

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 sustainability projects in the regional cities, and to enhanced 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 walkers / cyclists
- › Leap Card launched in Limerick, bringing 20% savings to Shannonsiders travelling on Bus Éireann



March

- › Coca-Cola Zero Bikes scheme completed in Cork with the official opening of the Bike Station at Cork's City Hall
- › 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 car use by an average of 18%
- › Published plan for replacement services to address Bus Éireann's withdrawal of Expressway Route 5 (Waterford to Dublin via Wexford)



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 the transport operating companies – high visibility across bus, tram and rail services



May

- › Department of Social Protection agrees to fund free travel for Free Travel Pass holders on 2 contracted routes – 828 (Cashel to Portlaoise) and 975 (Cavan Longford)
- › Monthly taxi industry enforcement activities: 1,114 formal checks of small public service vehicles – 8 individuals found operating without a valid licence and 26 Fixed Penalty Notices issued. Of 13 prosecutions heard this month, 9 resulted in prosecution



June

- › Dublin City Transport Study proposes major changes to how we use the Quays, College Green, Suffolk and Westmoreland Streets. Public consultation, in conjunction with Dublin City Council
- › New cameras installed at the Blackhall Place Luas junction automatically award three penalty points to any driver breaking the red lights across the tracks
- › Real Time Ireland App – now new and improved, with automatic, up-to-the-minute arrival information for ALL Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, DART and Luas services – in one handy place. Over 108,000 downloads to date, and used over 1.25 million times a month



July

- › Grant scheme launched to support the wider availability of wheelchair accessible taxis, offering up to €10,000 to purchase / cover a vehicle for wheelchair use
- › A fortnight'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 Taxi Roof Signs and on Mandatory Driver Safety Equipment for taxis, hackneys and limousines



September

- › New Metro North included in Government's Capital plan, on recommendation of the Authority – a light rail line from St Stephens 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 tunnelling 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 'pinch point' on the Upper Drumcondra Road at the Cat 'n' Cage
- › Smarter Travel team 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 streamlined and more 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 trams ordered for Luas Cross City – seven new “Citadis” trams, over 25% longer than the current Luas trams (54.6 metres), carrying 60 additional passengers per tram. Ordering 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 DARTs, 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 “International Procurement & Supply Chain Project of the Year” Award at the National Procurement and Supply Chain Awards 2015 for the Leap Near Field Communications App

