

Ireland's first national Journey Planner - iPhone App now available FREE in AppStore

Online version at TransportforIreland.ie <http://www.transportforireland.ie/>

Door-to-door travel options across all public and licensed transport across the country to help people plan their journeys

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Following last Wednesday's successful launch of the National Transport Authority's new online National Journey Planner, at TransportforIreland.ie <http://www.transportforireland.ie/>, the iPhone App is now available FREE from the App Store (name of app Journey Plan). The service helps people plan their personal journeys from door-to-door, anywhere in Ireland, using public transport, and is the first of its kind in Ireland. The Android App is also available.

The Planner covers bus, rail, tram, taxis, ferries and walking – 120 operators in total – with fully mapped-out route information, printable timetables and details of overall journey times – all in one place.

While this is a significant new step in providing the public with fully integrated and accessible transport information, the National Transport Authority is actively encouraging people to use its specially created online Feedback channel to give specific feedback around their use of the Planner, and their opinion on its “look and feel” so that the service can continue to grow and improve.

The new Journey Planner takes account of over 9,600 bus stops across Ireland, 750 different routes, 152 train stations, and route and timetable information from 120 different transport providers. The location of footpaths, laneways, short-cuts, one way systems and QBC contraflows are also taken into account in the options being suggested to users.

It enhances recently launched Authority initiatives including real time information, electronic bus stop signs, the Leap card and bus fleet improvements which enhance the overall quality of public transport services.

In the months ahead, the Journey Planner will be integrated with the National Transport Authority's Real Time Passenger Information service to provide immediate arrival information for all Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann stops across the country, as well as Luas and DART commuter services in Dublin. A cycle planner is currently being developed, initially for the Greater Dublin Area, and a special accessibility feature on the site, to assist those with mobility impairment. A new feature for Tour-Buses and their routes and services will be developed.

The National Transport Authority is encouraging feedback and further input from members of the

public - if you know of local walkways, links or barriers haven't been taken into account, an important Feedback channel has been set up to capture this information on TransportforIreland.ie<<http://www.transportforireland.ie/>>. A special technical team will be incorporating this important user information as they update and improve the Planner over the coming months.

Many additional services are incorporated in the Journey Planner, whereby people can tailor-make journey options to suit their personal preferences. People can use the Advanced Settings feature to customise their walking time and speed, their willingness to make interchanges between services, or their preference for one travel mode over others. All operators' timetables are available to view and print, as are descriptions and PDF maps of the walking links to services. Major attractions across the country, including museums, historic house and gardens, and beaches are also searchable – as origins or destinations – for day-trips.

The National Transport Authority is also looking at the best means of incorporating the Rural Transport Programme into the National Journey Planner. There are currently 35 transport providers for this service. A pilot scheme is now underway with Clare Accessible Transport to test how demand responsive services can interchange with fixed route services.

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