

# Connecting Ireland Phase 3

Implementation Review 2024



## Executive Summary

The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan (the Plan) is an initiative by the National Transport Authority (NTA) to improve connectivity and mobility in rural areas through the development of new and enhanced public transport services.

This report is a review of the implementation of Phase 3 of the Connecting Ireland Plan in 2024. This report summarises the objectives and definitions of the Plan, including summary highlights of the new and enhanced services, a review of patronage levels on Connecting Ireland services during 2024 and a look ahead to what is planned for future phases.

In Phase 3, 45 new and enhanced bus services were introduced under the Connecting Ireland Plan. Over 120,000 weekly vehicle kilometres were added to the public transport network as a result of the 17 new services and 28 frequency enhancements & route extensions that were introduced. 54 new towns and villages have been consequently connected to the public transport network.

Almost 8 million passenger journeys were recorded across Connecting Ireland services in 2024, with 1.2m passenger journeys recorded from the time the Phase 3 implementations were introduced. Connecting Ireland services continue to see an increase in patronage, up by 165% at the end of 2024 compared to the beginning of 2019<sup>1</sup>. Where Connecting Ireland services have been implemented patronage has increased 38% from 2023 to 2024.

The Connecting Ireland programme is multi-phase plan with Phase 4 underway in 2025.

<sup>1</sup>. 2019 is used as the baseline for comparative purposes due to the impact of COVID 19 on regular operational data in 2020 and 2021.

# Introduction

---

## Overview of the Plan

Developed by the National Transport Authority (NTA), the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a significant public transport initiative aimed to enhance connectivity for residents living outside major cities and towns. The plan focuses on improving mobility in rural areas by establishing better connections between villages and towns. Its dual purpose is to facilitate access to local services and enhance connectivity to an expanded regional network that links cities and regional centres across Ireland. In late 2021, the NTA actively engaged with stakeholders and the public to shape this transformative plan.

Connecting Ireland operates as a multiphase strategy. During Phase 1 (spanning 2022) and Phase 2 (spanning 2023) a significant number of new and enhanced bus services were introduced. Phase 3, (spanning 2024) builds upon the successes of these previous phases and extends the reach to even more rural areas across Ireland.

## Plan Objectives

The Connecting Ireland Plan objectives are summarised below:

### Economic

- » To develop a framework for continued delivery and management of a fit for purpose all Ireland public transport network outside of the major Metropolitan Areas.
- » To provide transport services that are socially beneficial but financially unviable.

### Social

- » To contribute to reducing transport deprivation, particularly in rural Ireland.
- » To contribute to a reduction in rural isolation and promote social equity by providing an alternative to the private car for social trips.
- » To support public policy on developing the night-time economy.

### Accessibility

- » To provide improved access to shops, services, employment and education opportunities for all people in all communities in Ireland at a level appropriate to the size of the community and in line with national planning policy. In particular to:
  - Reduce car dependency.
  - Increase accessibility of more people to more places.
  - Provide levels of connectivity appropriate to the scale and function of settlements.
  - Provide affordable transport options.

## Integration

- » To improve both the spatial and temporal integration of the transport network in order to provide more opportunities for interchange and thereby increase the range and variety of destinations accessible within a reasonable journey time.
- » To align the rural transport network with the strategic policy and achieve the key aims defined in relevant policy.

## Regional Connectivity

- » To improve regional connectivity (particularly in areas currently underserved) through enhancements to the public transport network.

## Counterbalance

- To improve the competitiveness of key towns, regional centres and cities outside the Greater Dublin Area to support economic development and support rural development, by investing in public transport services.

## Environmental

- » To encourage the use of sustainable transport options.
- » To provide a viable alternative to the private car and thereby encourage a shift to more sustainable transport modes.
- » To increase the contribution to climate change improvement by the transport sector by reducing the use of the private car for mobility.

## The Rural and Interurban Network

The Connecting Ireland Plan aims to target improvements within the rural and interurban network. The rural and interurban network refers to the transport infrastructure and services that connect rural and urban areas. The rural network includes transport services that connect smaller towns and villages to larger cities and towns, while the interurban network includes services that connect towns and cities to one another.

During the Connecting Ireland scoping process, rural settlements to be assessed for the Connecting Ireland Plan were defined as having a minimum of 50 occupied dwellings, with a maximum distance between any dwelling and the building closest to it of 100 metres, and where there was evidence of an urban centre (shop, school etc.)

As a result, the Plan's aim is to improve regional bus routes by providing them more often and by ensuring better connections between towns and cities. Additionally, local bus routes will be improved to provide better connections between towns and villages and to provide better integration with other bus and rail services. The schedules of different modes of transport will be reviewed and integrated to make transfers easier for the user. Non-conventional options like door-to-door public transport will be provided to serve areas not reached by other improvements.



## Phase 3 New & Enhanced Services Summary

During Phase 3 of the Plan, following extensive consultation and detailed planning, 45 new and enhanced services were implemented in 2024. This consisted of 17 new services and 28 route enhancements. The services were delivered by a combination of Bus Éireann and TFI Local Link. These are outlined below:

Operator	Date Implemented	Route Number	Description	Summary
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	04/01/2024	292	Donegal - Ballyshannon	Improved frequency and connectivity to Ballyshannon, Rosstown, Ballintra, Laghey and Donegal Town.
<b>TFI Local Link Laois Offaly</b>	06/01/2024	831	Rathdowney - Portlaoise	New service between Rathdowney and Portlaoise.
<b>TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal</b>	29/01/2024	189	Enfield - Longwood - Trim - Dunderry - Robinstown - Navan	New Sunday service from Enfield to Navan.
<b>TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin</b>	29/01/2024	880	Naas - Carlow	Enhanced timetable and improved connectivity to rail services.
<b>TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal</b>	19/02/2024	192	Balbriggan - Swords	Extension to of 192 route Swords and new connection between Stamullen, Naul, Oldtown and Ballyboughal.
<b>TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal</b>	26/02/2024	163	Brú na Boinne - Drogheda	New route providing access to the Brú na Bóinne and the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centres.
<b>TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow</b>	11/03/2024	800/885	Baltinglass - Sallins	Improved frequency and connectivity from Baltinglass to Sallins.



Operator	Date Implemented	Route Number	Description	Summary
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	24/03/2024	170	Cavan - Dundalk	Improved frequency and additional evening departures.
<b>Commercial Bus Operator</b>	12/04/2024	884	Wexford - Gorey	Commercial Bus Operator - enhanced timetable.
<b>TFI Local Link Wexford</b>	15/04/2024	359	Enniscorthy - New Ross	New Service from New Ross to Enniscorthy.
<b>TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin</b>	07/05/2024	892	Dunlavin/ Kilcullen - Newbridge	Enhanced connectivity to new villages including Dunlavin and to Newbridge Train Station.
<b>TFI Local Link Kerry</b>	01/06/2024	280	Waterville - Killarney	Enhanced service frequency.
<b>TFI Local Link Kerry</b>	03/06/2024	276	Castlemaine - Dingle / Daingean Uí Chúis	Extension from Castlemaine to Killarney.
<b>TFI Local Link Kerry</b>	24/06/2024	273	Castlegregory - Tralee	New service between Castlegregory and Tralee.
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	30/06/2024	100	Dundalk- Drogheda	Route amended to serve Tinure.
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	30/06/2024	354	Carrick-on-Suir - Dunmore East	Enhancement of peak time services.
<b>TFI Local Link Kerry</b>	01/07/2024	278	Fenit - Tralee	New Service to Tralee from Fenit and Spa.
<b>TFI Local Link Cork</b>	28/07/2024	523	Mitchelstown - Mallow	Improved frequency and connectivity to Mallow Train Station.
<b>TFI Local Link Waterford</b>	19/08/2024	367	Dungarvan - Tramore	Improved frequency and connectivity between Dungarvan and Tramore.
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	25/08/2024	316	Sixmilebridge - Shannon	New service with Improved integration with school transport routes.



Operator	Date Implemented	Route Number	Description	Summary
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	25/08/2024	317	Jetland Limerick - Ennis	New service with improved integration with school transport routes.
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	25/08/2024	330	Limerick - Shannon	Daily hourly service and interchange with 343 and Rail services
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	25/08/2024	343	Ennis - Shannon - Limerick	Upgraded to a 24-hour service and significantly increased frequency.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	26/08/2024	567	Carrick on Shannon - Manorhamilton	Increased frequency and additional evening services.
<b>TFI Local Link Galway</b>	16/09/2024	934	Gort - Loughrea	Enhanced frequency of service between Gort and Loughrea, via Peterswell, Castledaly and Kilchreest.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	07/10/2024	973	Letterkenny - Cionn Fhánada	Improved frequency and connectivity to Baile Láir, Portsalon, Kerrykeel, Rathmullan and Ramelton.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	14/10/2024	953	Shrove - Letterkenny	Enhanced connectivity to ATU Donegal, Moville, Quigley's Point, Muff and Bridgend.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	14/10/2024	971	An Clochán Liath - Letterkenny	Enhanced connectivity to An Clochán Liath, Loch an Iúir, Croithlí, Dún Lúiche, Glenveagh. National Park and Church Hill.
<b>TFI Local Link Cavan Monaghan</b>	21/10/2024	186	Cavan-Ballyjamesduff - Virginia - Kells	New service between Cavan and Kells.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	21/10/2024	952	Carndonagh - Derry	Improved frequency and new Sunday service.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	21/10/2024	954	Carndonagh - Malin Head	Improved frequency and connectivity to Malin Head, Malin Town and Carndonagh.

Operator	Date Implemented	Route Number	Description	Summary
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	21/10/2024	957	Shrove - Derry	Improved frequency and peak-time services for commuters to Derry.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	21/10/2024	959	Buncrana - Greencastle	Improved frequency and a new east-west connection across the Inishowen Peninsula.
<b>TFI Local Link Donegal Sligo Leitrim</b>	21/10/2024	966	An Fál Carrach - Machaire Uí Rabhartaigh	Increased frequency and connectivity to ferry services, bus connections and airport.
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	27/10/2024	187	Virginia - Kells	Increased services with six daily trips and new Sunday service. New areas serviced.
<b>Bus Éireann</b>	27/10/2024	109B	Athboy via Kildalkey	Extension to Kildalkey
<b>TFI Local Link Cork</b>	28/10/2024	265	Skibbereen - Mizen Head	New service from Mizen Head to Skibbereen.
<b>TFI Local Link Laois Offaly</b>	02/12/2024	815	Athlone - Tullamore	New service between Tullamore and Athlone.
<b>TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal</b>	09/12/2024	177	Kells - Ardee - Kilmainham Wood	New service between Kells and Ardee.
<b>TFI Local Link Cork</b>	16/12/2024	266	Baltimore - Union Hall - Castletownshend	New service between Baltimore and Castletownshend / Union Hall.
<b>TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow</b>	19/12/2024	897	Kilkenny - Athy	Enhanced connectivity to Kilkenny City and Moneenroe and new evening service.
<b>TFI Local Link Galway</b>	23/12/2024	439	Gort - Loughrea	New evening service between Galway and Loughrea.
<b>TFI Local Link Laois Offaly</b>	23/12/2024	806	Portarlinton - Monasterevin	New service between Portarlinton & Monasterevin.

Operator	Date Implemented	Route Number	Description	Summary
<b>TFI Local Link Longford Westmeath Roscommon</b>	23/12/2024	818	Collinstown - Castlepollard - Mullingar	New service between Mullingar and Castlepollard.
<b>TFI Local Link Kerry</b>	30/12/2024	282	Kenmare - Castletownbere	New service between Kenmare and Castletownbere.



## Case Studies

### Case Study Route 818 - Mullingar to Castlepollard via Collinstown

As part of the Connecting Ireland Plan, the NTA and TFI Local Link Longford Westmeath Roscommon reviewed areas including Collinstown, Crookedwood, Taghmon, Knockdrin, Sherwood Park, Castle Street and Harbour Street. The implementation of a bus service in these areas greatly improve access to essential services and resources for residents living in these areas.

Route 818 launched in December 2024 and operates 5 daily return services Monday to Thursday, eight daily return services on Friday, seven daily return services on Saturday and five daily return services on Sunday. The route offers peak-time and evening services, as well as connectivity to regional bus services, Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar Station, Lough Sheever Business Park, and Mullingar Town.

As well as this, the route connects Collinstown, Crookedwood, Taghmon, Knockdrin, Sherwood Park, Castle Street, and Harbour Street. Additionally, passengers have greater connections to rail and bus services serving Dublin, Sligo, and all destinations in between.

Speaking on the success of Route 818, **TFI Local Link Longford Westmeath Roscommon Manager Damien O'Neill** said *"Since the service began in late December, the number of travellers has been steadily increasing each week, creating a crucial link between the North Westmeath towns of Castlepollard, Collinstown and Mullingar. This public transport connection is helping the local community tap into its tourism potential by linking Ireland's Hidden Heartland of North Westmeath with the broader national transport network. The success of this service demonstrates that the 'Connecting Ireland, Rural Mobility Plan' is delivering essential and beneficial services to rural Ireland, enabling residents to make greener travel choices as they journey to their desired destinations."*

“ One of the best things for Pollard has been this new bus route. ”

Fantastic for the community!



## Case Study Route 189 - Enfield to Navan

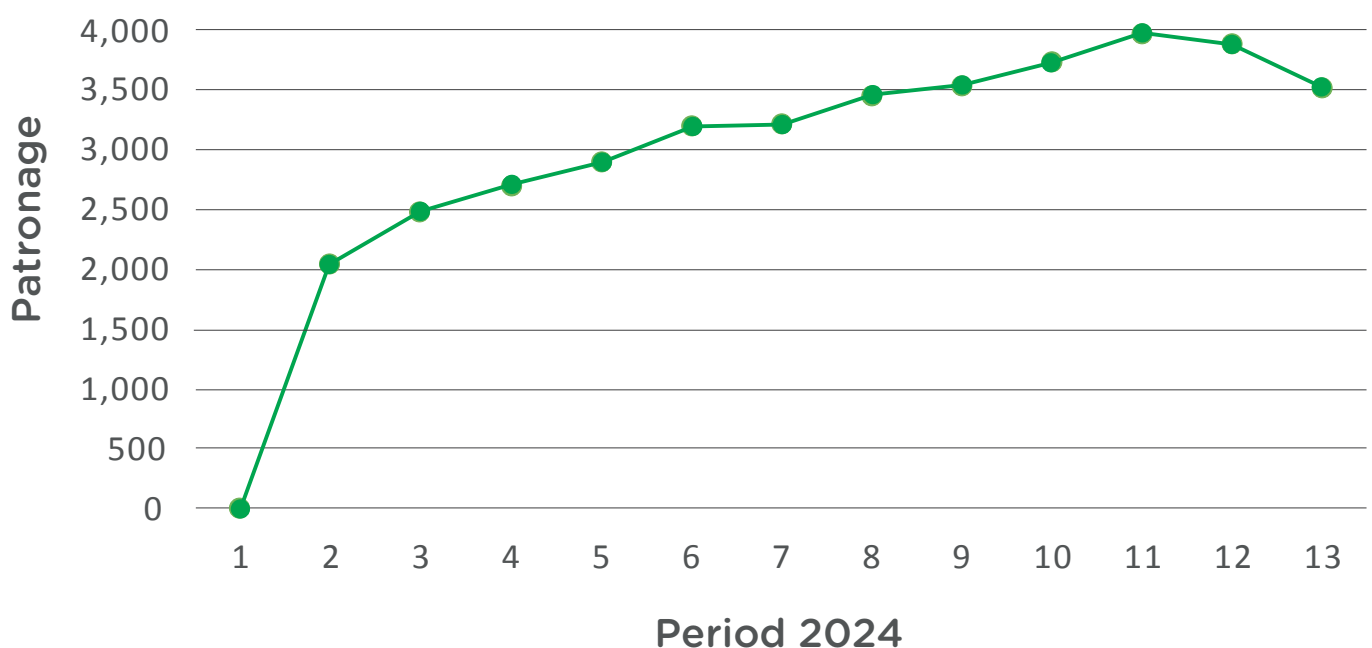
Under the Connecting Ireland Plan, the NTA and TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal reviewed areas including Moathill, Elm View, Robinstown, Dunderry, Lackanash, Trim and Longwood. The implementation of a bus service in these areas would greatly improve access to essential services and resources for residents living in these areas.

Route 189 was introduced in January 2024 and operates five daily return services between Enfield and Navan, Monday to Sunday, as well as three additional daily return services between Longwood and Enfield, Monday to Friday.

The route also provides morning and evening services for commuters enhancing connectivity to Dunderry, Robinstown and Our Lady's Hospital Navan.

Speaking on the success of Route 189, **TFI Local Link Louth Meath Fingal Manager Richard Sheehy** said, "Route 189 has been very successful, and it continues to increase in popularity. The high level of reliability is attributed to the continuous increase in the number of patrons. It also has a high level of customer satisfaction and continues to provide communities along the route with basic transport options as well as connections to other bus and train timetables. With over 45,000 customers since its inception in 2024, it helps drive our climate action and sustainability goals by reducing the number of vehicles on the road and providing the public with sustainable public transport alternatives".

### Patronage of Route 189 Enfield - Navan





## Case Study Route 282 - Castletownbere to Kenmare

As part of the Connecting Ireland Plan, the NTA and TFI Local Link Kerry reviewed areas including Eyeries, Ardgroom, Lauragh, Tuosist and Dawros. The implementation of a bus service in these areas would greatly improve access to essential services and resources for residents living in these areas.

Route 282 launched in December 2024 and operates four daily return services seven days a week including on public holidays. The route offers peak-time services and provide enhanced connectivity to regional bus services in Kenmare and Castletownbere. It has also improved connectivity for the villages and areas of Eyeries, Ardgroom, Lauragh, Tuosist and Dawros.

Speaking on the success of Route 282, **TFI Local Link Kerry General Manager Alan O'Connell** said *"If you build it, they will come, passenger numbers across the TFI Local Link Kerry network have gone from 160,500 in 2019 to 471,145 in 2024. The roll out of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan has been a game changer for Co. Kerry.*

*Route 282 is a fantastic service for the area, which up to now, had never had a public transport service seven days a week 52 weeks of the year. This service has been long anticipated and since it commenced is being utilised by the Community making local trips as well as making connections to onward public transport services in Kenmare & Castletownbere. The addition of this service also opens up South Kerry and West Cork to tourists and we expect to see considerable growth in the tourist season. The new route highlights how TFI Local Link Kerry continues to improve sustainable public transport options across the county."*

## Case Study Route 187 - Kells to Virginia

As part of the Connecting Ireland programme, the NTA and Bus Éireann launched an enhanced Route 187 which provides year-round connectivity between Kells and Virginia. The enhanced route now links Oldcastle, Ballyjamesduff six times per day across all days of the week. Route 187 was designed to meet all customer needs, providing morning and evening peak services as well as services throughout the day and into the late evening across all days of the week.

Since the enhancement in October 2024, Route 187 has seen an increase of over 25% in customer trips, with this growth trend continuing into 2025. Customer usage has grown across all segments, particularly with the enhanced frequency and the introduction of the new Sunday service. Continued growth is expected as customers avail of the ability to make numerous local trips using public transport.

“

The enhanced route 187 is great new for all passengers along the route. As a proud resident of Oldcastle, it is now so easy to visit Kells using public transport. I can only see usage of this service growing and growing and becoming part of our day-to-day life in Cavan.

”



# Coverage and Integration

## Coverage

Historically, rural public transport in Ireland often has had less coverage and accessibility than urban transport, due to smaller population sizes and greater distances between destinations. The Plan aims to improve the extent and ease of access to which rural areas are served by public transport. The below map shows the routes which were implemented within Phases 1-3 of the Plan:



Figure 2: Connecting Ireland Phase 1, 2 & 3 Implementation Route Map



During Phase 3, coverage and accessibility were further increased throughout rural Ireland, some highlights are:

- A total of 54 new towns & villages have been connected to the public transport network.
- 19 new connections to healthcare facilities.
- 7 new connections to higher education facilities.
- Around 190,000 people have access to new and enhanced services.

## Integration

The Plan aims to improve the coordination and connections of different bus and rail services to provide a seamless and efficient transport system throughout rural Ireland.

Under Phase 3:

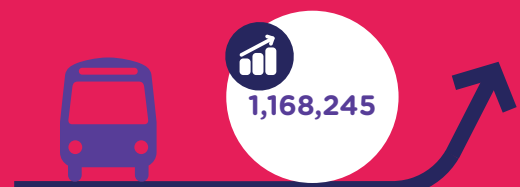
- 100% of new and enhanced services were designed to provide connections with existing regional and local bus services.
- 22 new and enhanced services provided connections with existing rail services.

## Phase 3 Key Achievements

Since the implementation of Phase 3 in January 2024, Connecting Ireland has delivered 45 new or enhanced bus services across Ireland. The introduction of these services has provided increased connectivity to educational, employment and healthcare facilities. These improvements to the TFI Network provide people living outside of major towns and cities a more connected, affordable and sustainable way to travel.



more people now have access to new and enhanced bus services



passenger journeys took place on the 45 new and enhanced bus services in 2024



patronage growth on enhanced services in 2024 vs 2023



passenger journeys took place on the new services



passenger journeys took place on the 28 enhanced services (from the date they were enhanced)



Connected  
new towns and villages



of the new and enhanced services provide connections with rail services



19 new connections to hospitals were created



97,000

weekly kilometres have been added to the TFI Public Transport Network



7 new higher education connections to colleges were created

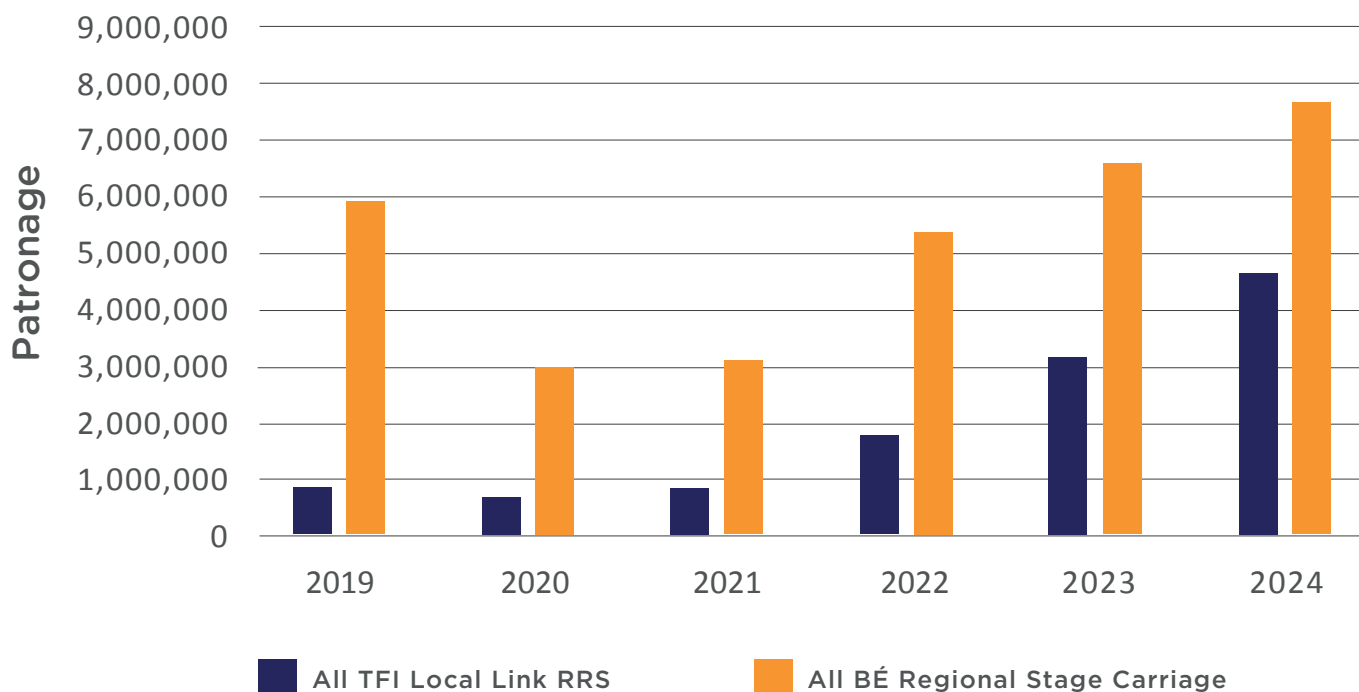
## Patronage

Patronage in relation to public transport refers to the number of people who use public transport services. It is an important indicator of public transport performance and usage, as it provides insights into the demand for public transport services and the required level of service. It can also be used as a proxy to measure the impact of public transport on the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of a region. Herein, patronage refers to the passenger journeys used on Connecting Ireland routes as reported by the relevant operators.

### Network Patronage

Figure below outlines the total passenger journeys carried on Local Link and Bus Éireann stage carriage services from 2019 to 2024. In 2019 a total of 6,854,738 passenger journeys were recorded across both Local Link Rural Regional Services (RRS) & Regional Stage Carriage compared to 12,429,613 in 2024. Additionally, this is an increase from 2023 which had a total of 9,844,013 passenger journeys.

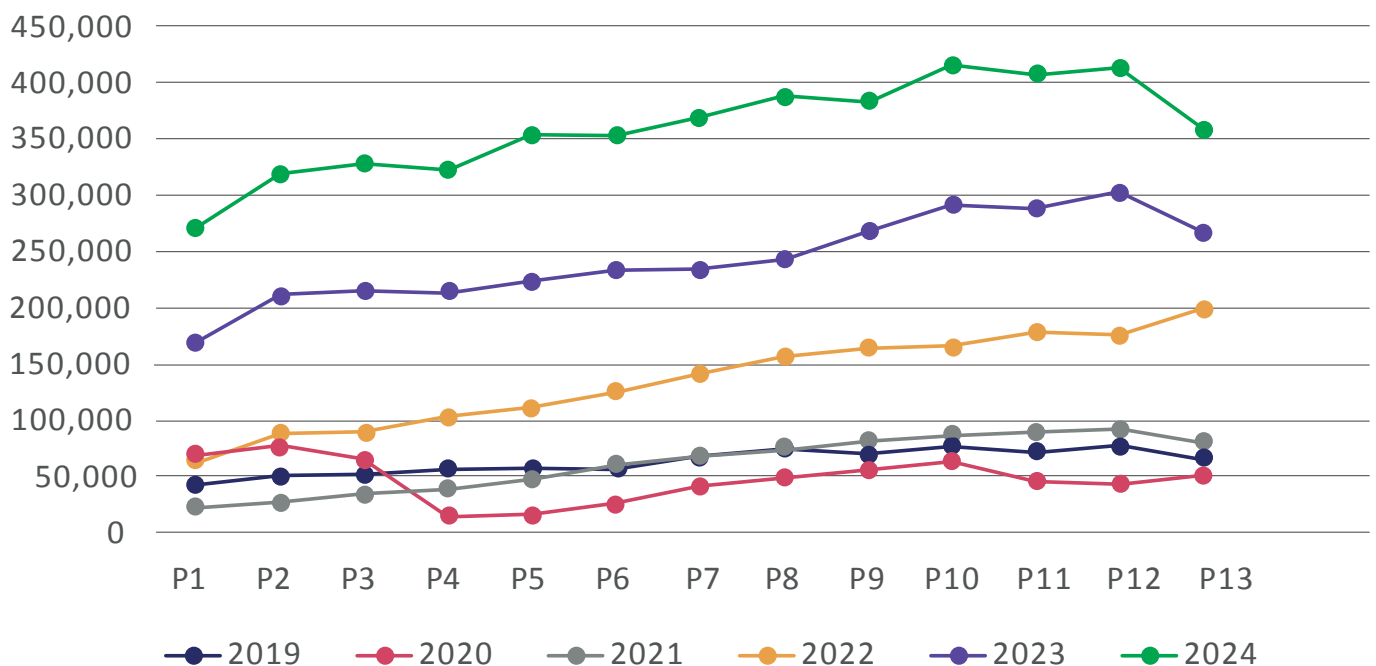
#### TFI Local Link RRS & Bus Éireann Regional Stage Carriage Total Patronage 2019-2024



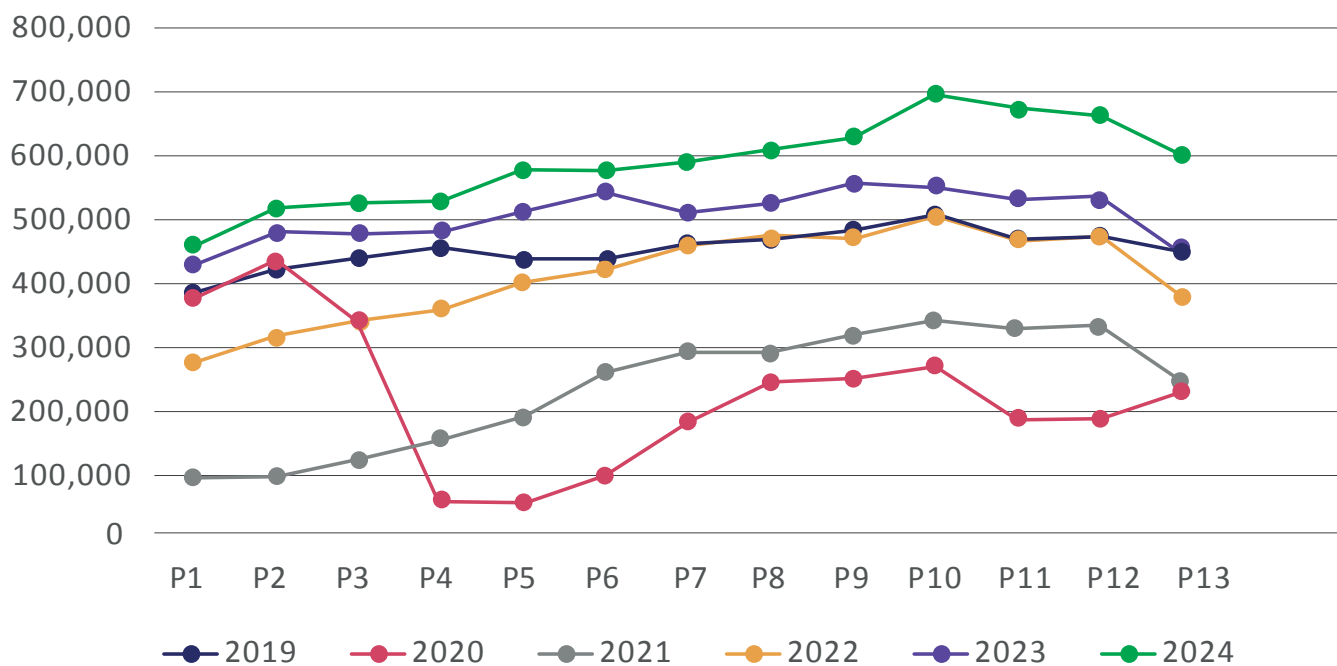
The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on patronage levels from the end of 2020 onwards as public health measures were introduced. These measures included reducing public transport capacity to as low as 25% and as a result, the public were urged to only use public transport for essential journeys. Patronage levels have slowly increased since, and from 2023 began to exceed that of pre-Covid. The figures below show the rolling average patronage for Local Link RRS & Bus Éireann Regional Stage carriage. Local Link RRS is up 407% in P13 2024 compared to P13 2019.



## TFI Local Link RRS Patronage



## Bus Éireann Regional Stage Carriage Patronage

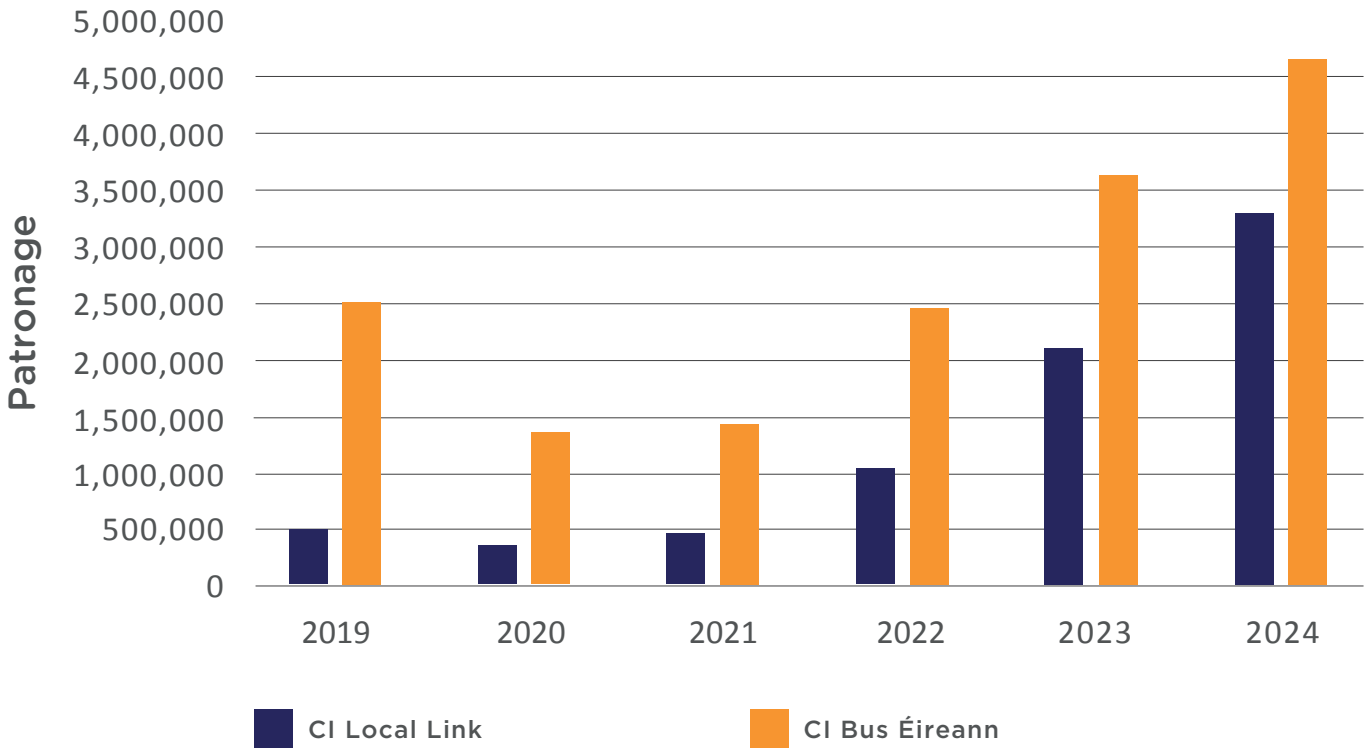




Whilst the Connecting Ireland Plan began in 2022, for the purpose of this report and to allow for comparison, Connecting Ireland patronage figures from 2019 to 2021 refer to the passenger journeys undertaken on the Local Link or Bus Éireann routes that would later become enhanced / extended under Phase 1, 2 & 3 of the Connecting Ireland Plan.

A total of 7.99 million passenger journeys were carried on Connecting Ireland services in 2024, this includes patronage on new routes and includes patronage on routes before enhancements/extensions were introduced. This represents an increase of 165% when compared with patronage figures in 2019 and an increase of 38% when compared with patronage figures in 2023.

Connecting Ireland Total Patronage 2019-2024



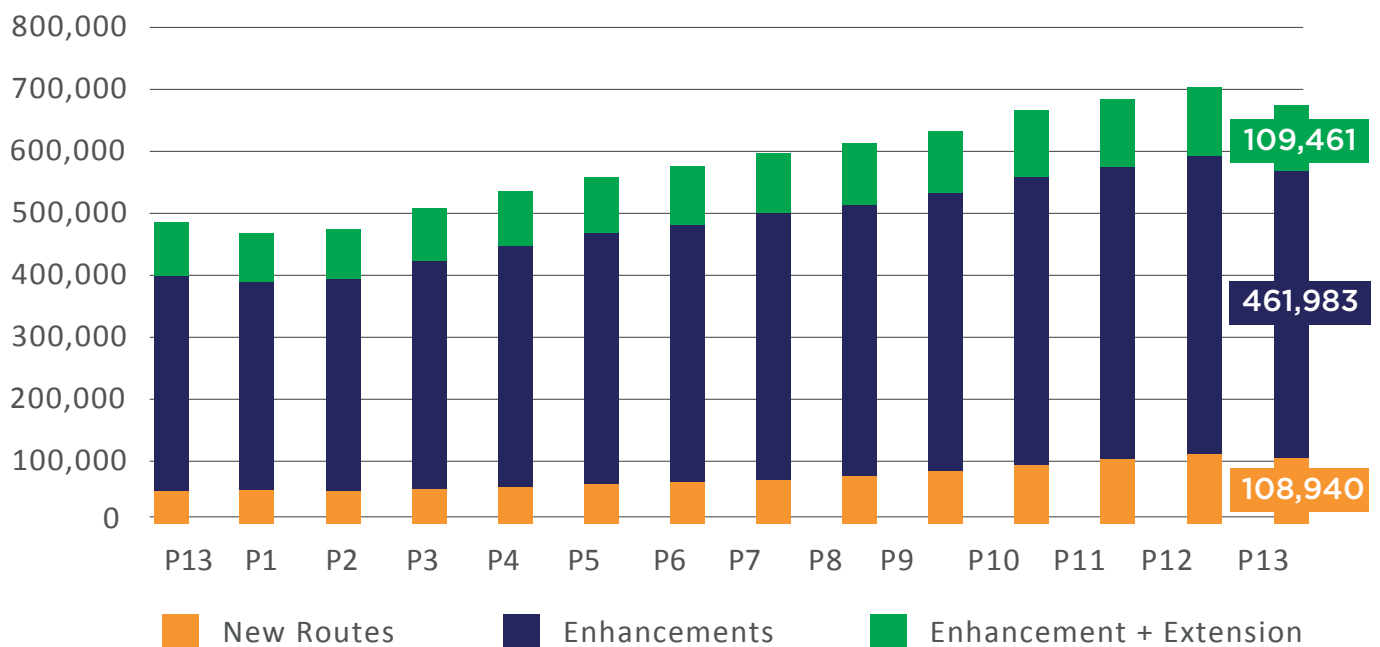
2024 Implementations

There was a total of 1,168,245 passenger journeys undertaken on Connecting Ireland routes measured from the date they were introduced/enhanced in 2024. The figure below shows the passenger split across each improvement type with new routes accounting for 15% and enhancements accounting for 85% of the passenger journeys carried in 2024.

## Phase 3 Routes Total Patronage by Improvement 2024



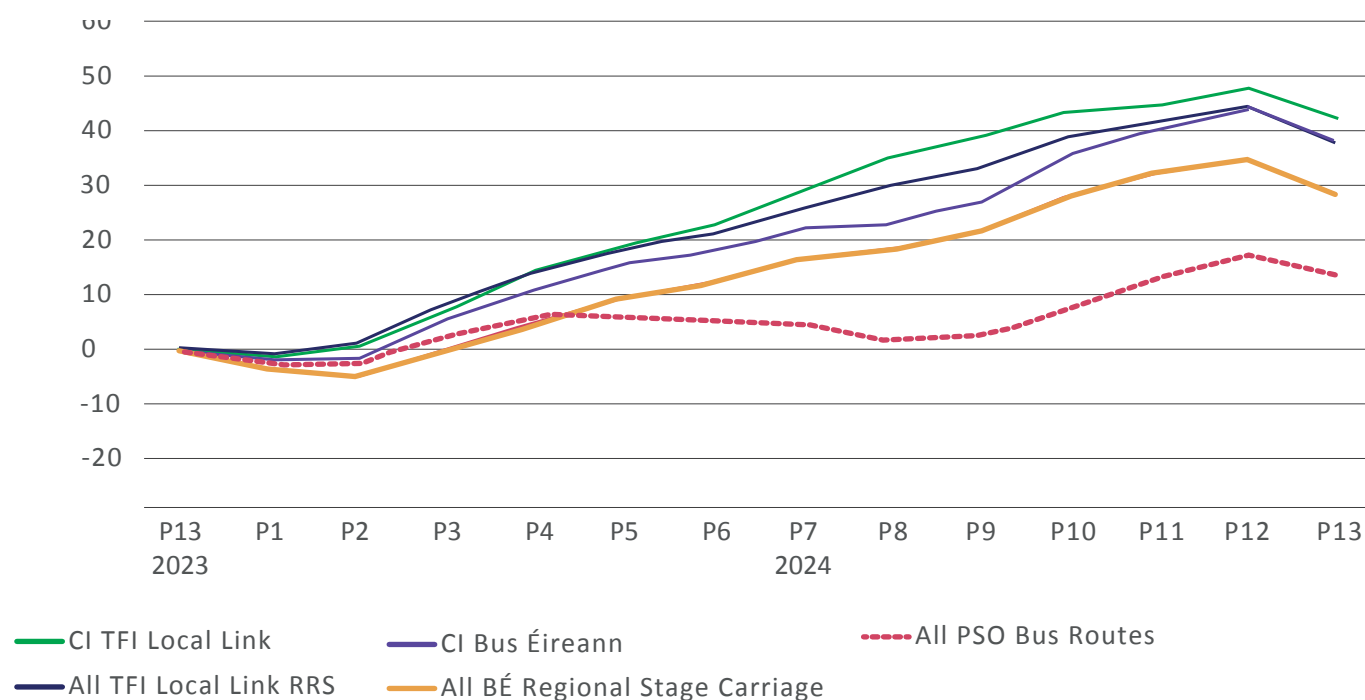
## CI Implementations Patronage by Period (Rolling Average)



The rolling average analysis of CI data indicates an uptrend in patronage for all three categories of modified services: new, enhanced, and enhanced + extended. Patronage on new routes has surged from 53,320 in Period 13 of 2023 to 108,940 in Period 13 of 2024. Enhanced routes have seen a rise in patronage from 352,897 to over 461,000 during the corresponding periods. Lastly, routes that underwent both enhancement and extension have experienced an increase in patronage, climbing from 82,560 to 109,461.



## CI Implementations Market Trend P13 2023 - P13 2024



In Period 13 of 2024, TFI Local Link recorded 394,892 passenger journeys on RRS, a significant increase from 288,014 in the same period in 2023. Meanwhile, CI RRS routes accounted for 281,644 passenger journeys, constituting 71% of the total. Bus Éireann reported 651,904 passenger journeys on all regional stage carriage services in Period 13 2024, up from 510,066 in the corresponding period of 2023. Additionally, CI Bus Éireann routes recorded 400,871 passenger journeys in Period 13 2024, representing 61% of all Bus Éireann regional stage carriage passenger journeys.

## Vehicle KM

Vehicle-kilometres is a metric used in the public transport industry to measure the total distance travelled by vehicles in a particular time period. It is calculated by multiplying the number of vehicles in service by the total distance travelled by each vehicle during the period in question.

In Phase 1, there was approximately 110,800 weekly Vehicle KMs added through new and enhanced services. In Phase 2, there was around 122,000 additional weekly vehicle kilometres added to the network. Phase 3 has seen an additional 97,000 weekly vehicle kilometres added to the network.

Therefore, the total vehicle kilometres added to the network during the whole Connecting Ireland programme currently stands around 330,000 km.

## Look Ahead

### Smart DRT Pilot

There are estimated to be circa 350,000 people living in areas not suited to fixed route public transport services. These people may live in large rural areas, smaller towns where fixed public transport is not currently viable or areas of towns/cities that are not accessible for fixed public transport. TFI Local Link currently provides over 1,000 Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services, connecting remote areas to local towns and villages.

In 2025, the Authority are implementing a pilot Smart DRT service as part of the Connecting Ireland Plan. The Smart DRT service will be app enabled and will provide both local trips and integrated 'first and last mile' connections to fixed route bus and rail services. It is anticipated that by using smart booking, trip allocation and routing technology, it will be possible to offer a more efficient, comprehensive and flexible DRT service where fixed routes are not yet present.

### Phase 4 Implementation Plan

The below table outlines the Implementation Plan for Phase 4 routes to be rolled out in Q1 and Q2 2025. The plan will be kept under continuous review and further routes may be considered for implementation during 2025.

Services Implemented in 2025 so far:

Route Number	Route Name/Description	Operator	Implementation Date	Details
<b>WW10</b>	Carnew - Baltinglass	TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow	06/01/2025	New bus service between Carnew and Baltinglas
<b>891</b>	Kilkenny - Fiddown	TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow	20/01/2025	New service between Fiddown and Kilkenny
<b>834</b>	Portlaoise - Roscrea	TFI Local Link Laois Offaly	10/02/2025	Additional evening services and improved connectivity
<b>384</b>	Enniscorthy - Wexford	TFI Local Link Wexford	27/03/2025	Additional evening services
<b>263</b>	Castletownbere - Allihies - Dursey	TFI Local Link Cork	31/03/2025	New service from Castletownbere to Dursey

Route Number	Route Name/Description	Operator	Implementation Date	Details
<b>854</b>	Roscrea - Nenagh	TFI Local Link Tipperary	31/03/2025	Improved frequency and connectivity to rail services
<b>105</b>	Drogheda - Blanchardstown	Bus Éireann	25/02/2025	Additional hours of operation and extension to Navan Road Parkway
<b>888</b>	Athy - Allenwood	TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin	03/06/2025	New Service connecting Athy and Allenwood

Services to be implemented in Q2:

Route Number	Route Name/Description	Operator	Implementation Date	Details
<b>280</b>	Waterville - Killorglin	TFI Local Link Kerry	Q2	Enhancement
<b>237</b>	Skibbereen - Cork	Bus Éireann	Q2	Enhancement
<b>415</b>	Galway - Mountbellew	Bus Éireann	Q2	Enhancement
<b>318</b>	Ennis - Limerick	TFI Local Link Limerick Clare	Q2	Enhancement
<b>351</b>	Lisdoonvarna - Kinvara	TFI Local Link Limerick Clare	Q2	New Service
<b>356</b>	Dungarvan - Clonmel	TFI Local Link Waterford	Q2	Enhancement
<b>369</b>	Enniscorthy - Kildavin	TFI Local Link Wexford	Q2	Enhancement
<b>237</b>	Skibbereen - Cork	Bus Éireann	Q2	Enhancement

The estimated implementation dates are indicative and may change for a number of reasons:

- The duration of the planning and design process, involving liaison with Local Authorities, TFI Local Link Offices, representatives, lobby groups, passengers and transport service providers to provide enhanced levels of service in response to growth and changes in demand for transport;
- Discussions with operators where licensed services and proposed PSO services co-exist on the same corridor; and availability of service providers and drivers in particular following the impacts of Covid19 and macro-economic factors brought about by the conflict in Ukraine on the industry.

Given the rapidly changing environment, it is important that the Connecting Ireland team is able to be agile and flexible in its management of the Plan, so that where progress is impacted, other plans can be advanced instead. This update reflects the Authority's intention as of today but is likely to change to respond to changing circumstances.

