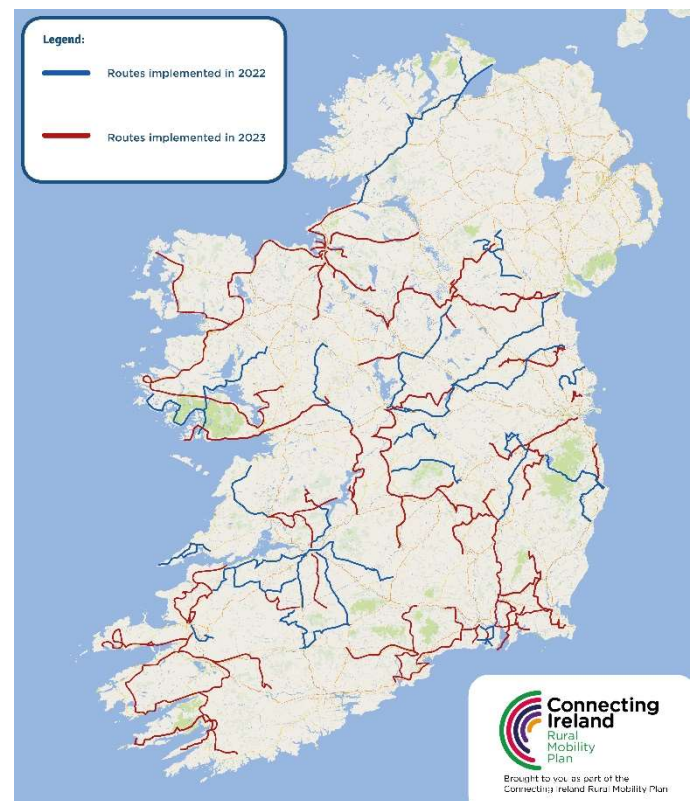


## More than 190 towns and villages connected across Ireland in 2023

The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan saw unprecedented progress throughout 2023. The National Transport Authority (NTA) launched 65 new and enhanced bus services in towns and townlands over the past twelve months.

The success of the new and enhanced bus services are significant. Preliminary figures show TFI Local Link bus services, which connect towns and villages in rural Ireland, carried 3.2 million passengers in 2023. This is a 78% increase on the 1.8 million passenger journeys in 2022. The annual patronage on TFI Local Link services has seen a seven-fold increase since 2018.

In 2023, more than 190 towns and villages across the state were connected as a result of new or enhanced bus services launched under Connecting Ireland



**Figure 1 – Services Implemented in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Connecting Ireland Plan**

Services have been rolled out at pace under the Plan, December 2023 saw Connecting Ireland's busiest ever period, with the implementation of 20 new and enhanced services, connecting towns and villages in Counties Galway, Mayo, Waterford, Kerry, Sligo and Cavan.

These latest services, in December, have added an estimated 2.3 million kilometers annually to the Transport for Ireland (TFI) public transport network, giving many people an opportunity to travel, and giving others the choice to travel more sustainably and leave their car at home.



## ➤ New Services in Action – Route 387 Wexford to Rosslare Europort

As part of Connecting Ireland, NTA and TFI Local Link Wexford identified areas including Kerlogue, Drinagh, Killinick, Tagoat and Kilrane for enhanced bus services to improve connectivity and mobility for these communities. The services in its previous form operated seven daily return services Monday to Saturday with two additional evening services Thursday to Saturday. Additionally the service operated five daily return services on Sundays and Public Holidays. It was noted that the implementation of enhanced bus services in these areas would greatly improve access to essential services and resources for residents living in these areas.

Since the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, enhanced Route 387 now operates to an enhanced frequency of 15 daily return services Monday to Sunday and provides greater connectivity and flexibility for the communities of Kerlogue, Drinagh, Killinick, Tagoat and Kilrane. The enhanced service provides peak-time and late evening services for commuters and provides improved connectivity to and from Wexford Town and Rosslare for onward travel; connecting with sailings at Rosslare Europort and in Wexford town connecting with public transport services to New Ross, Waterford, Gorey and Dublin by bus and rail. Route 387 also provides improved connectivity to Wexford General Hospital and the SETU Campus Wexford. In the first week of the enhanced service, Route 387 carried over 2,000 passengers and continues to carry an average of 2,400 passengers per week.

The route, which takes in Rosslare Strand, allows locals and visitors to experience the fantastic coastal beaches, explore Co. Wexford's many walks, hikes, historical sites and family friendly attractions. The route also connects with Rosslare Europort, one of Ireland's leading ports and a gateway to Europe for the freight and tourist industries.

Speaking on success of Route 387, **TFI Local Link Wexford General Manager, MaryB O'Leary** said "Route 387 began in July 2016 and from the outset passenger numbers grew month on month and year on year. In 2023, through the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan, the level of service was greatly expanded to operate from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. seven days per week with two buses providing 30 schedules each day.

Today, after working closely with the NTA, the team in TFI Local Link Wexford and the operator this route now has between 10,500 and 12,000 passengers per month."

### What passengers have said



Our community in Rosslare Strand and Harbour are all delighted with the service and a big thanks goes towards to the professional drivers that ran the service like a clock and we never had any trouble, always on time , clean bus. Well done guys keep it up.



Brought to you as part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan



Patronage for the enhanced Route 387







## New Services in Action – Route 170 Cavan to Dundalk

As part of Connecting Ireland, NTA and Bus Éireann launched new Route 170 which provides year-round connectivity between Cavan and Louth. Route 170 and TFI Local Link Route 171 replaced the previous Bus Éireann Route 166 and together form an improved transport system, with better connectivity across large parts of Cavan.

The new route 170 now operates six daily return services, seven days a week and serves the villages and areas of Bailieborough, Kingscourt and Carrickmacross. The route provides a new Sunday service as well as peak-time and evening services and offers connectivity to Cavan Bus Station, Dundalk bus and rail stations and to Cavan and Dundalk Institutes of Technology.

Since its introduction in August 2023, Route 170 has seen an increase of over 30% in customer trips (*compared to the previously operated Route 166*), with this growth trend continuing into 2024. Customer usage has grown across all segments, particularly among students travelling between Cavan and Dundalk Institute of Technology, but also among all parts of the route where customers are availing of the ability to make numerous local trips using public transport.



### What passengers have said



The enhanced Route 170 is great news for all passengers along the route. It is now so easy to use public transport for regular activities due to the increased frequency particularly at weekends.



Brought to you as part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan



## Services implemented in 2023

Route Number	Route Name/ Description	Operator	Implementation Date
897	Kilkenny – Castlecomer – Carlow – Athy	TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow	01/01/2023
188	Athboy - Drogheda via Navan & Duleek	TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal	16/01/2023
384	Wexford – Enniscorthy	TFI Local Link Wexford	13/02/2023
438	Galway – Tuam	TFI Local Link Galway	22/05/2023
356	Dungarvan – Clonmel	TFI Local Link Waterford	12/06/2023
232	Allihies – Kilcrohane	TFI Local Link Cork	12/06/2023
270	Skibbereen – Bantry – Kenmare - Killarney	Bus Éireann	25/06/2023
281	Waterville – Sneem – Kenmare	TFI Local Link Kerry	10/07/2023
978	Belmullet – Castlebar	TFI Local Link Mayo	10/07/2023
387	Wexford Town – Rosslare Harbour via Rosslare Strand	TFI Local Link Wexford	12/07/2023
280	Waterville – Cahersiveen – Killorglin – Killarney	TFI Local Link Kerry	17/07/2023
171	Shercock – Carrickmacross – Inniskeen – Dundalk	TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan	24/07/2023
274	Tarbert – Ballybunion – Ballyheigue – Ardfert – Tralee	TFI Local Link Kerry	24/07/2023
426	Longford – Knockanboy – Killashee – Ballyleague – Roscommon	TFI Local Link Longford Westmeath Roscommon	31/07/2023
834	Roscrea – Mountrath – Portlaoise	TFI Local Link Laois Offaly	01/08/2023
363	Tallow – Lismore – Cappoquin – Dungarvan	TFI Local Link Waterford	07/08/2023
388	Wexford – Wellingtonbridge – Duncormick – Bridgetown	TFI Local Link Wexford	07/08/2023
667	Waterford – Dungarvan	TFI Local Link Waterford	07/08/2023
399	Hook Head – Fethard – Ballyhack – New Ross	TFI Local Link Wexford	14/08/2023
392	Wellingtonbridge – Ballycullane – Newbawn – New Ross	TFI Local Link Wexford	21/08/2023
822	Mountrath – Abbeylax – Carlow	TFI Local Link Laois Offaly	21/08/2023
170	Cavan – Bailieborough – Carrickmacross – Dundalk	Bus Éireann	27/08/2023
318	Ennis – Quin – Limerick	TFI Local Link Limerick Clare	28/08/2023
342	Ennis – Clooney – Tulla – Feakle	TFI Local Link Limerick Clare	28/08/2023
344	Ennis – Feakle – Scarriff – Mountshannon – Whitegate	TFI Local Link Limerick Clare	28/08/2023
819	Mullingar – Castletown Geoghegan – Athlone	TFI Local Link Longford Westmeath Roscommon	28/08/2023

Route Number	Route Name/ Description	Operator	Implementation Date
887	Carlow – Bagenalstown – Graiguenamanagh – New Ross	TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow	28/08/2023
850	Roscrea – Templemore – Birr – Banagher – Cloghan – Athlone	TFI Local Link Laois Offaly	04/09/2023
329	Limerick – Ballyneety – Bruff – Kilmallock – Kilfinane	Bus Éireann	10/09/2023
357	Youghal – Villierstown – Whitechurch – Dungarvan	TFI Local Link Waterford	11/09/2023
354	Carrick-on-Suir – Portlaw – Waterford	Bus Éireann	24/09/2023
176	Monaghan – Clones – Cavan	TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan	01/10/2023
521	Newcastle West – Charleville	TFI Local Link Limerick Clare	01/10/2023
929	Corlough – Ballinamore – Cavan	TFI Local Link Cavan	01/10/2023
982	Ballyshannon – Maugherow – Sligo	TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim	16/10/2023
454	Ballina - Crossmolina - Lahardane - Pontoon - Turlough - Castlebar	TFI Local Link Mayo	30/10/2023
563	Sligo - Dromahair	TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim	30/10/2023
566	Dowra – Dromkeerán – Sligo	TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim	30/10/2023
981	Coolaney – Sligo – Dromahair	TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim	30/10/2023
977	Castlerea – Ballaghaderreen – Sligo	TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim	06/11/2023
126	Dublin - Kildare - Rathangan	NTA Contract	19/11/2023
885	Sallins - Naas - Blessington - Ballymore Eustace - Baltinglass	TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow	20/11/2023
322	Portumna - Terryglass - Ballinderry - Dromineer - Ballycommon - Nenagh	TFI Local Link Tipperary	27/11/2023
196	Knocksedan - Swords	TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal	03/12/2023
547	Portumna - Ballycrossaun - Eyrecourt - Ballinure - Ballinasloe	TFI Local Link Galway	04/12/2023
C2	Cavan - Kilnaleck	TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan	04/12/2023
C3	Redhills - Farnham Estate	TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan	04/12/2023
272	Tralee - Listowel - Ballybunion	Bus Éireann	10/12/2023
279	Tralee - Castlemaine - Milltown - Killorglin - Killarney	Bus Éireann	10/12/2023
356	Dungarvan - Ballymacarbry - Clonmel	TFI Local Link Waterford	11/12/2023
361	Youghal - Ardmore - Dungarvan	TFI Local Link Waterford	11/12/2023
364	Tallow - Fermoy-	TFI Local Link Waterford	11/12/2023
923	Galway - Clifden	Commercial Bus Operator	11/12/2023
360	Tramore - Waterford	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023

Route Number	Route Name/ Description	Operator	Implementation Date
419	Clifden - Galway	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
423	Clifden - Letterfrack - Leenaun - Westport	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
424	Leitir Mealláin - An Cheathrú Rua - Casla - An Spidéal - Bearna - Galway	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
458	Ballina - Inniscrone - Ballisodare - Sligo	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
360A	Tramore - Waterford	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
425A	Galway - Monivea - Caltra - Mountbellew	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
S2	Strandhill - Sligo - Rosses Point	Bus Éireann	17/12/2023
268	Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis – Ballydavid - Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis	TFI Local Link Kerry	18/12/2023
276	Castlemaine - Annascaul - Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis	TFI Local Link Kerry	18/12/2023
277	Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis - Ceann Trá - Baile an Fheirtéaraigh - Dhún Chaoin	TFI Local Link Kerry	18/12/2023
572	Ballinamore – Riverstown – Sligo	TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim	18/12/2023