

# Determination of a Public Service Obligation following amendments to the Galway – Longford Corridor

Determination of Public Service  
Obligation as a result of license  
amendment on Route 433



# 1. Introduction

In April 2025 Bus4U submitted an application to amend license 10001, which relates to services on Route 433 between Galway and Roscommon.

The amendment included the removal of services in both directions on Monday to Saturday and the introduction of a third service on Sunday. The amendments also involved changes to the departure times for the majority of other services.

The aim of this determination is to assess this recent amendment in the context of Connecting Ireland. The determination will also assess whether this amendment significantly impacts the connectivity along the Galway to Longford corridor.

The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan aims to improve public transport services in rural areas across Ireland. As part of this plan, the Galway to Longford corridor, which includes Routes 433, 425, and 426, has been identified as a key area for improvement, with the goal of increasing the frequency of bus services to a bus every two hours.

In circumstances where a commercial operator ceases or curtails services, the NTA will examine whether a public service obligation (PSO) exists to provide socially necessary but commercially unviable public transport services. Such examination will include an assessment of the demand for public transport services and options to either re-configure existing PSO services, including Local Link services, or to competitively tender for the provision of services. In either event, the NTA's ability to provide such services is subject to the availability of funding.

Table 1 below highlights the changes made to Route 433 timetable. Each column represents a specific service and its corresponding departure times. The table uses a color-coding system to indicate the status of each service.

Table 1 – Amended 433 Timetable

Roscommon to Galway																								
Stop Location	Stop Name	Stop ID/ GPS	Restrictions	Monday - Friday										Saturday						Sunday and Public Holidays				
					College Term Only																		College Term Only	
Roscommon	Mart Road, Bus Stop	555751	PUO;RNC	06:00	06:35	06:45	07:00	08:00	08:30	12:00	15:30	17:15	18:30	07:00	08:00	11:00	12:00	16:30	17:15	08:30	10:00	17:15	19:15	19:40
Athleague	Opposite Community Centre	530341	P/S;RNC	06:10	06:45	06:55	07:10	08:10	08:40	12:10	15:40	17:25	18:40	07:10	08:10	11:10	12:10	16:40	17:25	08:40	10:10	17:25	19:25	19:50
Mount Talbot	Handball Alley	553971	P/S;RNC	06:15	06:50	07:00	07:15	08:15	08:45	12:15	15:45	17:30	18:45	07:15	08:15	11:15	12:15	16:45	17:30	08:45	10:15	17:30	19:30	19:55
Ballygar	Main Street, Church	550401	P/S;GC	06:20	06:55	07:05	07:20	08:20	08:50	12:20	15:50	17:35	18:50	07:20	08:20	11:20	12:20	16:50	17:35	08:50	10:20	17:35	19:35	20:00
Newbridge	Opposite Post Office	534171	P/S;GC	06:26	07:00	07:10	07:26	08:25	08:56	12:25	15:56	17:40	18:56	07:26	08:25	11:26	12:25	16:56	17:40	08:56	10:25	17:40	19:40	20:06
Mountbellew	The Square	556011	P/S;GC	06:35	07:10	07:20	07:35	08:35	09:05	12:35	16:10	17:50	19:05	07:35	08:35	11:35	12:35	17:05	17:50	09:05	10:35	17:50	19:50	20:15
Moylough	Cheevers	556041	P/S;GC	06:40	07:15	07:25	07:40	08:50	09:10	12:40	16:16	17:55	19:10	07:40	08:50	11:40	12:40	17:10	17:55	09:10	10:40	17:55	19:55	20:20
Abbeyknockmoy	Opposite Filling Station	550441	P/S;GC	06:55	07:30	07:40	07:55	08:55	09:25	12:55	16:30	18:10	19:25	07:55	08:55	11:55	12:55	17:25	18:10	09:25	10:55	18:10	20:10	20:35
Turloughmore	Copperbeece Pub	551221	P/S;GC	07:02	07:35	07:45	08:02	09:00	09:32	13:00	16:37	18:15	19:32	08:02	09:00	12:02	13:00	17:32	18:15	09:32	11:00	18:15	20:15	20:42
Lackagh	Flynns Pub	53.36981, -8.89165	P/S;GC	07:05	07:40	07:50	08:05	09:05	09:35	13:05	16:40	18:20	19:35	08:05	09:05	12:05	13:05	17:35	18:20	09:35	11:05	18:20	20:20	20:45
Claregalway	Opposite Claregalway Hotel	530311	SDO;GC	07:10	07:45	07:55	08:10	09:10	09:40	13:10	16:45	18:25	19:40	08:10	09:10	12:10	13:10	17:40	18:25	09:40	11:10	18:25	20:25	20:50
Galway City	Galway Cathedral	53.27589, -9.05777	SDO;GCC	07:30	08:20	08:30	08:30	09:30	10:00	13:30	17:05	18:45	20:00	08:30	09:30	12:30	13:30	18:00	18:45	10:00	11:30	18:45	20:45	21:10
Galway to Roscommon																								
Stop Location	Stop Name	Stop ID/ GPS	Restrictions	Monday - Friday										Saturday					Sunday and Public Holidays					
																							College Term Only	
Galway City	Galway Cathedral	53.27589, -9.05777	PUO;GCC	07:45	09:30	10:30	14:00	17:30	18:30	19:15	21:15			10:00	10:30	14:00	18:30	19:15		10:30	12:00	19:15	21:00	21:30
Claregalway	Arches Hotel	551411	PUO;GC	08:05	09:50	10:50	14:20	17:50	18:50	19:35	21:35			10:20	10:50	14:20	18:50	19:35		10:50	12:20	19:35	21:20	21:50
Lackagh	Opposite Flynns Pub	53.36986, -8.89178	P/S;GC	08:10	09:55	10:55	14:25	17:55	18:55	19:40	21:40			10:25	10:55	14:25	18:55	19:40		10:55	12:25	19:40	21:25	21:55
Turloughmore	Cavanaghs Pub	555271	P/S;GC	08:13	10:00	10:58	14:30	18:00	18:58	19:45	21:43			10:30	10:58	14:30	18:58	19:45		10:58	12:30	19:45	21:30	21:58
Abbeyknockmoy	Filling Station	550441	P/S;GC	08:20	10:05	11:05	14:35	18:05	19:05	19:50	21:50			10:35	11:05	14:35	19:05	19:50		11:05	12:35	19:50	21:35	22:05
Moylough	Opposite Cheevers	556041	P/S;GC	08:35	10:20	11:20	14:50	18:20	19:20	20:05	22:05			10:50	11:20	14:50	19:20	20:05		11:20	12:50	20:05	21:50	22:20
Mountbellew	The Square	556011	P/S;GC	08:40	10:25	11:25	14:55	18:25	19:25	20:10	22:10			10:55	11:25	14:55	19:25	20:10		11:25	12:55	20:10	21:55	22:25
Newbridge	Post Office	534171	P/S;GC	08:49	10:35	11:34	15:05	18:35	19:34	20:20	22:19			11:05	11:34	15:05	19:34	20:20		11:34	13:05	20:20	22:05	22:34
Ballygar	The Square	550471	P/S;GC	08:55	10:40	11:40	15:10	18:40	19:40	20:25	22:25			11:10	11:40	15:10	19:40	20:25		11:40	13:10	20:25	22:10	22:40
Mount Talbot	Opposite Handball Alley	553991	P/S;RNC	09:00	10:45	11:45	15:15	18:45	19:45	20:30	22:30			11:15	11:45	15:15	19:45	20:30		11:45	13:15	20:30	22:15	22:45
Athleague	Community Centre	530121	P/S;RNC	09:05	10:50	11:50	15:20	18:50	19:50	20:35	22:35			11:20	11:50	15:20	19:50	20:35		11:50	13:20	20:35	22:20	22:50
Roscommon	Mart Road, Bus Stop	555751	SDO;RNC	09:15	11:00	12:00	15:30	19:00	20:00	20:45	22:45			11:30	12:00	15:30	20:00	20:45		12:00	13:30	20:45	22:30	23:00
Service unchanged																								
Service Added																								
Service Removed																								

The impact of this amendment is the following:

- The 06:00 service from Roscommon to Galway has been removed and a new service has been added to depart from Roscommon at 06:35, arriving at 08:20. Passengers needing to arrive by 07:30 may need to take a train with a change in Athlone.
- The 15:30 service from Roscommon has been removed from the timetable. Passengers can take the 440 at 15:56 and transfer to a train in Athlone to reach Galway by 17:59.
- The 07:45 and 21:15 services from Galway have been removed from the timetable. Passengers can take the 07:30 train to Roscommon, arriving at 09:30. The removal of the 21:15 service leaves no alternative option at that time.
- Passengers on Route 426 traveling to and from Longford via Roscommon will experience longer journey times due to the removal of services on Route 433 and timetable adjustments.

## 2. Route 433 License Amendment Analysis

### 2.1 Introduction

In April 2025, Bus4U submitted a license amendment application for their Route 433. The amendments include the removal of specific services from the 433 timetable. These are:

Monday to Friday:

- The 06:00, 07:00, 08:30, 15:30 and 18:30 departures from Roscommon.
- The 07:45, 10:30, 18:30 and 21:15 departures from Galway City.

Saturday

- The 07:00, 11:00 and 16:30 departures from Roscommon
- The 10:30 and 18:30 departures from Galway City.

Sunday and Public Holidays

- The 08:30 and 19:40 departures from Roscommon
- The 10:30 and 21:30 departures from Galway City.

The amendment also includes the addition of the following services to the 433 timetable:

Monday to Friday:

- An additional 06:35 departure from Roscommon during college term only.
- Additional 06:45, 08:00 and 17:15 departures from Roscommon.
- Additional 09:30 and 19:15 departures from Galway City.

Saturday

- Additional 08:00, 12:00 and 17:15 departures from Roscommon.
- Additional 10:00 and 19:15 departures from Galway City.

Sunday and Public Holidays

- Additional 10:00 and 17:15 departure from Roscommon.
- An additional 19:15 departure from Roscommon during college term only.
- Additional 12:00 and 19:15 departures from Galway City.
- An additional 21:00 departure from Galway City during college term only.

### 2.2 Revised Timetable

As shown in Table 2, Route 433 now operates four return trips daily between Galway and Roscommon (Monday to Friday), three return trips on Saturday and two return trips on Sunday and Public Holidays, with an additional departure Monday to Friday and Sundays during college term only.

Table 2 Revised Route 433 Timetable - Roscommon - Galway

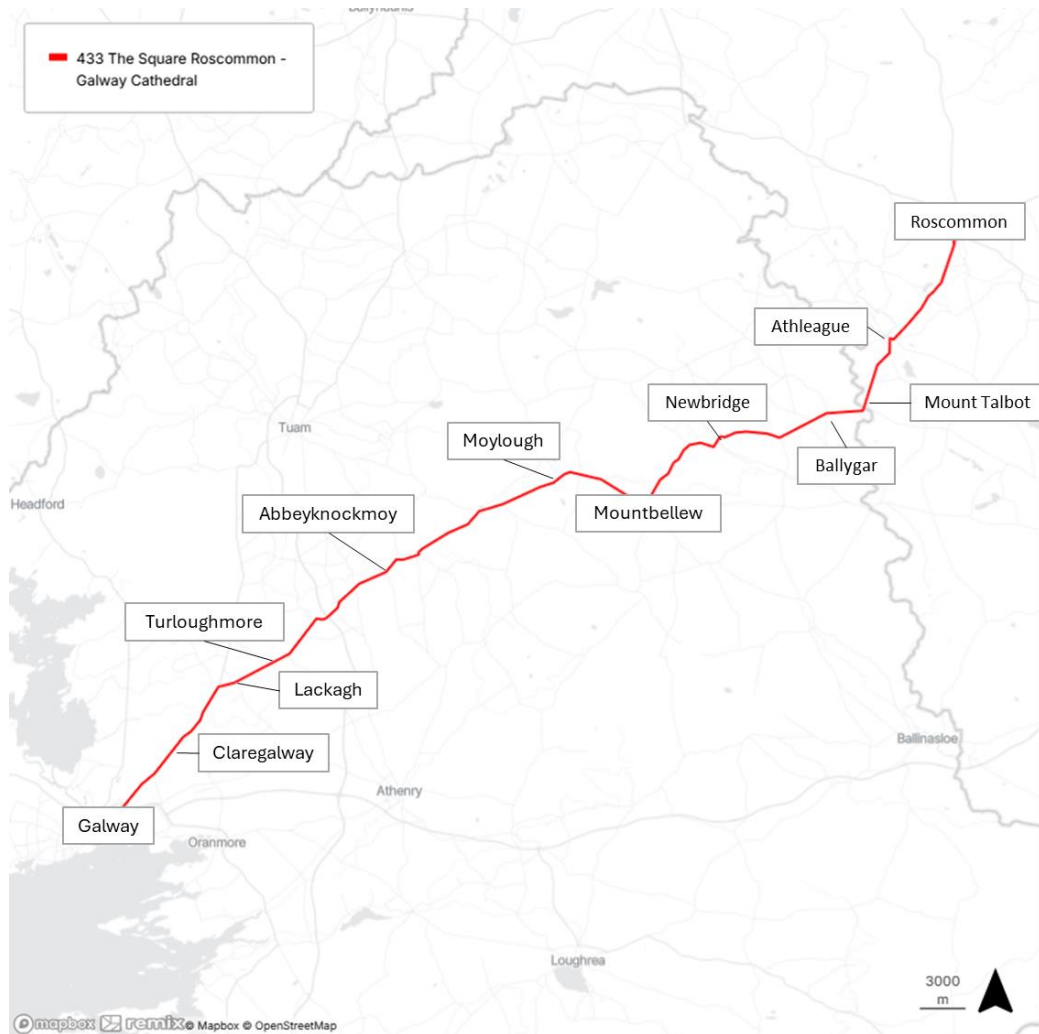
Roscommon to Galway														
Stop Location	Stop Name	Stop ID/ GPS	Restrictions	TT CTO	Monday - Friday				Saturday			SU/ PH		SU;CTO
Roscommon	Mart Road, Bus Stop	555751	PUO;RNC	06:35	06:45	08:00	12:00	17:15	08:00	12:00	17:15	10:00	17:15	19:15
Athleague	Opposite Community Centre	530341	P/S;RNC	06:45	06:55	08:10	12:10	17:25	08:10	12:10	17:25	10:10	17:25	19:25
Mount Talbot	Handball Alley	553971	P/S;RNC	06:50	07:00	08:15	12:15	17:30	08:15	12:15	17:30	10:15	17:30	19:30
Ballygar	Main Street, Church	550401	P/S;GC	06:55	07:05	08:20	12:20	17:35	08:20	12:20	17:35	10:20	17:35	19:35
Newbridge	Opposite Post Office	534171	P/S;GC	07:00	07:10	08:25	12:25	17:40	08:25	12:25	17:40	10:25	17:40	19:40
Mountbellew	The Square	556011	P/S;GC	07:10	07:20	08:35	12:35	17:50	08:35	12:35	17:50	10:35	17:50	19:50
Moylough	Cheevers	556041	P/S;GC	07:15	07:25	08:50	12:40	17:55	08:50	12:40	17:55	10:40	17:55	19:55
Abbeyknockmoy	Opposite Filling Station	550441	P/S;GC	07:30	07:40	08:55	12:55	18:10	08:55	12:55	18:10	10:55	18:10	20:10
Turloughmore	Copperbeech Pub	551221	P/S;GC	07:35	07:45	09:00	13:00	18:15	09:00	13:00	18:15	11:00	18:15	20:15
Lackagh	Flynns Pub	53.36981, -8.89165	P/S;GC	07:40	07:50	09:05	13:05	18:20	09:05	13:05	18:20	11:05	18:20	20:20
Claregalway	Opposite Claregalway Hotel	530311	SDO;GC	07:45	07:55	09:10	13:10	18:25	09:10	13:10	18:25	11:10	18:25	20:25
Galway City	Galway Cathedral	53.27589, -9.05777	SDO;GCC	08:20	08:30	09:30	13:30	18:45	09:30	13:30	18:45	11:30	18:45	20:45

Galway to Roscommon														
Stop Location	Stop Name	Stop ID/ GPS	Restrictions	Monday - Friday				Saturday			SU/ PH		SU CTO	
Galway City	Galway Cathedral	53.27589, -9.05777	PUO;GCC	09:30	14:00	17:30	19:15	10:00	14:00	19:15	12:00	19:15	21:00	
Claregalway	Arches Hotel	551411	PUO;GC	09:50	14:20	17:50	19:35	10:20	14:20	19:35	12:20	19:35	21:20	
Lackagh	Opposite Flynns Pub	53.36986, -8.89178	P/S;GC	09:55	14:25	17:55	19:40	10:25	14:25	19:40	12:25	19:40	21:25	
Turloughmore	Cavanaghs Pub	555271	P/S;GC	10:00	14:30	18:00	19:45	10:30	14:30	19:45	12:30	19:45	21:30	
Abbeyknockmoy	Filling Station	550441	P/S;GC	10:05	14:35	18:05	19:50	10:35	14:35	19:50	12:35	19:50	21:35	
Moylough	Opposite Cheevers	556041	P/S;GC	10:20	14:50	18:20	20:05	10:50	14:50	20:05	12:50	20:05	21:50	
Mountbellew	The Square	556011	P/S;GC	10:25	14:55	18:25	20:10	10:55	14:55	20:10	12:55	20:10	21:55	
Newbridge	Post Office	534171	P/S;GC	10:35	15:05	18:35	20:20	11:05	15:05	20:20	13:05	20:20	22:05	
Ballygar	The Square	550471	P/S;GC	10:40	15:10	18:40	20:25	11:10	15:10	20:25	13:10	20:25	22:10	
Mount Talbot	Opposite Handball Alley	553991	P/S;RNC	10:45	15:15	18:45	20:30	11:15	15:15	20:30	13:15	20:30	22:15	
Athleague	Community Centre	530121	P/S;RNC	10:50	15:20	18:50	20:35	11:20	15:20	20:35	13:20	20:35	22:20	
Roscommon	Mart Road, Bus Stop	555751	SDO;RNC	11:00	15:30	19:00	20:45	11:30	15:30	20:45	13:30	20:45	22:30	

TT CTO = College Term Only Timetable

## 2.3 Route Map

Figure 1 shows Route 433 which serves the following locations: Galway, Claregalway, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Abbeyknockmoy, Moylough, Mountbellew, Newbridge, Ballygar, Mount Talbot, Athleague and Roscommon .



*Figure 1 - Route 433 alignment*

## 2.4 Demand Analysis

Table 3 below shows the travel demand between Galway and Roscommon, across all modes and work/school purposes:

*Table 3 - OD Matrix (2022 data: all modes, work/school purposes)*

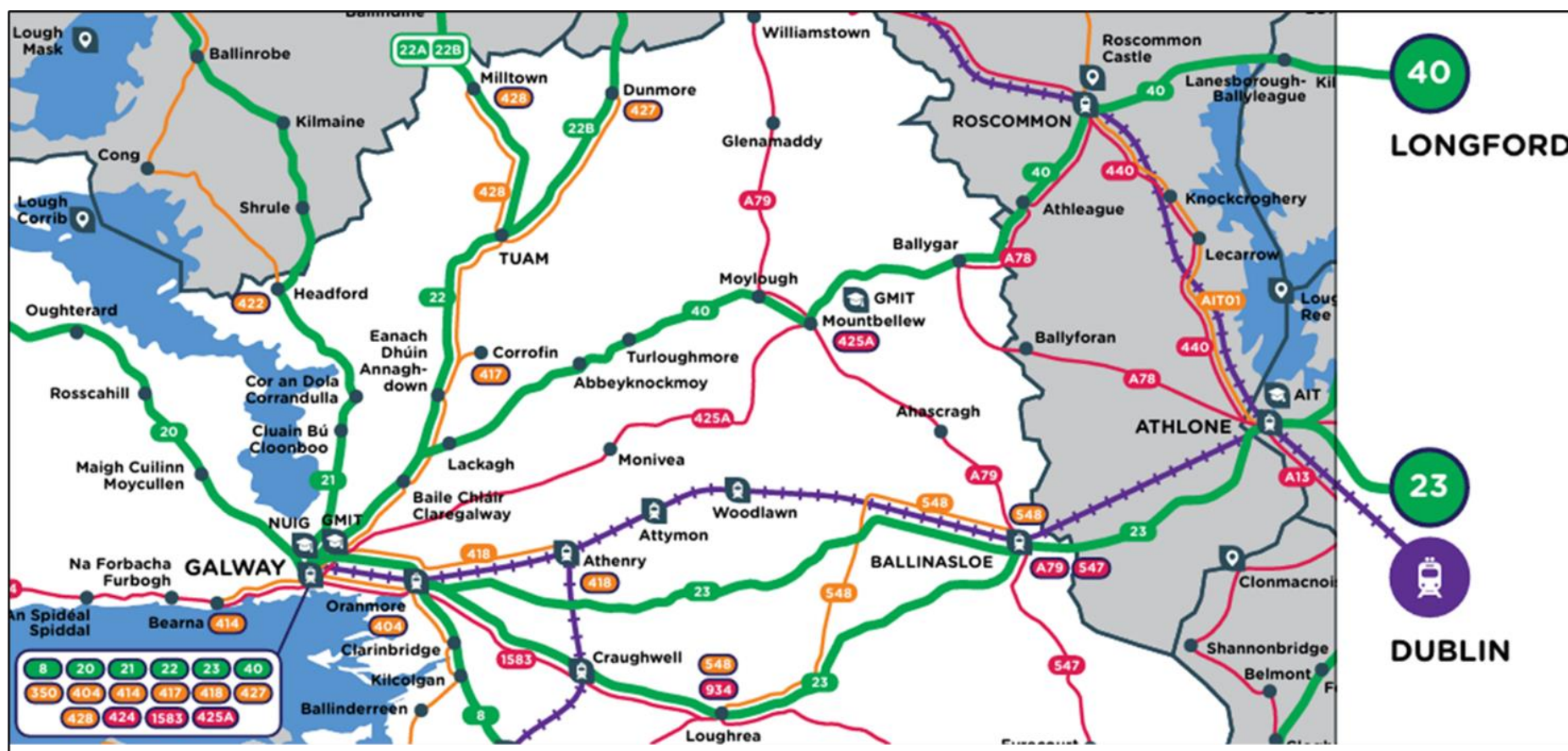
	Galway city and suburbs	Lackaghbeg	Turloughmore	Abbeyknockmoy	Moylough	Mountbellew	Newbridge	Ballygar	Athleague	Roscommon	Total
Galway city and suburbs		17	2	2	2	22	6	2	2	12	67
Lackaghbeg	135		2							2	139
Turloughmore	46	29		2		2					79
Abbeyknockmoy	68	2				10					80
Moylough	70					63		2		2	137
Mountbellew	78				19			2		6	105
Newbridge	24										24
Ballygar	30			2	2	9	2		2	30	77
Athleague	9							9		59	77
Roscommon	61	2				2	2	9	12		88
Total	521	50	4	6	23	108	10	24	16	111	873

## 2.5 Connecting Ireland Standard

Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a public transport initiative developed by the NTA which aims to increase connectivity, particularly for those living outside of urban areas. The Plan seeks to make public transport for rural communities more useful for more people by improving existing services and adding new services. It is based on a comprehensive analysis to better understand where improvements are required. It contains a set of proposed public transport improvements for each county outlining required new services and improvements to existing services and defines minimum service levels.

Shown in Figure 2, is the Connecting Ireland network for County Galway the 433 service forms part of the Galway – Longford corridor. The Plan aims to achieve a frequency of a bus every two hours on this corridor, between Galway and Longford.



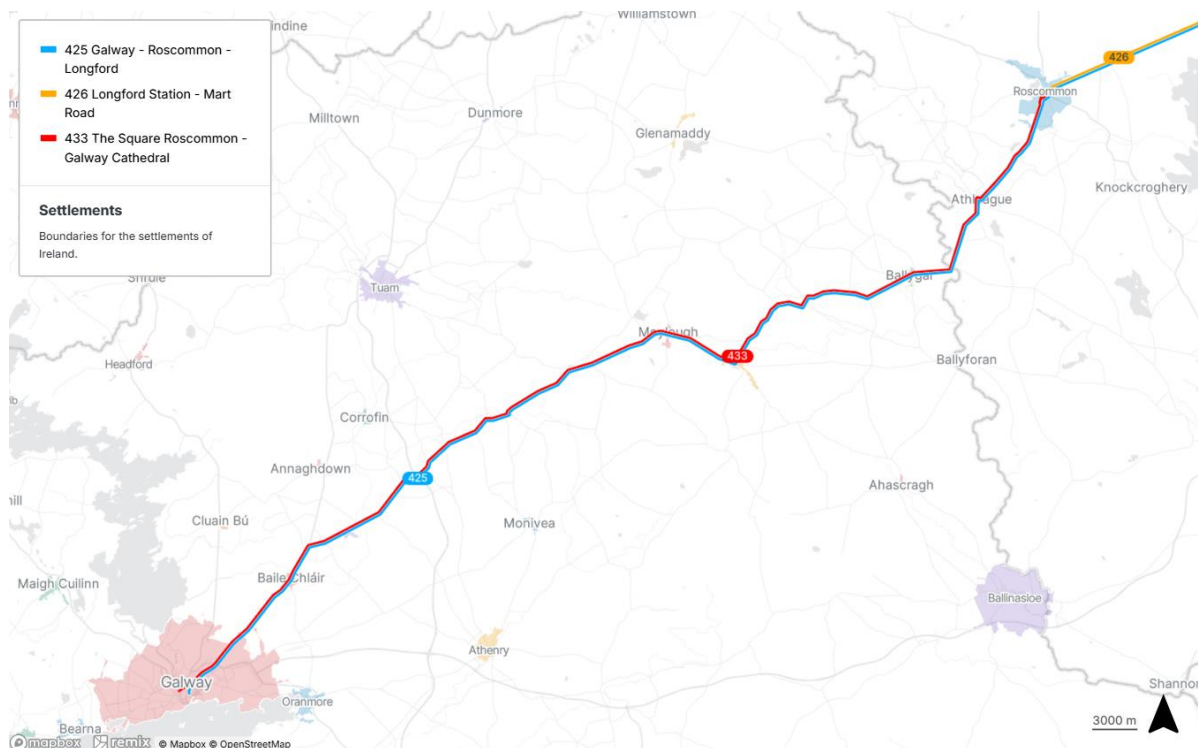


Proposal	Connecting	Serving*	Description
40	Galway	Longford	<p>Claregalway, Moylough, Mountbellew, Roscommon, Lanesborough and other places en route</p> <p>This corridor is currently served by routes 425, 433 and 467. We propose more frequent services and a better integration of routes along this corridor. A minimum service frequency of 2 hours is proposed.</p>

Figure 2 - Connecting Ireland – Corridor 40: Galway - Longford

## 2.6 Galway – Roscommon Corridor Analysis

Figure 3 shows the other bus services operating between Galway, Roscommon and Longford.



*Figure 3 - Main bus services running between Galway and Roscommon*

The broader Galway – Longford corridor is served by Route 425 (Bus Eireann) which operates only one return service a day (Mon-Fri) between Galway and Longford. In addition, there is also Route 426 which operates between Longford and Roscommon.

## 2.7 Timetable Analysis

The revised Route 433 timetable now provides 4 return trips Monday – Friday, and 3 and 2 return trips respectively on Saturday and Sunday between Galway and Roscommon. In addition, Route 425 (Bus Eireann) provides 1 return trip Monday to Saturday. This represents a reduction of 3 Roscommon to Galway and 2 Galway Roscommon services Monday – Friday.

The newly amended Route 433 timetable also has impacts on broader regional connectivity along the Galway – Longford corridor. Prior to the recent timetable amendments on Route 433, Routes 426 and 433 timetables were coordinated with each other to offer a number of interchange trips in Roscommon to allow through trips from Longford to Galway. However, the majority of these Galway – Longford interchange through trips are now no longer possible.

Table 4 summarises the impact that the amended 433 timetable has on regional connectivity between Galway and Longford. The analysis focuses on weekday impacts as most of the amendments were on the Monday and Friday timetable.

Table 4 – Overview Galway - Longford Corridor

Outbound	Section	Route	Operator	Origin	Destination	Mon-Fri										Legend		
	Galway - Roscommon	433	Bus4U	Galway	Roscommon		09:15	11:00	12:00		15:30	19:00	20:00	20:45	22:45			No Change
	Roscommon - Longford	426	Local Link	Roscommon	Longford	08:00	09:30		12:15	14:00	16:00	18:15	20:15		Departure Removed			
	Galway - Longford	425	Bus Eireann	Galway	Longford	16:25									New Departure			
Inbound	Section	Route	Operator	Origin	Destination	Mon-Fri										Broken Connection		
	Longford - Galway	425	Bus Eireann	Longford	Galway	08:45											Connection	
	Longford - Roscommon	426	Local Link	Longford	Roscommon			06:52		09:22	11:37	13:37	15:22		18:07	19:52		
	Roscommon - Galway	433	Bus4U	Roscommon	Galway	06:00	06:45	07:00	08:00	08:30		12:00		15:30	17:15	18:30		

## 2.8 Gap Analysis

Despite the range of services, coverage along the Galway-Roscommon-Longford corridor is not consistent. In particular:

- **Galway – Roscommon:** operated by Bus4U (Route 433: Galway - Roscommon) and Bus Eireann (Route 425: Galway - Longford). Between Monday and Friday there are 5 return services, of which one return service on Route 425; 3 return services on Saturday and 4 return services on Sunday, all operated by Route 433.
- **Roscommon – Longford:** operated by Bus Eireann (Route 425) and Local Link (Route 426: Roscommon - Longford). Between Monday and Friday there are 8 return services, of which one return service on Route 425. On Saturday and Sunday there are respectively 8 and 4 return services, all operated by Route 426.

Given the Connecting Ireland objective of a 2-hour frequency, the Level of Service is considered optimal between Roscommon and Longford, whereas, post-amendment, it will be below the Connecting Ireland standard between Galway and Roscommon.

Table 5 highlights the post-amendment level of service on Galway - Longford corridor comparing this to the Connecting Ireland standard for this corridor which is one bus every two hours. As can be seen with the alteration to the 433 timetable there has been a reduction of trips, from 5 to 2 trips along this corridor.

Table 5 - Level of Service Analysis Galway - Roscommon Corridor (Monday - Friday)

Service level analysis	<06:59	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	>21:00	Total
Total Galway to Longford Connections (Previous 433 Timetable)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
Total Galway to Longford Connections (Amended 433 Timetable)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Change in service levels	0	0		-1		-1		0		2		0		-1		0	-3

Service level analysis	<06:59	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	>21:00	Total
Total Longford to Galway Connections (Previous 433 Timetable)	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Total Longford to Galway Connections (Amended 433 Timetable)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Change in service levels	-1	1		0		1		0		-1		-1		0		0	-3

Equal to or Greater than the Connecting Ireland Standard

Less than the Connecting Ireland Standard

Under the new 433 timetable, the level of service on Galway - Longford corridor has decreased from 5 services to 2, and the Connecting Ireland Standard is a 2-hour frequency on this corridor.

## 2.9 Addressing the Service Gap

With the newly amended 433 timetable, there is a reduction in the level of service on weekdays and a reduction in connectivity for passengers travelling to and from Galway - Longford.

There is now a requirement for the NTA to review connections to and from Galway - Longford. There is also a requirement to work towards meeting the minimum frequency of 2 hours between Galway and Longford as set by Connecting Ireland.

## 2.10 Conclusions

This assessment indicates that while the level of service between Roscommon and Longford is adequate, it is not so between Galway and Roscommon. The newly amended 433 timetable further reduces service levels and interchange connectivity for service from Longford at Roscommon.

To maintain adequate connectivity and move towards meeting the Connecting Ireland frequency objectives on this corridor, the NTA is proposing to enhance service levels between Galway and Roscommon and better provide for through journeys to and from Longford.

### 3. Determination

The Authority has determined that, post the service reductions on Route 433, the minimum level of service is not provided between Galway – Longford. As a result, the Authority will now commence planning for the introduction of additional services required to meet the Connecting Ireland standards on this corridor.

*Dominic Hannigan*

---

**Dominic Hannigan**

**Head of Public Transport Regulation**

Approved:

*Hugh Creegan*

---

**Hugh Creegan**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Dated: