

Region Newsletter

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Message from the Chair



I hope that this message finds you and your families safe and well.

After just over two years as Chair for the Republic of Ireland Branch, I will be stepping down at the next AGM. It has been an absolute

honour to be involved in this great organisation. CIHT offers opportunities to get involved in shaping the future and developing strong networks across client, consultancy and contractor businesses. I know of four people on the committee alone who have developed such strong networks they have moved jobs as a result!

Reflecting on my time as Chair I am proud of many things we, as a committee, have achieved:

- 20% growth in membership
- A full timetable of seminars/webinars to share ideas and best practice.
- Improved engagement. This newsletter being a good example!

What I am most proud of though is the change in the diversity of the membership. This change has been reflected in the committee which 5 years ago, when I joined as recruitment officer, was all-male, all from consultancies with an average age in the mid-40s. Now we have 30% female representation, clients, contractors, academia and consultancies represented and the average age is now in the mid-30s. This combination reflects the dynamic and changing business in which we all operate and bodes well for the future.

I would like to thank all those who have helped and supported me in my time as Chair. I would encourage you all to read the adjacent article on the up and coming AGM and would encourage you to get involved in the committee moving forward. It is a chance to shape the future of your industry and your career.

Kind Regards

Andy Campbell

Chair, Republic of Ireland CIHT Branch
andy.campbell@wsp.com

Annual General Meeting 2021

The AGM - Your opportunity to make an impact

The Committee of the Republic of Ireland Branch of CIHT is working hard for you - The Members. Our Branch membership has grown over the last year. In a period of lockdown and challenge the committee members have continued to meet virtually, organise webinars, represent us at Council, and build relationships with other CIHT Regions and professional bodies.

The pandemic has raised awareness of how we live in our communities and how our ways of working and traveling can change when business-as-usual is not the option. Climate change plus the pandemic has challenged our profession as transportation planners, engineers, and builders to examine what future mobility might look like.

Investment in transportation infrastructure in Ireland has ramped up significantly particularly in the areas of sustainable travel and there are great opportunities to be part of the solution to the challenges of our times and for a sustainable future. CIHT is a diverse organisation with room for a wide body of expertise and opinion in transportation and mobility planning and delivery. Our Branch is positioned with strong relationships with public agencies like NTA, TII, and local authorities, and with consultants and contractors. You can be an influencer through being an active member on the Branch Committee. It is a flexible group open to new ideas and initiatives.

The AGM is scheduled for 29 April. It is an opportunity to put your hand up to make an impact.

Contacts

General queries: republicofireland@ciht.org.uk

Branch website: <https://www.ciht.org.uk/about-us/international-groups/republic-of-ireland/>

LinkedIn: search for "CIHT Republic of Ireland"

Follow CIHT on Twitter [@CIHTUK](https://twitter.com/CIHTUK)

Events Update

14 January 2021. Is micromobility the future of urban transportation of just a fad?

The panel debate was jointly hosted by the UCD Energy Institute and the CIHT Republic of Ireland, and chaired by **Páraic Carroll**, Assistant Professor in the School of Civil Engineering, University College Dublin and our Membership/Recruitment Officer.

The panel explored questions around micromobility, the benefits and challenges involved. The following questions and topics were covered:

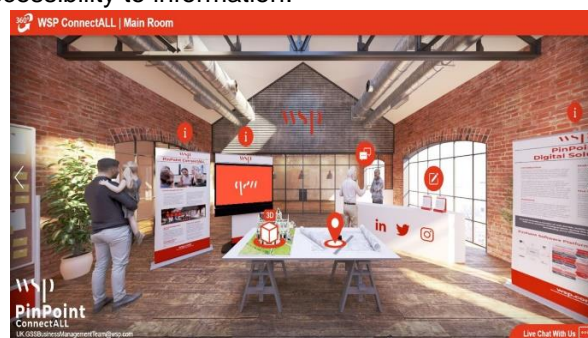
- What are the benefits that micromobility presents to urban areas?
- Dispelling the myths and discussing the facts about micromobility.
- What are the challenges and obstacles to wider and shared micromobility adoption?
- Micromobility legalisation in Ireland.

In case you missed or want to watch it again, the webinar is available on [YouTube](#).

25 February 2021. Digital Engagement and getting the most value of consultation

In this webinar, **Marielle O'Lone** and **Anissa Baiquni** from WSP discussed how the team had overcome the challenges imposed by the pandemic and continued to virtually consult, engage and connect with landowners and stakeholders.

During the presentation the speakers highlighted the benefits of using digital engagement tools as well as recognising that traditional methods of communication should also be promoted to ensure inclusivity and accessibility to information.



Professional Qualifications

Whether you are just starting your career in Highways & Transportation or are an experienced professional, CIHT can help to support your professional development needs. CIHT can offer access to professional qualifications which recognise your knowledge and practical experience and improve your chances of progression in your chosen career. **What can CIHT offer?**

- Chartered Transport Planning Professional (CTPP)
- Transport Planning Professional (TPP)
- Chartered Engineer (CEng)
- Incorporated Engineer (IEng)
- Engineering Technician (EngTech)

In **January 22nd**, the CIHT Republic of Ireland held a Lunch and Learn session with **Sue Stevens**, Director of Education and Membership at CIHT. In this webinar Sue gave an overview of routes to qualifications through CIHT and the benefits of professional registration.

If you have any queries please take a look at the [Get Qualified](#) page on the CIHT website. You can also contact +44 (0)20 7336 1571 or education@ciht.org.uk

Upcoming Webinars

Date	Title	Speaker
Tues 20 th April 1 to 2 pm	BusConnects: Designing for Movement of People	Ian Byrne Systra, Business Director
May	Understanding Women's travel needs in Ireland	Lorraine D'Arcy TU Dublin, Senior Lecturer Sustainable Transport and Mobility

Do you have an idea for an event?

If you have a webinar topic or event you would like to see, please contact us. We are always looking for ideas.

The events are subjected to change. For more information please check out [Events Page](#) for regular updates.

Feature Article

MSc in Sustainable Transport and Mobility – Technological University Dublin

It is time to Celebrate! The first graduates of the MSc in Sustainable Transport and Mobility offered by the TU Dublin celebrated their accomplishments in March this year. Well done all!

The Master of Science in Transport and Mobility is a multi-disciplinary programme delivered by a team drawn from a range of professional backgrounds across the College of Engineering and Built Environment at TU Dublin.

At the core of the programme is the principle of sustainability and how integrated transport and mobility networks can be designed for the wider benefit of society, economy, and environment. The programme provides learners with both a theoretical and practical framework but also a basis to develop knowledge and to critically reflect on current transport and mobility environments.

The aims and objectives of the programme include examining the context of enhancing mobility for resilient urban and rural environments and fostering equity and well-being for all. This in turn encapsulates the idea of planning and design for healthy communities and living streets.

Core taught subjects include the following:

Introduction to Sustainable Transport and Mobility

Spatial Planning and Sustainable Communities

Local Governance, Development & Innovation

Traffic Management and Road Safety

Transport Economics and Operations

Behavioural Change and Active Travel

Principles of Public Transport Systems

Transport Modelling and Simulation

Geographical Information Management

Summer School in Sustainable Transport & Mobility

More information can be found at [TU Dublin website](#).

Reversing Car Dependency – Summary and Conclusions

The International Transport Forum (ITF) recently published a new report called “Reversing Car Dependency”, which suggests that reallocating road space from cars to cyclists and pedestrians can result in traffic “disappearing”.

International Transport Forum



Reversing Car Dependency
Summary and Conclusions

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The document contains guidance for local and national governments on how to “*encourage citizens to use alternatives to private cars in order to reduce car-dependency, regardless of how they are powered or who drives them.*”

The report analyses “*fiscal policies and other instruments for managing urban traffic and correcting current policy biases that favour automobile travel over more sustainable and affordable transport options. It also reviews international experience in co-ordinating transport planning with land-use development and in allocating space to walking and cycling in order to make transport more efficient and streets less congested.*”

A series of recommendations to reverse car dependency are outlined in the report.

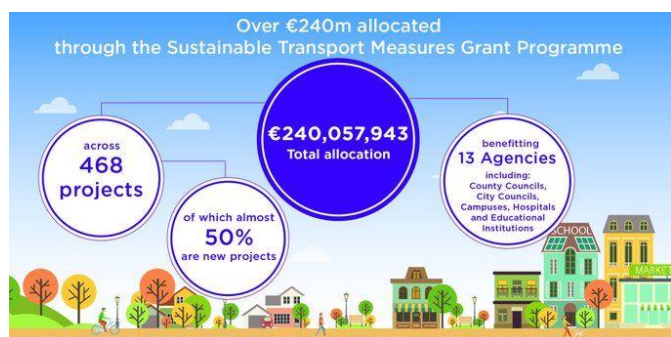
- Review the street space and urban land share allocated to cars;
- Use road space allocation to proactively manage traffic;
- Abolish minimum parking space requirements for new developments;
- Consider road pricing to drive more efficient use of scarce road space and urban land;
- Use parking rates to discourage excessive driving;
- End employer-paid parking subsidies;
- Ensure that quality alternatives to private cars are convenient and efficient;
- Work towards integrated planning of transport and land-use; and,
- Review land-use regulations that hinder compact development patterns.

The full report is available at itf-oecd.org.

News

NTA Allocated €240m to councils for Walking and Cycling Infrastructure

In February this year, the National Transport Authority (NTA) announced a total of €240m to support sustainable transport projects across the country. The allocation is €130 higher than last year and will support 468 sustainable transport projects across 12 local authorities.



You can find more information at the [NTA website](#).

Safe Routes to School initiative to support walking and cycling infrastructure

In March this year, it was launched a new initiative – **Safe Routes to School**, to support active travel infrastructure for selected schools around the country. The programme aims to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school. [Source](#)



Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021

In March this year, the Cabinet approved the publication of the Climate Action Bill which commits Ireland to be a net-zero carbon State by 2050, and to achieve a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of the decade.

Key highlights of the Bill include:

- Placing on a statutory basis a commitment to achieve a climate neutral economy no later than 2050;

- Introducing a legal requirement for the Government to adopt a series of economy-wide 5-year carbon budgets, on a rolling 15-year basis, and
- Introducing a requirement to annually revise the Climate Action Plan and prepare, at least once every five years, a National Long-Term Climate Action Strategy;

More details available [here](#).

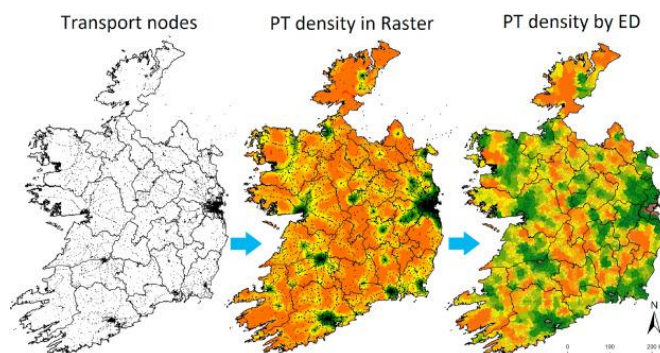
Identifying hotspots of transport disadvantage and car dependency in rural Ireland

A paper published in February in Transport Policy – Volume 101 explores the concept of car dependency and transport disadvantages and the correlation between them in Ireland

The main objective of the paper is to identify hotspots or areas that are susceptible to increasing rates of forced car ownership (FCO) and transport disadvantages.

The work identifies specific Electoral divisions that have or are experiencing high levels of disadvantage and accessibility issues to important social services and amenities, such as access to schools, health care, banks and post offices as well as employment centres in rural Ireland.

The findings reported in the paper provide weight to the argument that more resources, infrastructure provision and policy action are needed to adequately reduce the dependency on the private car in rural areas by providing more practical alternatives to the car and funding to support people who are often geographically and socially disadvantaged.



The paper is available at [ScienceDirect](#)

A Day in the Life of



Sarah McDonagh

Job Title

Transport Planner, Jacobs Engineering

Terms of Reference

Finding my feet as a Transport Planner. My main interests are

in Walking and Cycling projects, and in improving sustainable transport options for all ages – but particularly for children.

Suitability for the job

Background in Urban Geography and a recent graduate of the MSc in Transport and Mobility at Technological University Dublin. Five years' experience as a Transport Planner.

Where based

Currently seconded into the National Transport Authority (NTA) Offices, Dublin. Otherwise you'll find me in Jacob's picturesque office on the Dublin Coast.

Transport to work

A 13km Cycle along the coast – might be a quicker cycle now with the new Coastal Mobility Route along Dun Laoghaire Seafront – looking forward to using it when office working resumes!

Top of in-tray

Finalise the funding for the 19 Local Authorities due to receive allocations as part of the Department of Transport's recently announced Active Travel Fund.

Best aspect of job

Working with Jacobs has given me many opportunities to be seconded into different departments in the NTA. Not many jobs would afford the flexibility that Jacobs offers to work in different roles. I am currently on my third secondment with the NTA, which is with the Transport Development team. I previously did a year-long secondment with the Transport Modelling team, and a year with the Bus Planning team.

Worst aspect

While there are so many great projects on-going in the Active Travel sphere at the moment, so many projects are being blocked or removed due to 'nimbyism'. It's really disheartening when the benefits of an active travel scheme far outweigh any disadvantages, yet the project doesn't proceed due to local opposition.

What is the most important transport issue today?

I recently completed my master's Thesis on children's travel in Ireland, and the issues children face in their day-to-day travel. What really came to the forefront is how children are regularly excluded from the Transport Planning sphere and are often not engaged with or consulted on how they would like to be able to travel, and how we can accommodate this. I believe there is huge importance in educating and involving the younger generations in discussions around active travel and developing safe infrastructure that works for all ages.

How do you relax?

My favourite thing to do in my free time is to go mountain biking or Whitewater kayaking – some people may not see them as relaxing but it's a good escape from everyday life! If I'm looking for something more sedate to relax, I'll walk the dog or read a book.

Ambition

To keep on learning! I like to set myself goals every week to read new research in transport or to familiarise myself with different transport guidance documents both in Ireland and internationally. We can learn so much from what other countries are doing for Walking and Cycling.