

Galway City Council

Active Travel and Sustainable Transport

January 2026



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

NTA
Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority

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Galway City Council welcomes increase in NTA funding for active travel and public transport projects



Galway City Council has welcomed an increase in funding to support its development of new and improved sustainable transport projects across the city. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has announced an allocation of €11.6m for a range of active travel and public transport initiatives which will be developed by Galway City Council in 2026. This funding, which is €550,000 more than in 2025, will support the Council in continuing to deliver new and improved infrastructure that will help to reduce traffic congestion and make Galway a safer, more comfortable environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

A wide series of important projects across Galway City are being supported through this tranche of funding, which includes €9.5 million for Active Travel projects in Galway in 2026. These projects include:

- Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme (€2.8 million) –** This funding will allow for the completion of this project, which is delivering dedicated cycle lanes along both roads along with enhanced facilities for walkers, wheelers and those travelling by bus. This project is scheduled for completion in Q3 2026.

Increase in Funding for Active Travel Projects in 2026 (cont'd)

- **Bóthar Stiofáin Active Travel Project (€1.7 million)** – This will deliver new cycling and walking facilities along Bóthar Stiofáin, connecting a range of residential areas with employment hubs and sporting facilities. Works on this scheme is progressing on schedule and are on track for completion in Q3 2026.
- **Western Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme (€875,000)** – This funding will allow this project to progress through detailed design and towards construction. The scheme will deliver new cycle lanes along the 3km length of the Western Distributor Road, including an upgrade of the existing mandatory cycle lane. Construction works are expected to begin in 2026.

Each of these projects are co-funded by the NTA and by the government's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

In addition, the active travel funding also includes €310,000 for the expansion of the **Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programme**, which is designed to encourage as many pupils and students as possible in primary and post-primary schools to walk, cycle and wheel. Nine schools, which have already successfully applied for to be part of the SRTS programme, have been allocated funding, with €50,000 each allocated to separate projects at:

- St. Patrick's National School
- St. John the Apostle, Knocknacarra
- Colaiste Einde Secondary School
- Gaelscoil Dara, Renmore
- Colaiste Iognaid
- St. Joseph's Special School and Galway Educate Together National School.

€5,000 each has also been awarded for works at Claddagh Primary School and Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh, which have recently been announced as part of Round 4 of SRTS. This money will allow for initial works on future schemes to be constructed at these schools.

Increase in Funding for Active Travel Projects in 2026 (cont'd)

The funding will also allow for a statutory consent application to be prepared in respect of additional new projects at Monivea Road, Shantalla Road and Clybaun Road. Further funding (€200,000) has also been allocated to allow for the removal of additional access controls (so-called kissing gates) from locations throughout the city, following on from recent works at locations including Ballyloughane, South Park and Terryland Forest Park.

Further to this significant investment in active travel, the NTA has also allocated a further €2.1 million to Galway City Council through other funding streams, enabling the enhancement of public transport in the city. This includes €600,000 to allow for the construction of a new, permanent bus turning circle and associated facilities at **Parkmore Business Park West**. This further supports the expanded Route 409 and the new Galway Bus Network Redesign. Funding has also been announced by the NTA to allow for the progression of the **BusConnects Cross City Link and Dublin Road Transport Corridor** projects, which continue to be progressed by Galway City Council and will play a key role in enhancing the city's transport infrastructure.

Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, has welcomed this multi-million euro funding boost for the city. "I want to thank the National Transport Authority and the government for this multi-million euro investment in Galway's infrastructure. These developments will encourage more people to choose active travel or public transport and will help us to continue to develop the city in a sustainable fashion. I commend the work of the Active Travel Department to date, and look forward to welcoming further progress over the coming year."

Nationally, a total of €360 million has been announced in Government funding for Active Travel and Greenways in 2026. This investment by the NTA is dedicated to the development of walking and cycling projects that offer safe, sustainable and healthy transport options to communities around the country. It is expected that 200 km of walking and cycling infrastructure will be delivered this year, in line with the target set out in the Climate Action Plan.

Further details on the funding announcement by the NTA can be found by clicking on this link.

Table A: Galway City Council

Active Travel Investment Grants: 2026 Allocations

Galway City Council

| Project Code | Project Name | 2026 Allocation |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| GCC/18/0004 | Martin Junction Upgrade | € 130,000 |
| GCC/19/0001 | Salmonweir Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge | € 200,000 |
| GCC/19/0007 | On Street Cycle Parking | € 10,000 |
| GCC/20/0006 | Cresent Rd / Sea Road Junction Upgrade | € 30,000 |
| GCC/22/0002 | Galway City Council Active Travel Office Staff Costs | € 1,100,000 |
| GCC/22/0004 | Ballybane & Castlepark Active Travel Scheme | € 2,800,000 |
| GCC/22/0006 | South Doughiska Active Travel Scheme | € 20,000 |
| GCC/22/0009 | Access Controls Audit | € 200,000 |
| GCC/23/0007 | Spanish Arch & Dock Road/Merchants Rd Upgrade | € 50,000 |
| GCC/23/0008 | St. Josephs / GETNS Safe Routes to School | € 50,000 |
| GCC/23/0010 | NTA Regional Project Office | € 105,000 |
| GCC/24/0003 | Western Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme | € 875,000 |
| GCC/25/0005 | Monivea Road Active Travel Scheme | € 225,000 |
| GCC/25/0006 | SRTS R2 Colaiste Iognaid, Br. Na Mara | € 50,000 |
| GCC/25/0007 | SRTS R2 Gaelscoil Dara, Renmore | € 50,000 |
| GCC/25/0010 | Shantalla Rd - Traffic Management/Active Travel | € 180,000 |
| GCC/25/0024 | Cross Street Rejuvenation | € 130,000 |
| GCC/25/0025 | Lombard Street Rejuvenation | € 360,000 |
| GCC/25/0004 | Bothair Stiofain Active Travel Scheme | € 1,700,000 |
| GCC/22/0003 | Clybaun Road Active Travel Scheme | € 500,000 |

Active Travel Investment Grants: 2026 Allocations

Galway City Council

| Project Code | Project Name | 2026 Allocation |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| GCC/25/0012 | SRTS R3 Colaiste Einde Secondary School | € 50,000 |
| GCC/25/0013 | SRTS R3 St John the Apostle Knocknacarra NS | € 50,000 |
| GCC/25/0014 | SRTS R3 St Patricks NS Galway City | € 50,000 |
| GCC/26/xxxx | Quietways City Centre | € 75,000 |
| GCC/26/xxxx | SRTS R4 Claddagh primary school | € 5,000 |
| GCC/26/xxxx | SRTS R4 Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh | € 5,000 |
| GCC/26/xxxx | TFI Bike Infrastructure Replacement | € 500,000 |
| | | |
| Subtotal: | | € 9,500,000 |

Galway City Council

| Project Code | Project Name | 2026 Allocation |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Allocations Through Other NTA Funding Streams | | |
| GCC/17/0001 | Cross City Link | € 500,000 |
| GCC/18/0001 | Dublin Road Transport Corridor | € 100,000 |
| GCC/19/0006 | Bus Priority within Urban Traffic Management Controls | € 400,000 |
| GCC/23/0005 | Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme | € 600,000 |
| GCC/25/0019 | Bus Stop Enhancement Programme | € 500,000 |
| | | |
| Subtotal: | | € 2,100,000 |
| Total: | | €11,600,000 |

Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network - Construction Update



Construction of the Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network Scheme has recommenced following Christmas. Works are substantially complete on Phase 1, and the eastern footpath is now open. The contractor is now working on the western side of the road. The next phase of works requires the closure of the southbound lane of Bóthar Stiofáin for ten weeks, beginning on Wednesday 21 January.

The lane closure will be implemented on a 24-hour basis, with a one-way system running from south to north between the entrance to the Gateway Shopping Park and Rahoon Road. Pedestrian access will be maintained,

A newsletter has been issued to local residents and businesses to inform them of this disruption, and this is [available by clicking on this link](#).

Project Specifications

- New infrastructure for walking and cycling will be constructed along the full 870m length of Bóthar Stiofáin, from the Rahoon 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

Proposed Bus Gate - Bun a Chnoic / Cnoc an Óir



Galway City Council has published the results of a recent public consultation exercise on the proposal for a bus gate to be constructed at Bun a Chnoic and Cnoc an Óir.

The proposal, which is at a very early stage, would be funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), and will facilitate the expansion of the city's Bus Network. It was designed to extend the new Route 3 and offer an improved service for people living along Letteragh Road and Circular Road.

A public consultation exercise was conducted in November / December 2025, attracting nearly 70 responses. Galway City Council's Active Travel Department has prepared a summary report, [which is available by clicking on this link](#).

This report has been shared with the NTA, who are leading the rollout of the new Galway Bus Network Redesign, and will inform the development of this part of the new bus network for Galway.

Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Active Travel Scheme



Significant progress has been made on the continued construction of the Ballybane Road and Castle Park Road

The contractor is continuing to progress works along the western side of Ballybane Road and the northern side of Castlepark Road, following the earlier completion of footpaths on the opposite side of both roads. Around 80% of the new footpaths and cycle paths have been completed and most of the footpaths have been opened. After this, the road will be re-paved. The project remains on track for completion in Q3 2026.

New bus stop shelters have been installed along both roads, and road markings have been updated at the Ballybane Road/Castlepark Road junction. While these markings are temporary, they do reflect the future, final design which retains the left- and right-hand turning lanes on Castlepark Road, at its junction with Ballybane Road.

In total, 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.

Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing



Construction works on a new pedestrian crossing at the Salmon Weir Bridge resumed in January, following the Christmas period.

The project is progressing well. Construction works on the northern side of the bridge are mostly complete and, on this side, footpaths are open to walkers and wheelers. Traffic management is ongoing, and there will be some night works in the coming weeks to allow for road resurfacing.

The overall construction programme is set to be substantially completed in February 2026, from which time the new crossing will be operational.

The Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project entails the construction of a temporary pedestrian crossing across the R863 University Road at Galway Cathedral. This will be a toucan crossing (i.e. signal-controlled crossing for use by walkers, wheelers, and cyclists). It will connect the footway on University Road near Fisheries Field to Droichead an Dóchais and will improve safety for all road users.

BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road project



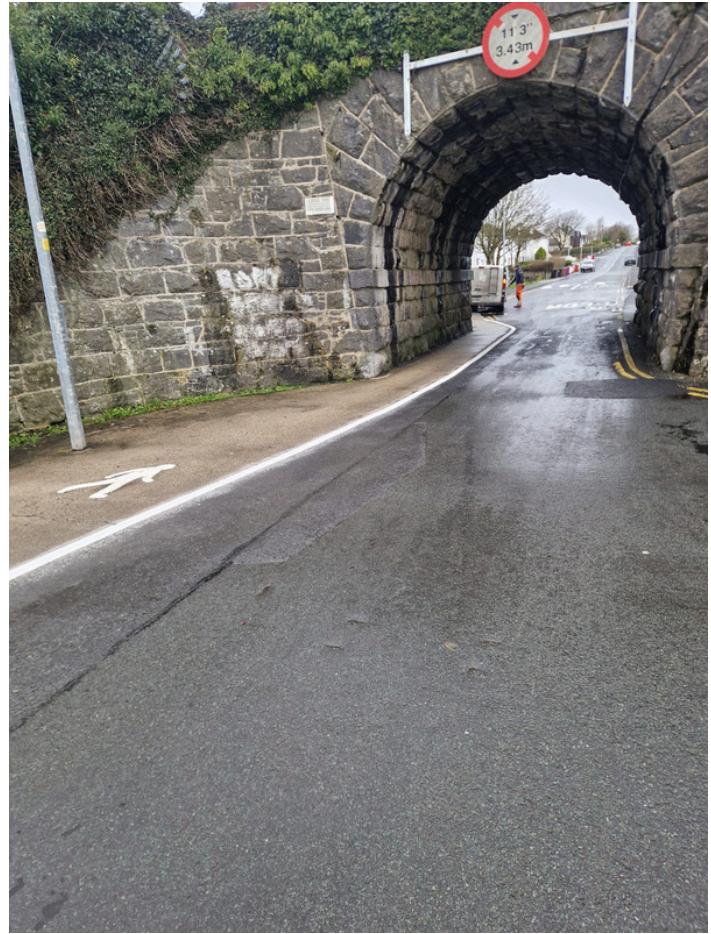
On December 11, 2025, Galway City Council published a notice advising of its intention to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order for the BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road Project.

An Coimisiún Pleanála granted approval for this order in September 2025, along with statutory consent for the project itself to proceed.

The CPO will facilitate the development of this important project. As part of the confirmation of the CPO, Galway City Council has also written to relevant stakeholders, including affected landowners.

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.

Access Control Works - Ballyloughane Beach Walkway



Prior to Christmas, Galway City Council completed works to improve access to the walkway at Ballyloughane Beach. A former kissing gate, located near to the railway bridge, has been removed and tactile paving has been updated. Line markings were also renewed on Ballyloughane Road and on the walkway.

The new solution improves safety and will allow all users, including people using wheelchairs, to access the walkway and the beach with greater comfort and ease.

The works were completed by John Madden & Sons Ltd. on behalf of Galway City Council, and funded through the National Transport Authority's Active Travel Fund.

Awards Recognition for Crescent / Sea Road Junction Upgrade



Galway City Council's first-ever rain gardens have been shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

The Crescent/Sea Road Junction Upgrade project, delivered by the Council's Active Travel Department, has been nominated for the Best Community Transport Initiative at the forthcoming LAMA All-Ireland Community & Council Awards, which will take place next month.

The project delivered two new rain gardens have been installed, along with a suite of safety improvements for all road users. This scheme has also delivered improved facilities for walkers and wheelers, including new pedestrian crossings and a new footpath along The Crescent, where there had been no footpath previously.

The project was funded by the National Transport Authority's Active Travel Programme.

An aerial video of this scheme is available via [Galway City Council's Facebook page](#).



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

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