsletter will provide you with regular updates on projects being developed throughout the city, as part of Galway City Council's mission to promote and encourage walking, wheeling, cycling and the use of public transport.

In this issue

- BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road
- Western Distributor Road
- Bóthair Stiofáin Cycle Network
- The Crescent / Sea Road Junction Upgrade
- Scoil Fhursa
- Ballybane Rd and Castlepark Rd Cycle Network Scheme
- Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing
- Cycling in Galway Webpage and Cycle Parking Map
- Architecture Awards' recognition for Droichead an Dóchais

Galway City Council Welcomes Decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála on BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road



Galway City Council welcomes the decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant planning consent for BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road project. The BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road project is a planned continuous corridor of high-quality public transport, pedestrian and cycling facilities running along the length of the R338 Dublin Road. This 3.9km route, running from east of the Moneenageisha Junction to the Doughiska Junction, will be adjacent to the Atlantic Technological University, Merlin Park Hospital, Bon Secours Hospital as well as schools and other amenities.

The new bus facilities, which will include additional dedicated bus lanes in both directions and enhanced bus stops, will provide for more reliable and more comfortable journeys for commuters. The provision of active travel infrastructure, including segregated cycle tracks and upgraded pedestrian facilities, will allow for safer, more comfortable journeys for walkers, wheelers and cyclists.

Galway City Council Welcomes Decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála on BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road (cont'd)

Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr Mike Cubbard said, “This is a very welcome development for much-needed public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure for Galway City. BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road serves a number of significant employers, educational institutions and residential areas on the Dublin Road. It’s also a main artery into and through the city. It’s essential for the sustainable development of the city that projects such as this can progress in Galway, so I welcome the decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant planning consent for this project”.

Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive of Galway City Council, said, “BusConnects Galway is a priority project for Galway City, with Dublin Road a significant route in the city’s growing network of public transport infrastructure. Dublin Road will link into other completed and pending projects, including the Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme, the Doughiska Road South Cycle Network and the BusConnects Galway: Cross-City Link project. For the city to continue to be an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest, Galway City needs a modern, high-quality public transport system, with high quality facilities for walking, cycling and wheeling. This project is one of many that will change the narrative in terms of travel choices in Galway City, with less reliance on private car – and more people walking, cycling and taking public transport. I’d like to acknowledge the National Transport Authority, for their support in progressing this project.”

As part of this decision, An Coimisiún Pleanála has granted planning consent, and consent for Galway City Council to compulsorily purchase a number of properties along the route.

This project is part of the Galway Transport Strategy, and is funded by the National Transport Authority.

Full details on this project are available from the **[project website](#)** and the **[project webpage on GalwayCity.ie](#)**.

Galway City Western Distributor Road (WDR) Cycle Scheme



Galway City Council (GCC) is seeking to improve walking and cycling infrastructure along the length of the Western Distributor Road (WDR). This will provide a safe and attractive active travel route, catering for all walkers, wheelers and cyclists, including vulnerable road users.

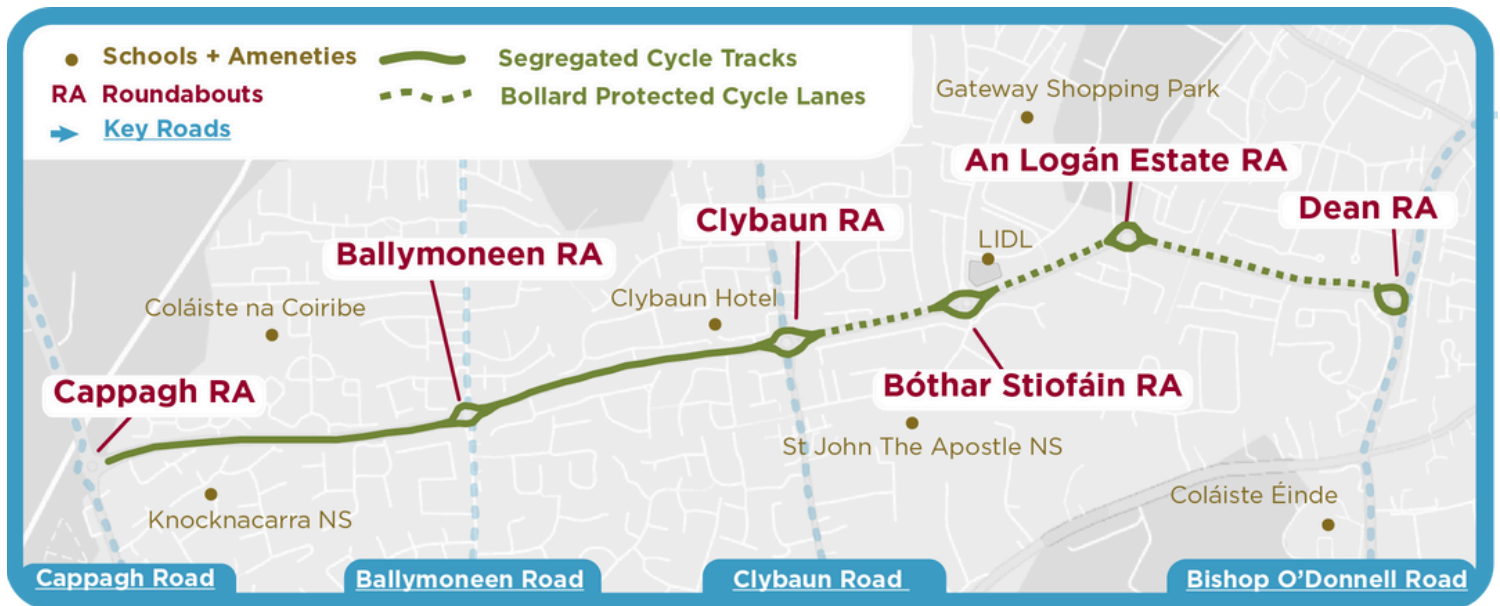
The project will provide enhanced cycle lanes on both sides of the WDR, as well as safety enhancement works on five roundabouts. The works will improve safety, reduce vehicle speeds, and contribute towards an increased number of trips in the area by pedestrians and cyclists.

The project is in line with the aims of the Galway Transport Strategy, which has identified the WDR as a Primary Cycle Route.

This project was granted planning consent by Galway City Councillors in October 2025. This project is now progressing towards the detailed design phase, in advance of construction.

This project is funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the government's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

Galway City Western Distributor Road (WDR) Cycle Scheme



The Galway Western Distributor Road (WDR) Cycle Scheme is approximately 2.90kms in length, stretching from Cappagh Roundabout at the westernmost end of the route, going eastwards through Knocknacarra ending at Deane Roundabout (Bishop O'Donnell Road Roundabout) which merges with Regional Road R338. The proposed scheme involves the following:

- Fully segregated footpaths and cycletracks on both sides of the road for Links 1 and 2 (from Cappagh RA to Clybaun RA)
- Addition of bollards to create protected cycle lanes for Links 3, 4 and 5 (from Clybaun RA to Deane RA)
- Upgrade of existing roundabouts to provide segregated cycle facilities. Note – The existing arrangement at Cappagh Roundabout is to be retained and will be upgraded as part of a future scheme. A shared crossing facility across the southern arm is to be provided as part of this scheme.
- Four new pedestrian and cycle crossings will be constructed, and two existing crossings will be upgraded.
- Enhanced bus stop facilities will be provided.
- The scheme will involve limited realignment of the existing carriageway to facilitate the new cycle infrastructure
- Public lighting and services will be upgraded where necessary. Landscaping will also be improved, and new road markings and signage will be installed.

Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network - Construction Gets Underway



Construction on this project began in September 2025. Works are scheduled to last for 12 months.

This project will deliver continuous segregated cycle lanes along Bóthar Stiofáin, and will enhance pedestrian safety. Bóthar Stiofáin connects Western Distributor Road (and the future WDR Cycle Network Scheme) and Ragoon Road. The scheme will also tie in with the Gateway Retail Park, which has been identified as a key hub for the re-designed Galway City Bus Network.

Galway City Council and the appointed contractors, Jons Civils Ltd., have communicated details of the planned works to residents, businesses and other stakeholders in the area. Further details of the project will be posted onto the [Galway City Council website](#) throughout the construction period.

Project Specifications

- New infrastructure for walking and cycling will be constructed along the full 870m length of Bóthar Stiofáin, from the Ragoon Road to the Western Distributor Road.
- New and upgraded footpaths will be constructed as part of this scheme.
- New, fully segregated cycle tracks will be constructed along both sides of the road.
- Four new raised pedestrian (zebra) crossings will be constructed, and the existing crossing at the approach to the Western Distributor Road roundabout will be retained.
- The width of the roadway will be reduced in line with the approved plans.
- Existing public lighting will be upgraded.
- New trees will be planted along sections of the road

The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade



Galway City Council's first-ever rain gardens are in full bloom and bringing a fresh splash of colour to the city. As part of the recently completed Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade, which was delivered by the Council's Active Travel Department, two new rain gardens have been installed, along with a suite of safety improvements for all road users.

A rain garden is a novel type of landscaping that helps prevent flooding and enhance drainage by capturing and absorbing rainwater. The two rain gardens at the junction of The Crescent and Sea Road have been installed in areas which were previously part of the roadway, which has now been narrowed.

Project Overview

- The provision of raised tables at the entrance to Crescent Green and The Crescent/Sea Road junction.
- New footpath along The Crescent South linking bus stop with Medical Centre.
- The narrowing of the Sea Road junction facilitated by build-out and the removal of 1 no. lane of traffic from the Sea Road approach.
- Incorporation of rain gardens into The Crescent/Sea Road junction upgrade with increased planting.
- The provision of 2 no. pedestrian crossings.
 - On Fr Griffin Avenue directly west of the junction with St Pauls Road
 - On The Crescent, directly east of the junction with Palmyra Park.
- Provision of safety bollards and road markings on approaches to Scoil Fhursa.
- Moving existing bus stop to safer location along the new footpath.

The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade (cont'd)

New, wider footpaths have also been constructed in this space. By reducing the width of the roadway, both vehicular traffic speeds and crossing times for walkers and wheelers have been reduced, improving road safety and comfort.

This scheme also saw the construction of a brand-new footpath along The Crescent, linking the 401 Bus Stop to the Medical Centre. Prior to this, there had been no footpath on this side of the road. Two new pedestrian crossings have also been installed, and new safety enhancement works have been completed at nearby Scoil Fhursa as part of the Safe Routes to School Scheme. Works on the project took around five months and were completed in March of this year.

The project has been funded by the National Transport Authority's Active Travel Programme. John Madden and Sons Ltd. were appointed as principal contractors, and Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates (CSEA) served as consulting engineers.

Frank Clancy, Senior Executive Engineer with Galway City Council's Active Travel Department, has explained the benefits of the new rain gardens. "Rain gardens are a relatively simple nature-based, sustainable drainage system. They are designed to reduce the rate of rain runoff from roads and footpaths into underground drainage pipes. By using specially selected plants, the rain garden can soak up excess water, act as a pleasant visual amenity in an urban environment and enhance biodiversity.

Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Mike Cubbard has welcomed the completion of this scheme. "The works on The Crescent and Sea Road are a welcome addition and benefit all road users in this area. By installing a new footpath, new crossings, and enhanced safety measures at Scoil Fhursa, Galway City Council is making active travel more attractive and safer for people of all ages. The new rain gardens are another welcome addition which enhances the aesthetic value of the area while also delivering many important and practical benefits. I look forward to supporting the further rollout of more projects of this nature over the coming years."

A video of the completed works is available from the [**Galway City Council Instagram Page**](#).

The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade (cont'd)



Photos of the completed works at The Crescent / Sea Road junction



*This project has also delivered **safety enhancement works at Scoil Fhursa**, as part of the Safe Routes to School Scheme. New safety bollards and new road markings have been put in place here.*

Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Active Travel Scheme



Construction is progressing well on the Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme.

This project will deliver apx. 2.4km of new footpaths and fully segregated cycle lanes along both Ballybane and Castlepark Roads, an area which includes Atlantic Technological University and a host of other commercial, industrial and community facilities. The scheme also serves a large community of residents living in the vicinity of both Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road.

In addition, 19 individual junctions will be upgraded with raised crossings and straight through cycle lane crossings to prioritise cyclists' movements. The scheme will further benefit walkers and wheelers by the inclusion of new signalised junctions and 13 pedestrian crossings. 15 bus stops are also being constructed.

This project is being delivered by the Active Travel Department of Galway City Council. AtkinsRéalis have been appointed as consultant engineers. It is co-funded by the National Transport Authority and the government's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

Works began in February 2025 and are due to be substantially completed in Q3 2026.

Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing



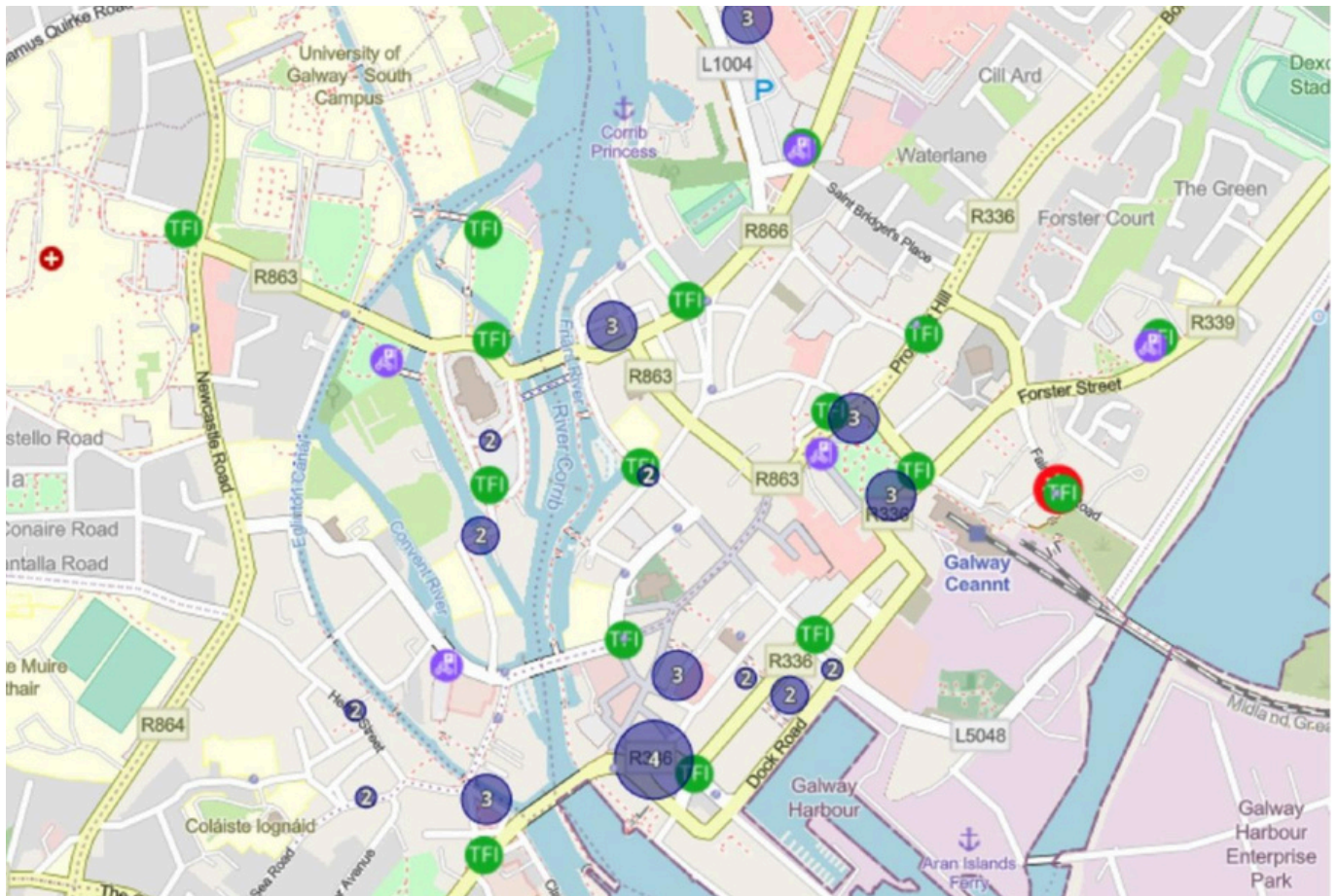
The Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project entails the construction of a temporary pedestrian crossing across the R863 University Road at Galway Cathedral. It will facilitate safe movements for walkers, wheelers and cyclists, including vulnerable road users.

The crossing will connect the footway on University Road near Fisheries Field to Droichead an Dóchais (formerly the Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge).

The temporary pedestrian crossing will be a toucan crossing (i.e. signal controlled crossing for pedestrians and cyclists use) and will be located on the western side of the Salmon Weir Bridge.

This crossing will be constructed from Q4 2025, and further details will be available on the **[project webpage of the Galway City Council website](#)** when available.

Cycling in Galway Webpage



Galway City Council has developed a new webpage to support members of the public in cycling in Galway.

The page includes a newly developed interactive cycle parking map (screenshot above), which highlights the availability of free bike parking spaces for over 1,600 bikes throughout the city. In addition, the map also highlights locations from where TFI bikes can be rented, as well as the locations of bike repair stands throughout Galway. [The cycle parking map is available by clicking on this link.](#)

In addition, the Cycling in Galway webpage offers advice on repairing and maintaining bicycles, the benefits of cycling, keeping bikes secure and on cycling infrastructure available across the city. The page will be maintained and updated as further services and facilities are developed throughout the city over the coming period.

The new resources can be accessed via the Active Travel page of the Galway City Council website

Droichead an Dóchais Commended in Architectural Awards



Droichead an Dóchais has been commended in Ireland's largest architectural awards. The bridge was highly commended in the Urban Design Category of the 2025 Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Architecture Awards.

This is the latest awards commendation for Droichead an Dóchais, which has previously been recognised both at home and internationally. The award is a testament to the work of all who delivered the project on behalf of Galway City Council, including Lead Architect Seán Harrington, and John McLaughlin Architects, who worked on the post-planning stage. Staff from Galway City Council, consultant companies Arup and AtkinsRéalis, main contractors Jons Civil Engineering and fabricators Thompson of Carlow also played key roles in successfully delivering the new bridge ahead of schedule in May 2023.

This development was funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority's (NTA) Active Travel Programme and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), co-funded Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme, administered by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

An aerial photograph of a bridge spanning a river. The river has a rocky bed and some rapids. On the left side of the bridge, there is a paved walkway with a grassy area and a stone wall. Several people are walking on the path. On the right side, there is a road with a yellow center line and a sidewalk. Several cars are driving on the road, and a few people are walking on the sidewalk. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Thank you for reading.
Your feedback and
questions are always
welcome.**

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