MILESTONES 2015

January
- Luas Cross City project progresses – some Dublin City Centre buses re-routed and bus stops moved to facilitate the works
- Competitive tendering for 10% of the state-subsidised bus market, first stage – pre-qualification questionnaires issued
- €17.5 million allocated to low emission projects in the regional cities, to enhance accessibility

February
- Leap Card – new “Leap 90 Discount” launched – gives €1 discount back to Leap Card users who transfer between Dublin Bus, Luas, DART & Commuter Rail within 90 minutes of the start of the first journey
- Consumer survey demonstrates the importance of the public transport passenger to retailers in Dublin City Centre, 56% of all retail spend in the city centre comes from people arriving by public transport, with a further 24% from walking/cyclists
- Leap Card launched in Limerick, bringing 20% savings to Shannon-side travelling on Bus Eireann

March
- Citi Cycle Zero Bike scheme completed in Cork with the official opening of the Bike Station at Cork’s Kent Station
- Galway University Hospitals and University of Limerick win the Smart Travel Workplace and Campus of the Year Awards. Smarter Travel plans can reduce an organisation’s travel time by an average of 1 hour, 10 minutes a day
- Published plan for replacement services to address Bus Eireann’s withdrawal of Expressway Route 5 (Waterford to Dublin via Waterford)

April
- Leap Card passes a major milestone as 1 million cards sold since launch, delivering 20% transport savings to users. Over 60% of all public transport journeys in Dublin are now paid by Leap
- New maximum fares for taxis take effect; fares were set following public and industry consultation
- Anti Racism campaign “There’s No Room on Board for Racism” launched with Immigrant Council of Ireland, Lord Mayor of Dublin and Dublin City Council

May
- Department of Social Protection agrees to fund free travel for FreeTravel Pass holders on a contracted route – 168 (Castle to Portlaoise) and 975 (Kavan Longford)
- Monthly Taxi Industry enforcement notices – 1,144 formal declarations of small public service vehicles – 8 individuals found operating without a valid licence and 26 Fixed Penalty Notices issued. Of 13 prosecutions brought this month, 9 resulted in prosecution

June
- Dublin City Transport Study proposes major changes to how we use the Quays, College Green, Sackville and Mahonpointed Streets. Public consultation, in conjunction with Dublin City Council
- New cameras installed at the Blackhall Place/LaSalle junction automatically issuing a penalty point for any driver breaking the red lights across the tracks
- Real Time Ireland App – now new and improved, with automatic, up-to-the-minute annual information for all Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann, DART and Luas services in one handy place. Over 188,000 downloads to date, and over 1.25 million times a month

July
- Giant scheme launched to support the wider availability of wheelchair accessible taxis, offering up to €10,000 to purchase / convert a vehicle for wheelchair use
- A formless’s free travel for children (aged 4-18 inclusive) with Leap Card from July 6-19
- New statistical bulletins published, setting out the latest data on the state-funded bus services and on the rail services in Ireland

August
- Construction starts on €2 million ‘missing link’ between Clontarf and Sutton – a cycleway and pedestrian promenade – completing the northern section of the “East Coast Trail”, a continuous walking and cycle route from East Wall to Sutton
- Public consultations launched on Two-Rate Signs and on Mandatory Driver Safety Equipment, hackneys and limousines

September
- New Metro North included in Government’s Capital plan, on recommendation of the Authority – a light rail line from St Stephen’s Green to Swords via Dublin Airport, assessed as best transport solution to the growing transport needs of Fingal and North Dublin
- DART Underground – lower cost tunneling to be explored to deliver this key infrastructure for the region
- Improvements in bus running times and in facilities for walkers and cyclists following removal of peak rail staff on the Upper Drumcondra Road at the Cat’s Crag
- Square Mile Travellist visits third level colleges to promote sustainable transport options, and Leap Card, to students

October
- Luas Cross City – first welding of rail tracks, in O’Connell Street
- Public transport fares determinations for 2016 published, increases kept to average of 1%, fares determined and new usage of Leap Card encouraged
- Public invited to submit views on new draft Transport Strategy proposals for the Greater Dublin Area, including Luas to Poolbeg, Core Bus Network, Rail Park and Ride, Metro South

November
- Presentation to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport and Communications – DART Underground, local bus services, and other matters raised by Committee members
- New trains ordered for Luas Cross City – seven new “Ciater” trains, over 25% longer than the current Luas trains (54m), carrying 600 additional passengers per train. Operating now ensures delivery in advance of operations commencing at the end of 2017
- New time-tabling for rail services out of Connolly Station, Dublin, including 10-minute frequency (DART), put out to public consultation

December
- One-stop website for all Christmas transport services and up-to-date travel information launched – Operation Open City – on www.TransportForIreland.ie
- Winner of the the National Procurement & Supply Chain Project of the Year “Award at the National Procurement & Supply Chain Awards 2015 for the Leap Near Field Communications App