

THE PROBLEM:

According to the NTA, 2 in 5 villages are not connected to their nearby big town by public transit, leaving residents car dependent. We want to help commuters incorporate active travel into their daily commutes and provide safe, efficient cycle trails to bridge the gap between rural towns and transport hubs.



With this new greenway, I can safely cycle directly to the train station and to make it to college and work on time!

RAILS TO TRAILS CONNECT

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OUR SOLUTION:

Our idea is to convert decommissioned rail routes into cycle-friendly greenways to make cycling to the train attractive, accessible and enjoyable. Incorporating Universal Design principles and more bicycle capacity on train carriages are key steps in making this behavioural change feasible.

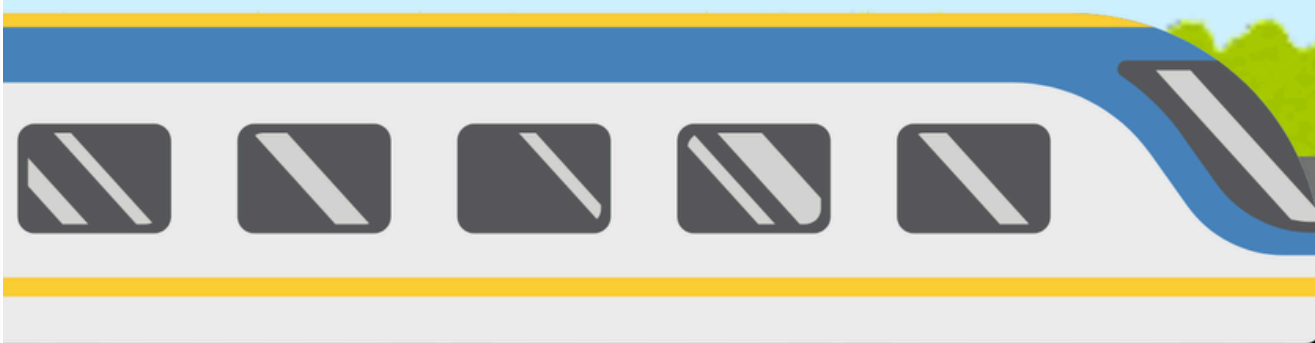
By following old railway routes, Ireland's towns surrounding urban areas can gain access to the city centre without the need for a car, and provide pathways to connect towns to the end of current train lines.

Ireland's rail network used to span 5,600km, and has been reduced to a third of what it once was. This under-utilised infrastructure provides an opportunity to counter urban sprawl outside of cities and decrease long commute times.

IMPACT:

Greenways provide safe cycle transport infrastructure through separation from cars and pedestrians, addressing one of the biggest cycling barriers in Ireland. Incorporating universal design principles like accessible and covered rest stops, wide lanes, and low inclines provide convenience to the general public while accommodating those with mobility challenges.

Building safe, convenient, and accessible active travel infrastructure empowers citizens to make smarter, environmentally conscious travel decisions while addressing the gaps within our national transport network.



Greenways allow flora and fauna to flourish in tandem with human activity. Supporting these two would build the way for a connected network of national public transport that is environmentally conscious.



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