

## Region Newsletter

Page 1

### Message from the Chair



I hope that this message finds you and your families safe and well.

My name is Sarah McDonagh and I am the new CIHT ROI Chair. I've been a member of the CIHT ROI Committee for about 4 years now,

and previously held the role of Young Professional Chair. I took up the Chair post earlier this year and have spent the last while trying to find my feet. In my day-to-day job I work for Jacobs as a Senior Transport Planner and my interests lie heavily in the development of sustainable transport infrastructure.

Following on from Andy as Chair will be a tough job and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy for all his work over his term as chair. I hope to continue to work closely with Andy in his new role as Vice-Chair.

The ROI Committee will be shortly preparing our Action Plan for the next year so I will soon be sitting down to think about what the committee would like to achieve during the next year. I do envisage that we are likely to continue to drive the increase in the number of Young Professional members of the committee, but also to continue to grow and diversify the membership of the ROI branch. We have gone from strength to strength in recent years, and now more than ever it will be important to build on that momentum as we emerge into the post-covid world. We forayed into the 'virtual' events sphere over the last eighteen months and it has proved very successful for us. We can now reach a wider range of our membership base than before, and while the benefits of in-person events can't be undermined, going forward, it is likely that virtual events will be at the forefront of how the ROI branch will operate, thus opening up the CIHT ROI beyond the scope of the Greater Dublin Area, and hopefully attracting colleagues from the other Regional Cities, and further afield.

Should you have any suggestions on how we can improve and grow as the CIHT ROI branch, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Sarah McDonagh**  
Chair, Republic of Ireland CIHT Branch  
[sarah.mcdonagh@jacobs.com](mailto:sarah.mcdonagh@jacobs.com)

### Contacts

**General queries:** [republicofireland@ciht.org.uk](mailto:republicofireland@ciht.org.uk)

**Branch website:** <https://www.ciht.org.uk/about-us/international-groups/republic-of-ireland/>

**LinkedIn:** search for "CIHT Republic of Ireland"

### 2021-2022 Committee

The Republic of Ireland CIHT committee was elected on the Annual General Meeting that took place in April this year. The following CIHT members were elected:

- Chair: Sarah McDonagh
- Vice Chair: Andy Campbell
- Treasurer: Saurabh Gupta
- Secretary: Amin Rezaei
- Communications/Web Officer: Luciana Pires
- Membership/Recruitment Officer: Shreya Dey
- Regional Member of CIHT Council: Matt Steele
- Committee members: John Fleming, Quentin O'Connor and Colin Acton
- Co-opted Members: Lorraine D'Arcy and Páraic Carroll

If you want to know more about the committee members, please take a look at the [Who's Who](#) page on the CIHT website.



We are always looking for people who want to get involved. At this moment the position for **Young Professionals Chair** and **Web/Communications Officer Assistant** are vacant!

All CIHT members are eligible to participate on the committee. Involvement in the committee counts towards your Continuing Professional Development and can lead, in the long term, to participating in national CIHT activities. **Let us know if you want to get involved!**

## Events Update

### 20 April 2021. BusConnects: Designing for Movement of People

The webinar was focused on 'Designing the Movement of People' and looked at the National Transport Authority BusConnects Dublin Core Bus Corridors Infrastructure.



Ian Byrne and Paul Hussey from Systra and Stuart Gibb from Jacobs provided an overview of BusConnects, the challenges and benefits of designing for people movement, people movement from a bus perspective, presented the People Movement Calculator and showed how microsimulation was used to support and examine how people movement can be impacted.

### 9 June 2021. Understanding women's travel and employment needs: the DIAMOND Project

The panel debate looked at understanding women's travel needs with focus on public transport users, bike share users, autonomous vehicle users and those

working in transport. Four speakers provided an overview on the following topics.

**Section I** – Surface Transport: Evaluating the issues and challenges raised by women.

**Section II** – Autonomous Vehicles: Women experience and preferences as AV users

**Section III** – Bicycle sharing: Opportunities and challenges for women using bike sharing services.

**Section IV** – Challenges and issues for women as employees in transport.

#### DIAMOND Project

Validation in four specific public and private transport sector scenarios



### 16 July 2021. Developing Places for Electric Vehicles

The panel debate was hosted by the Joint Nations Group made up of CIHT Cymru Wales, CIHT Northern Ireland, CIHT Scotland and CIHT Republic of Ireland. It looked at the development of electric vehicle infrastructure across the nations of Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

**As a CIHT Member you have access to a number of resources, including recordings of previous webinars. To catch up on any you might have missed, take a look at the [Webinars page](#) in the Members Resource Area.**

## Upcoming Webinars

Date	Title	Speaker
September	Delivering Climate Change Solutions in Local Authorities	TBC
November	Active Travel Panel Discussion	TBC

### Do you have an idea for an event?

If you have a webinar topic or event you would like to see, please contact us. We are always looking for ideas.

Dates and speakers for upcoming webinars will be confirmed. For more information please check out [Events Page](#) for regular updates.

## News

### National Transport Authority and An Taisce Green Schools Launch 'Safe Routes to School' Programme



The 'Safe Routes to School' Programme was launched earlier this year and aims to create safer walking

and cycling routes within communities, to alleviate congestion at school gates and to increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school by providing walking and cycling facilities.

Close to 1000 schools applied to the programme, with approximately 170 schools being selected for round one of the programme, which will see the Green School Infrastructure Officers work with the selected schools and the local authorities to implement improvements to the school commute. Improvements may range from an upgraded footpath or new cycle lane to a complete redesign of the road outside the entrance to the school.



### Active Travel Funding Programme

In March of this year, the National Transport Authority announced that €72.8 Million was being allocated for rural local authorities to support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure.



The National Transport Authority had initially planned to allocate €50M but due to the large number of

applications received, the allocation was increased. This funding will be used to support the development of high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure outside of the main cities. Local Authorities were invited to submit a list of proposed projects to the NTA, which were reviewed and approved or rejected depending on whether they fit the 'Active Travel' scope.

To support the increased funding allocated to local authorities across Ireland, the Department of Transport also announced funding for up to 248 new jobs within the local authorities to work on the projects allocated funding under the Active Travel programme. What is interesting to highlight about these new jobs is that they are expected to be spread across design, communication and construction. This will see the creation of multi-disciplinary teams which are essential in the development of schemes that encompass community engagement and place-making while delivering high quality infrastructure.

As we pass the mid-point of 2021, we can expect to see some of the schemes that have been allocated funding under the Active Travel programme, heading to construction or perhaps having already been built.

### Phase One of New BusConnects Network

In June, the National Transport Authority in conjunction with Dublin Bus have launched the first phase of the new BusConnects network for Dublin. The phase includes routes connecting Dublin's north east to the city centre covering areas of Howth, Baldoyle, Donaghmede, Raheny, Malahide and Portmarnock.

The H spine branches are the primary driver of the new network delivering fast and frequent services. The remaining phases of the network will be rolled out over an incremental basis in the coming years with the south east C spine due to be launched in autumn this year.

Source: [NTA website.](#)

## Membership Content

### #StepForward for the chance to win a John Lewis Gift Card



CIHT is a rapidly growing community and there has **never been a better time to become a CIHT member.**

Please take a few seconds to recommend CIHT to a colleague or team and support your colleague's career.

At [www.ciht.org.uk/stepforward](http://www.ciht.org.uk/stepforward) we have highlighted 6 hassle free ways to help recommend CIHT including a simple article you can send them, using this [mailto link](#).

## MyCareerPath

Record your CPD on the go with **MyCareerPath**. It is compatible with smart phones, tablets, PCs, and Macs!

**MyCareerPath** works by enabling CIHT Members to record their CPD activities quickly and easily so they can build up an online portfolio that supports their professional development.

**MyCareerPath** also allows Members to share evidence of their activities with a Mentor for feedback, or to CIHT if they are called upon to submit a CPD record during CIHT's annual CPD review process.

You can find a step by step guide on **MyCareerPath**, including how to set up an account and get started, here: <https://www.ciht.org.uk/professional-development/get-ahead/continuing-professional-development/>

By setting up an account, you can record your CPD in **MyCareerPath** in as little as four steps:

1. Register for a **MyCareerPath** account or Login if already registered.
2. Once logged in, click 'Quick CPD Record' in the top left corner of your screen.
3. Enter the activity title, date and any relevant details.
4. Click 'Save' and you're done!

For more information, please visit [ciht.org.uk/cpd](http://ciht.org.uk/cpd)

Or contact CIHT Professional Development Officer  
at: [john.hall@ciht.org.uk](mailto:john.hall@ciht.org.uk), or  
[professionaldevelopment@ciht.org.uk](mailto:professionaldevelopment@ciht.org.uk)

## A Day in the Life of



**Dr Amin Rezaei**

### **Job Title**

Transportation Consultant, AECOM

### **Terms of Reference**

Research and consultations in Autonomous Vehicles (AVs), Mobility as a Service, Simulation modelling, Traffic [flow, safety, & psychology], and Policy management.

### **Suitability for the job**

BSc in Civil Engineering; MSc & PhD in Civil Engineering – Transportation Engineering. Over four years of experience in road, tunnel, and building construction, and three years in transportation consultancy. Grade 2 licensed [building & houses] constructor and on the path to Chartership by Engineers Ireland.

### **Where based**

Presently, working from home due to the Covid19 restrictions but usually based at the AECOM's Dún Laoghaire office, Co. Dublin.

### **Transport to work**

On a typical day prior to Covid19 restrictions, I had a long trip – almost 2 hours – a mix of walking and Bus and DART trips from Dublin 14 to Dún Laoghaire. But now, working from home.

### **Top of in-tray**

Finalising the research and analysis of the Southern California MaaS study, CAV Ireland, Dublin Airport Traffic Management, publishing my research related to AVs, and reviewing papers for Elsevier journals in the field.

### **Best aspect of job**

Working with a wonderful multidisciplinary team of experts with years of experience in various fields of transportation modelling, planning, economy, and policy, and partaking in top-notch projects at national and international levels.

### **Worst aspect**

The conflicts between adopting old methodologies in daily projects and the emerging methods required in the research and developments in the field. Managing the above necessitates resilience in adopting proactive actions and taking [studied] risks in approaching unknowns by all parties involved in the projects.

### **What is the most important transport issue today?**

Managing the emerging tools and technologies with an unprecedented amount of data. Emerging technologies can help improve mobility. However, they make private transport so attractive that it may raise the demand for private mobility modes, increasing fuel consumption and air pollutions. Even though electrification [in transport] can help reduce emissions, it is not a solution to everything. Such attractiveness of the emerging tools may also take away the people's tendency to engage in active modes of travel when door-to-door, on-demand solutions are becoming a norm, which may also act against public health. This needs to be well-managed as otherwise, the downsides of the emerging technologies may outweigh their benefits.

### **How do you relax?**

Exercising martial arts has been part of my everyday life for over 15 years and is one of the best ways to get away from my daily jobs' tension.

### **Ambition**

Learn as much as I can and transfer my knowledge and experience to the next generation to achieve better mobility.