



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	State Body
Name:	Department of Transport
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Topic

Local Transport Assessment / Transport Strategy Map

Submission

Department of Transport Submission

File

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'Blessington LAP'
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4th December 2024

Re: Draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025

The Department of Transport welcomes the opportunity to make observations on the Draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025.

There are a number of key policies and requirements relevant to accessible, integrated and sustainable public transport which the Department of Transport (DoT) considers should be reflected in the proposals. The Department notes and welcomes reference to some of these policies in the appended Local Transport Assessment.

Accessible public transport for All, and especially for Disabled People, Persons with Disabilities, Persons with Reduced Mobility and Older People.

- the “whole of Government” **National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) 2017-2022** included specific actions assigned to local authorities. For example, action 108 related to the ‘dishing’ of footpaths and action 109 related to accessible infrastructure, including bus stops. Lack of dishing is often cited as a major concern for wheelchair users. The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth are currently finalising the new National Disability Strategy.
- the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** puts obligations on State Parties to ensure access for persons with disabilities to, for example, the physical environment and transportation in both urban and rural areas.
- making transport fully accessible for all requires a ‘**whole journey approach**’. This refers to all elements that constitute a journey from the starting point to destination. Local Authorities are a key stakeholder by ensuring a universal design approach to the



built environment'. This including footpaths, tactile paving, cycle paths, roads, pedestrian crossing points, town greenways and bus stops/shelters.

- the **Sustainable Mobility Policy** contains a number of specific actions and commitments underpinning this approach. It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is accompanied by an action plan to 2025 which contains actions to improve and expand sustainable mobility options across the country by providing safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car journeys. It also includes demand management and behavioural change measures to manage daily travel demand more efficiently and to reduce the journeys taken by private car.
- the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (**DMURS**) **Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response** includes guidance that designers should ensure that measures align with the principles of universal design, consider Government policy on accessibility for people with disabilities and consult people with disabilities to further appraise measures.
- the **Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan (2022-2025)** is a major national public transport initiative with the aim of increasing public transport connectivity, particularly for people living outside the major cities and towns.

The Department of Transport can assist with appropriate text in the development plan regarding integrated, accessible public transport if desirable.

Central Policy, Coordination and Reform

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