

Region Newsletter

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Message from the Chair



I hope that this message finds you and your families safe and well as we approach Christmas.

My name is Sarah McDonagh and I am the CIHT ROI Chair, a position which I took up earlier this year. It's been a challenging year as we have faced on-going Covid-19 restrictions which has made holding in-person events tricky. However, on the upside, our webinar series has been very successful, and we have managed to reach more people than ever with our events.

The ROI Committee recently prepared our action plan for the next year, and while our objectives remain broadly the same as that of 2020, it has given the committee a renewed focus on building our committee and providing another exciting year of events and webinars. We are hopeful that some in person events will return in 2022, however we will more than likely be proceeding with a hybrid model to allow our programme to be accessible across the island of Ireland.

In this issue of the newsletter, you can read about some of the recent events we've held, our plans for 2022, information on the latest transport news in Ireland and last but not least, the great news that the MSc in Sustainable Transport and Mobility (TU226) at Technological University Dublin is now fully approved for the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification.

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

Committee Updates

Your Region needs you!

Although some of the vacancies were filled at the 2021 AGM, there are still a few officer roles that remain vacant.

If you are interested in joining the committee or want to find out more, then we are happy to discuss the committee roles and answer any questions you might have.

Please contact us at:

republicofireland@ciht.org.uk

There are lots of benefits of getting involved; CIHT's regions and nations play a critical role for the Institution, acting as a focal point for members to meet and share their experiences locally. The regions and nations organise an annual programme of activities, which include CPD opportunities, seminars, site visits and social events. The Committee meets six times a year and there are also opportunities to represent the nation at various regional officer meetings.

This is a great chance to get involved, so if you would like to put yourself forward for a role on the committee, or discuss it further, please contact us. We would love to hear from you.

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

Contacts

General queries: republicofireland@ciht.org.uk

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

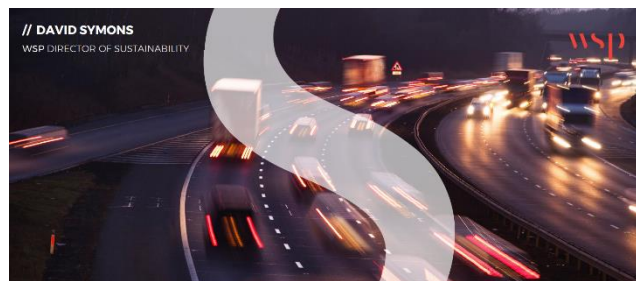
LinkedIn: search for "CIHT Republic of Ireland"

Follow CIHT on Twitter [@CIHTUK](#)

Events Update

22 November 2021. Net Zero Travel and Transport

The webinar was focused on 'net zero travel and transport, with the opportunity to hear about Meath County Council's work in transport planning, active travel and the wider opportunity for net zero travel.



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.

There were presentations from **David Symons**, UK Director of Sustainability at WSP and **Caroline Corrigan**, Climate Action & SDG Co-ordinator at Meath County Council. David provided an overall context for net zero and transport including: (1) Where does carbon come from in transport?, (2) What are others committing to for net zero travel?, and (3) What are the implications for CIHT members? Caroline then provided insight into Meath County Council's work in transport planning and active travel.

Looking ahead to 2022:

We are currently in the planning stages for our 2022 events. We will aim to continue with our webinar CPD programme and will keep you posted on future dates for your diary. As ever, if there are any topics you would particularly like to see covered, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can reach the committee via email at: republicofireland@ciht.org.uk

Next Webinars

Date	Title	Speaker
January 22	Active Travel Panel Discussion	TBC
March 22	Fast Track Road Maintenance Solutions	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 our [Events Page](#) for regular updates.

News

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants – 2020 Annual report



In September, the National Transport Authority published its Sustainable Transport Measures Grants (STMG) annual report detailing the increase in spending for year 2021.

The STMG programme, which provides funding to local authorities, public transport bodies and other agencies has

been operated by the NTA since 2010.

According to the report, major projects progressed include the Dundrum and Blackrock enhanced access programmes which introduced a re-arranged one-way system for vehicular traffic, with a contra-flow cycle lane in order to create safer, more accessible spaces.

The programme aims to improve transport options for those choosing alternatives to the private car. The funding has become an important driver of change within the urban centres across the country.

Source: [NTA website](#). The report can be downloaded at [2020 STMG Report](#).

TII launches enhancing Motorway Operation Services (eMOS) programme to help keep the M50 safe

Last September, the Minister for Transport announced the launch of Transport Infrastructure Ireland's enhancing Motorway Operation Services ([eMOS](#)) programme.

Through the implementation of intelligent transport systems (ITS) technology, eMOS will enable motorway operators to slow traffic in response to collisions, roadworks, adverse weather conditions and congestion; enhance safeguards for emergency responders dealing with incidents on the M50; and keep road users better informed about incidents ahead and how they may affect their journey.

It optimises road safety, enhances the efficiency of the road, and improves journey time reliability by reducing

the number of 'stop and starts' that take place along the M50 and the need for drivers to brake suddenly in response to standstill traffic.



The programme is being rolled out in an incremental manner. The first stage comprised the expansion of the existing Dublin Tunnel Control Building to provide a new, state-of-the-art motorway operations control centre.

The second stage consists of the implementation of cutting-edge intelligent transport systems (ITS). It is being rolled-out in a phased manner, with the first digital signs being switched on between Junction 4 Ballymun and Junction 6 Castleknock in autumn 2021. This incremental approach will allow road users time to familiarise themselves with the new signs and adjust their driving behaviour accordingly in advance of the introduction of regulatory speed limits.

Source: [TII website](#)

Opening of Dodder Greenway Bridges

The Dodder Greenway is envisaged to be over 17km long, linking Sir John Rogerson's Quay in the City Centre to the entrance to the Bohernabreena reservoirs at Glenasmole, South Dublin. As part of the bridges phase of the Dodder Greenway initiative, South Dublin County Council has built three new pedestrian and cycle bridges, 750m of new pathway and 2.6km of upgraded paths.

The opening of the bridges is a key milestone in the overall Dodder Greenway vision to link Dublin City Centre to the Dublin Mountains via Ballsbridge, Milltown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse and Tallaght. The South Dublin County section of the Greenway stretches from the Bohernabreena Reservoir in Tallaght to Orwell Park in Rathfarnham.

Source: [SDCC website](#)

Feature Article

National Development Plan 2021-2030



National Development Plan 2021-2030



In October, the revised National Development Plan (NDP) was launched by the Government. The document sets out the Government's investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030, incorporating an investment package of €165 billion.

According to the document, the NDP is envisaged to play an important role in shaping the responses to the challenges of the present, and to prepare for the challenges of the future. The public investment approved by the Government and detailed in the new plan will play a significant role in addressing the opportunities and challenges faced by Ireland over the coming years from issues such as Covid-19, Brexit, housing, health, climate action and a population projected to grow by one million between 2016-2040.

A selection of investments outlined in the NDP is outlined below:

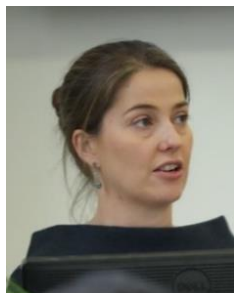
- Better public Transport through the Connecting Ireland bus programme.
- Replacement of the Dublin-Belfast Enterprise train fleet.
- Enhancement of inter-regional bus services
- N/M20 Cork to Limerick.
- BusConnects for Ireland's Cities.
- Commuter Rail – Regional Cities, MetroLink and DART+.
- Greener and Cleaner Bus Fleets.
- Completion of new parallel runway for Dublin Airport.
- Completion of investments at Dublin Port, the Port of Cork and Shannon Foynes Port.
- Dublin port MP2 Project – two new berths.

Under the National Strategic Investment 4 (NSO 4) – Sustainable Mobility, there are 5 strategic investment priorities as outlined below.

- **Active Travel:** over the next 10 years approximately €360 million per annum will be invested in walking and cycling infrastructure in cities, towns and villages across the country.
- **BusConnects:** the project is envisaged to enhance the capacity and potential of the public transport system by increasing and replacing the bus fleet with low emission vehicles and introducing the Next Generation Ticketing and cashless payments. It is expected that, over the lifetime of the NDP, significant progress will be made on delivering BusConnects with the construction of Core Bus Corridors expected to be substantially completed by 2030.
- **DART+:** it is envisaged to be a cornerstone of rail investment within the lifetime of Project Ireland 2040. The program comprises a number of infrastructural projects – DART+ West, DART+ South West, DART+ Coastal North to Drogheda via Balbriggan, and DART+ Coastal South – and also a significant expansion of fleet, both battery-electric and electric multiple units.
- **Light Rail / Metro:** Metrolink is likely the largest ever public investment project in the history of the State. The funding from the NDP will allow the project to move off the drawing board and into construction. In relation to light rail, the plan will permit the Luas Finglas project continue to progress in the coming years and will also fund the continued development and design of the proposed new east-west transport corridor in Cork
- **Regional Cities Commuter Rail:** funding provided over the next 10 years will support the Cork Commuter Rail Programme, the further development of commuter rail in Galway and Limerick, including the development of a new Limerick commuter rail network with new stations on each of the historical rail lines.

The National Development Plan 2021-2030 can be downloaded at www.gov.ie

A Day in the Life of



Dr Lorraine D'Arcy

Job Title

Senior Lecturer & Chair of MSc in sustainable Transport and Mobility, TU Dublin

Terms of Reference

Teaching and research on topics relating to how physical and social neighbourhood characteristics influence people's decisions around walking, cycling or using public transport that can result in higher car dependency, social isolation and a more sedentary population, all which impact on population health and carbon emissions. TU Dublin Lead for the Walk21 International Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities September 2022.

Suitability for the job

BE in Civil Engineering; MEngSc in Asphalt Technology & PhD in Behaviour Science – Walkability. Over 20 years' experience as an educator in a variety of roles in Sport, Community Development and Academia. Other professional roles included highway design, transportation and development planning and traffic engineering (private sector), community sports development (voluntary sector and semi-state) and health policy (post-doctoral work).

Where based

I have an office space in TU City Campus in Bolton Street where most of my teaching happens but my day-to-day location can vary greatly. International research and speaking commitments meant I was away a lot pre-COVID. I would also attend a number of Irish workshops. But like others, most of this has happened from my home over the past 18 months.

Transport to work

The flexibility of my work and tight time restrictions because of family commitments mean this can vary a lot. Bus is my default but walking and cycling give me more predictability. After getting knocked off my bike in 1999 it has taken lower traffic volumes during COVID to get me back on my bike for more than local trips. I really wish I

could get rid of my car but Dublin needs more supportive routes to go places other than the city centre for me to do so!

Top of in-tray

Promotion of the Walk21 Ireland conference and Part-time MSc in Sustainable Transport and Mobility which is open for applications for January 2022 start. Plus, 2 draft PhD dissertations awaiting feedback. There is never a clear inbox or in-tray in academia!

Best aspect of job

Seeing graduates making their impact on the world applying what they have learnt/ produced. Constantly learning through working with a diverse group of people from undergraduates to international experts, community groups to politicians.

Worst aspect

The workload can get really intense at certain times of the year but being able to tune out over the summer months really helps.

What is the most important transport issue today?

Communication. The polarised discourse in the media around investment in roads versus sustainable modes is often ill-informed and makes project implementation problematic. It isn't an either/or and there is not enough emphasis placed on the evidence based social and economic issues related to transport poverty/ car dependence and the health and environmental impacts of decisions.

How do you relax?

Hanging with my family and friends. I love being around people and the ocean.

Ambition

To see the network of professionals engaging in a people centred approach to transport engineering and planning grow so it becomes the normative practice to make the healthiest and most sustainable choice the easiest choice for everyone.

CIHT Republic of Ireland News

First course in Republic of Ireland approved for Transport Planning Professional



For the first time, a course outside the UK has been approved as meeting the knowledge requirements of the Transport Planning Professional qualification. The MSc Sustainable Transport & Mobility at Technological University Dublin has been approved by the Professional Standards Committee and graduates from the course will be eligible to take the standard route to Professional Review.

Cat Goumal, CIHT's Head of Education and Professional Development said, *'We're delighted that this course has been approved for the Chartered Transport Planning Professional and look forward to receiving applications from TU Dublin graduates.'*

This course is co-delivered by both the School of Civil & Structural Engineering and the School of Transport Engineering Environment and Planning in Technological University Dublin. Programme Registration is currently open for January 2022 start. Further course information is available below:

<https://www.tudublin.ie/study/postgraduate/courses/transport-and-mobility/>

The Transport Planning Professional qualification is a standard set to holistically represent and acknowledge the multi-disciplinary needs and skillsets synonymous with the Transport Planning profession. The qualification recognises the high levels of skill and experience of transport planners and is jointly awarded by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation and the Transport Planning Society. Candidates must demonstrate their competence in a broad range of professional and technical transport planning skills.

Successful candidates can be recognised as Chartered Transport Planning Professionals (CTPP), recognising their professional achievement against this distinguished benchmark.

To find out more about the Transport Planning Professional Qualification and how to apply, please go to: <https://www.ciht.org.uk/transport-planning-professional/>