

Navan – Dublin (NX) Bus Service Revisions Consultation Report

September 2026



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1. NX Background and Amendment Rationale

As part of our ongoing service monitoring and review process, the National Transport Authority (NTA) has carried out a review of the NX bus service. The NX was launched in September 2017 with the intention of improving the strategic connection between Dublin City and Navan via Blanchardstown by providing a limited stop commuter service. The service operated by Bus Éireann has grown steadily in patronage since implementation and currently carries on average over 20,000 passengers a week.

Persistent issues have emerged with the route amidst high demand for the service. The issues are:

- Insufficient capacity at peak times despite high frequencies. Capacity issues are most prevalent on trips to Dublin between 05:40 and 08:30 (particularly at Johnstown in Navan) and trips departing from Dublin between 16:30 and 18:30.
- Congestion related delays notably on the M3 between Pace and Clonee where the route operates in mixed traffic without priority measures. Subsequent issues in journey reliability have created issues with capacity for the earliest service out of Navan at 05:40.
- Major variability in journey times between O'Connell Street and Wilton Terrace resulting in frequent delays accumulating along this corridor, particularly during the evening peak. This can significantly disrupt outbound evening services, reducing reliability and exacerbating peak-period crowding in the Dublin to Navan direction.

Following the emergence of these issues we are now planning a revision to the route to increase capacity and improve punctuality and reliability and provide a better service for all users.

2. Route NX - Existing

This current NX service operates on the following route:

Navan – Johnstown – Blanchardstown – Phibsborough – Broadstone – Dublin City Centre – Wilton Terrace

The first scheduled departure from Navan is at 05:40, with the final departure at 00:35. From Dublin, the earliest scheduled departure is at 04:20, while the last service departs at 23:12. Journeys are scheduled to take approximately 90 minutes on average.

The service operates at a 20-minute frequency and follows a faster alignment between Navan and Blanchardstown compared to the alternative Route 109. It should also be noted that, within Dublin County, stops operate as set down only on inbound journeys and pick-up only on outbound journeys. This arrangement is intended to preserve capacity for the service's primary function of serving passengers from the Meath area.



Figure 1: Map of Existing NX

3. Route NX – Proposal

In response to the issues that have emerged regarding the NX the following proposals have been put forward to improve service performance:

- Introduce additional early morning weekday departures at 05:00 and 05:20 between Navan and Dublin
- Increase peak-period frequency to approximately every 15 minutes between Navan and Dublin from 06:30 to 08:00, and between Dublin and Navan from 16:00 to 17:30. This proposed enhancement provides for a 24% increase in service levels at peak times when compared to the current timetable. Additional overlapping departures will be added where required to meet demand.

- Some late evening services from Navan will now terminate at O'Connell Street, and some early morning services to Navan will depart from Beresford Place.
- Replace the terminus at Wilton Terrace with a new terminus at Moss Street (south of Talbot Memorial Bridge), facilitating interchange with the DART at Tara Street Station and onward city bus connections from Lower Sandwith Street. For outbound services towards Navan, the first pick-up stop will be at Pearse Station, again facilitating interchange with the DART and city bus services.
- Remove stops at Westland Row, Merrion Square, and Wilton Terrace to reduce exposure to city centre congestion and improve service reliability.

As the scale of proposed change is significant, the Service Planning Team at the National Transport Authority undertook a public consultation on the proposal to gauge overall acceptance and to elicit the public's view on what should change as part of these proposals. Their responses, where possible, will be used to inform the design element and timetabling of this enhanced route.

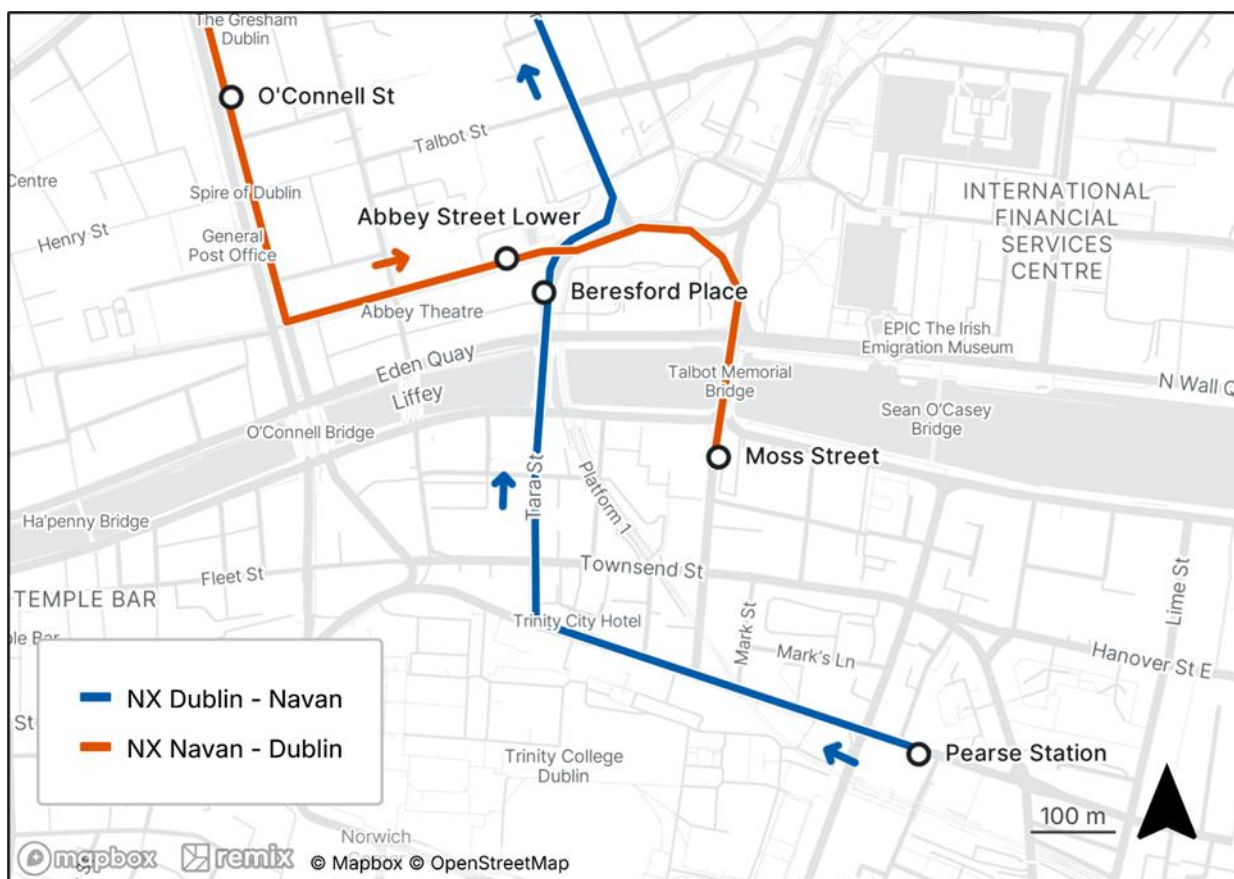


Figure 1-1: Map of Proposed NX Routing in Dublin City Centre

4. Consultation Summary

Based on 81 submissions received in relation to the proposed NX Bus Service revisions, there is broad support for the proposed increase in service frequency and earlier departures.

Respondents consistently highlighted concerns regarding current journey times and in particular journey time reliability. Most respondents welcomed; earlier morning departures, increased peak-time frequency and additional capacity to address overcrowding on peak journeys citing regular overcrowding on the current service.

Some respondents supported the change to city centre routing whilst others highlighted concerns of longer walk distances and reduced direct access to destinations on the Southside of the city, as well as transfer costs. There were a small number of respondents who strongly opposed the removal of the Wilton Terrace terminus.

Some respondents requested a 'more express service' including removal of more stops and a more direct route into the city and direct non-stop services from Navan Park and Ride, also including later evening services.

Additional observations and suggestions included improved rail connections (at M3 Parkway), improved passenger information and real time and better waiting facilities along the route.

Overall conclusion.

Having reviewed all submissions we have determined that:

- (1) Most respondents are very supportive of early departures and increased peak frequency to address capacity issues.
- (2) A dominant message was, addressing reliability is a key priority for respondents.
- (3) Whilst some respondents opposed the removal of south city centre stops; our assessment is that to facilitate increased capacity at peaks and improve reliability, this is necessary and meets the needs of most people using the service.
- (4) Whilst out of scope for the objectives of this consultation, we have noted the suggestion for a more direct, non-stop service between Navan and the city and will take that into consideration in future network reviews.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to engage with us and provide valuable feedback during the consultation process.

5. Outcome and Next Steps

Taking account of all the feedback received, we will now work with Bus Éireann to finalise the new NX timetable. We plan to introduce the new timetable from October 11th. Details of the new timetable will be published in advance and passenger information systems will be updated.

The new timetable will:

- Include 2 new additional early morning weekday departures from Navan to Dublin at 05:00 and 05:20, both adding needed capacity to the route and facilitating earlier arrivals at key destinations in the city.
- Increase peak-period frequency to approximately every 15 minutes between Navan and Dublin from 06:30 to 08:00, and between Dublin and Navan from 16:00 to 17:30. This is currently approximately every 20 minutes. This provides for a 24% increase in service levels at peak times.
- The NX will no longer serve stops at Westland Row, Merrion Square and Wilton Terrace. The inbound route will now terminate at Moss Street, close to Tara Street Station. Outbound services will now start at Pearse Street. This retains direct access to Dublin city centre (including O'Connell Street and Lower Abbey Street) and provides easy interchange with DART, Commuter rail and city buses for those customers who require an onward connection.

Some late evening services from Navan will terminate at O'Connell Street and some early morning services to Navan will start at Beresford Place.

This change ensures that NX buses are kept where they are needed most – on the core route between Navan and the city centre, increasing both capacity and punctuality and reliability for all users of the service.

We anticipate that the new timetable will deliver a more efficient and effective commuter service between Navan and the city and have significant benefits for customers travelling on the service. We will monitor and evaluate the impact of the service changes to ensure that they are delivering the outcomes that we anticipate.

Appendix 1: Submissions Summary

For a period of 4 weeks from 27/05/2026 to 24/06/2026, the public were able to submit feedback on the proposed alterations via the NTA consultation portal.

A total of 81 submissions on this consultation were received. These submissions can be viewed at:

[NX Bus Service Revisions | National Transport Authority Consultation Portal](#)

An tÚdarás Náisiúnta Iompair
Teach Mhargadh an Fhéir
Marhadh na Feirme
Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 CF98

National Transport Authority
Haymarket House Smithfield,
Dublin 7, D07 CF98

