



20 Years of Luas

The Benefits of Luas

2004-2024



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Contents

01 Delivering for Dublin and Ireland	06	04 Sustainable mobility	40
Change since the millennium	08	Passengers	42
Delivery timeline	10	Reducing emissions	44
Early days of Luas	12	A multi-modal transport network	46
Emblem of Dublin	13	Universal access and design	48
02 Enabling compact growth	14	05 Future	56
New housing and regeneration	16	Looking into the Future	57
Sustainable communities	18	Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy	58
03 Economic and social vitality	26		
Access to jobs	28		
Connecting people and places	30		
Public realm enhancements	32		





Foreword

Luas was built 20 years ago, on time and within budget. In those 20 years, half a billion passenger trips have been made on Luas, many more than projected in the original business cases and all with zero emissions.

Last year, demand returned to pre-pandemic levels. Over 48 million passenger trips were made on Luas during 2023.

The Luas system is efficient, reliable, accessible and sustainable. It provides mobility at capacity levels that can only be matched by heavy rail.

This level of mobility has enabled land use that would not have been possible with road access only. We cannot attribute the growth that has occurred along the Luas corridors exclusively to the light rail service but we can present the facts. In the last twenty years over 10,000 jobs new to the Irish economy have been located along the Luas corridors.

The people who can attribute effect to the provision of Luas are the County Council Planners in Dublin City, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Councils. I would like to express my appreciation for their contribution to this document.

I hope that we have produced a document that does justice to the positive contribution that Luas has made to living, working and socialising in Dublin over the last twenty years and provides an understanding of what is made possible by the provision of high quality, accessible and zero emissions public transport.

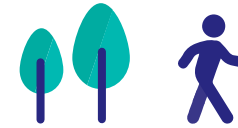
Peter Walsh, CEO,

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII),
June 2024

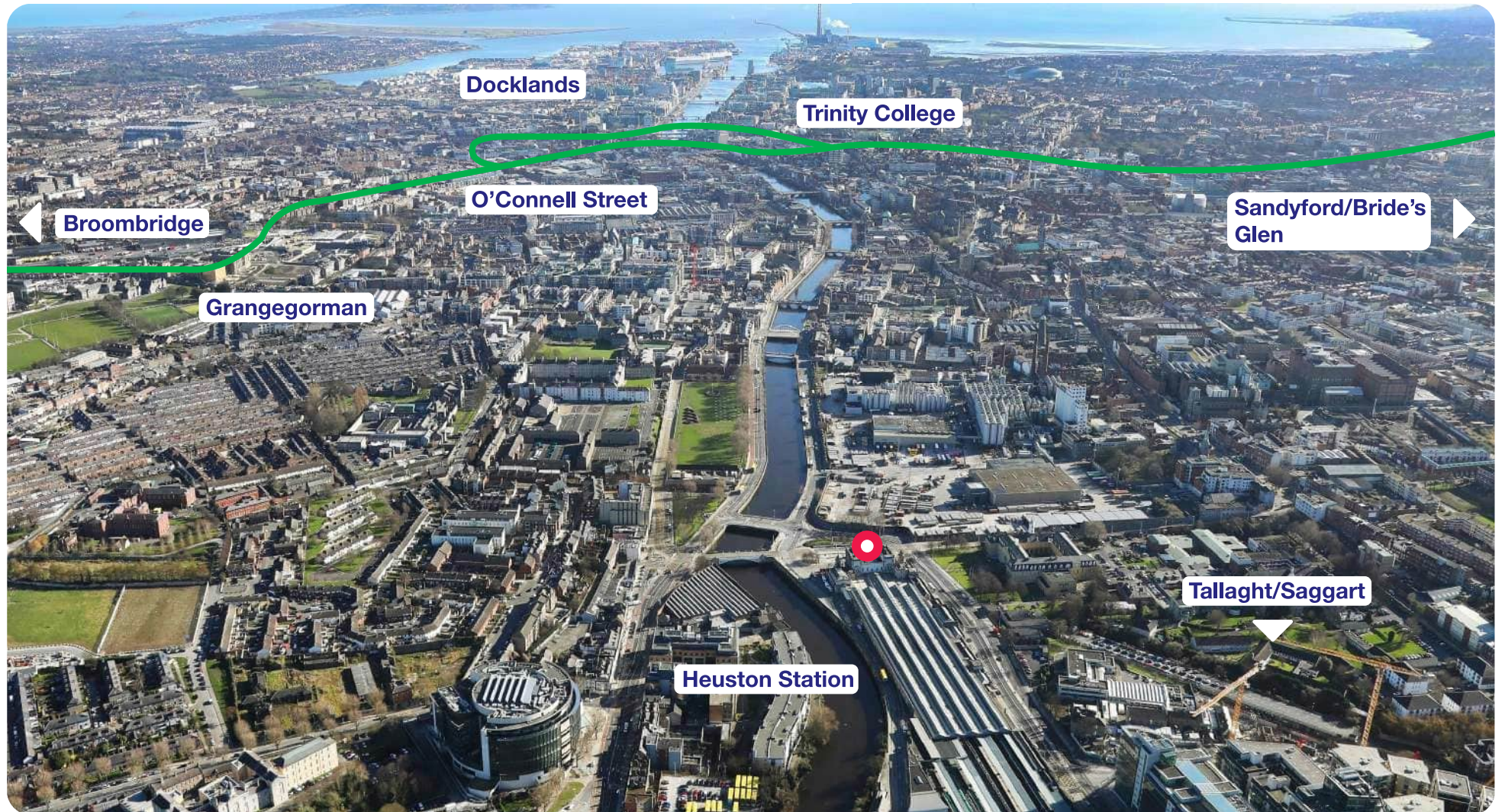
01

Delivering
for Dublin
and Ireland





Dublin from the air



Delivering for Dublin and Ireland

Substantial change and growth since the turn of the millennium

Luas has been a catalyst to creating a more sustainable, connected, and productive capital. It has redrawn the map of Dublin, transformed people's lives and improved the quality of life of those it serves.

Luas connects communities and places, supports the delivery of new development and growth, and provides a high-quality connection to key economic centres across the region. Luas has delivered for the people and the economy of Dublin, which has been the engine behind Ireland's economic growth.

Dublin's population is projected to continue growing by a further 20%-25% by 2040, placing increased pressure on transport, housing, and the liveability of the city.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out a vision to tackle these challenges, with several national strategic outcomes (NSOs) that include sustainable mobility, compact growth, and the transition to a low carbon economy.

These outcomes align with the positive impacts of Luas, witnessed over the last 20 years, demonstrating how Luas has been and remains key to helping achieve the spatial priorities of Dublin and Ireland.

28% Dublin population growth 2002 - 2022

40%

increase in Dublin workforce from 2004 to 2022 with 800,000 employed

35%

increase in Luas commuters in the last ten years from 2011 - 2022



“Luas is beginning to transform Dublin, providing a public transport spine linking in with the bus system. Along with the Metro, it is an example of how good public transport can change the city, reducing carbon emissions and increasing liveability.”

**John FitzGerald,
Department of Economics, TCD,
February 2024**

Delivery timeline

20 Years of Luas

Luas has proven to be a flagship infrastructure project in Ireland, consistently delivered both on time and on budget.

It's original construction and subsequent line extension projects have been delivered within one political term.



2009-2011

Luas expands

Despite the recession, Luas saw rapid expansion and was in place when the economy recovered.

- Red Line arrives in Docklands (2009)
- Green Line extended to Brides Glen (2010)
- Red line extension from Belgard to Saggart opens to passengers (2011)



1999

Planning for Luas

Green and Red Lines granted planning approval.



2001

Main construction

Construction work on both lines commences to become the largest urban infrastructure project in Ireland.



2004

Red Line opens

Route between Connolly and Tallaght opens in September.



2004

Green Line opens

Route between St. Stephen's Green and Sandyford opens in June.



2012

Luas Cross City extension

Luas Cross City extension from St. Stephen's Green to Broombridge receives planning approval.

Construction begins the following year and line opens within just 5 years.



2017

Creating a network

Luas Cross City opens, connecting Red Line and Green Line for first time.

Planning for growth

Increased capacity enhancements delivered on the green line, in recent years, provided longer and more frequent trams.

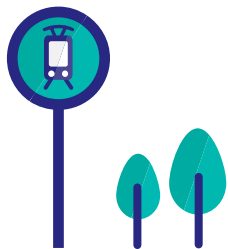


Early days of Luas

In June 2004 Luas services launched on the Green Line, between St. Stephen's Green and Sandyford, bringing trams back to the streets of Dublin for the first time in 45 years.

Five days of free travel marked its opening, attracting over 430,000 passengers, some of whom queued for more than 400m to take their first trip by Luas.

Since then, streets have been redesigned and former railway lines repurposed as Luas has grown to become an important part of city life. It has proved to be the most significant addition to our transport network for a generation.



RTE News archives - 30th June 2004



Minister for Transport Séamus Brennan (left) and Railway Procurement Agency CEO Frank Allen at Luas opening ceremony, June 30th 2004

“It is genuinely a day for celebration and a day to say to ourselves as Irish people that we can actually get things done.”

Minister for Transport,
Séamus Brennan,
RTE News,
June 2004

22 million
passenger trips
were made during
the first full year of
operations in 2005,
exceeding forecasts
of 20 million.

Emblem of Dublin

Luas is an iconic symbol for our capital city, with an influence that extends far beyond its role as a mode of sustainable transport as it features frequently in the media, film and other popular culture.

The tram, its chimes, and its unique identity are part of a myriad of productions and placements that place Luas at the heart of Dublin City and its suburbs. Luas has also supported artwork through community engagement.

The voice of Luas, Doireann Ní Bhriain, features in the song 'Big Dreams' on Rachael Lavelle's debut album.



Luas in film

Ek Tha Tiger (2012)



Luas in advertising

KBC bank (2011)



Luas in literature

'Thirteen Stops' series by Sandra Harris (2020-2022)



Luas in street art

'Luas Love' by Amy Caulfield (2022)

02

Enabling
compact
growth



Brides Glen Luas stop



Brides Glen

Enabling compact growth

Luas supports the delivery of new housing and regeneration

In addressing the challenge of housing supply, Luas has supported the development of some of the largest transport-led housing opportunities in Dublin, whilst also contributing to the success of regeneration initiatives across the region.

The connectivity and permanence of Luas has been vital in enhancing market confidence to deliver new housing, whilst also making areas surrounding stops attractive places for prospective residents.

New housing continues to be delivered at increasing pace and density around Luas stops across Dublin, promoting the principles of compact growth and Transit-Orientated Development.

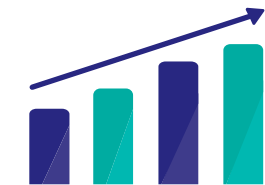


This seeks to maximise the provision of housing, employment, public services and leisure space in close proximity to high quality transport services.

Further opportunities to deliver Transit-Orientated Developments are being explored by government and local authorities. Tallaght, Sandyford, and Cherrywood have been identified as being able to accommodate further growth. Luas also forms part of plans to bring forward large scale development at Naas Road / City Edge and Broombridge.



390,000 Residents live within 1km of Luas (2022)



Growth in proportion of Dublin population living within Luas catchment from 21% to 26% (2011-2022).



“Luas is an essential component in securing a consolidated and sustainable city while also contributing significantly to the revitalisation and re-development of Dublin. Luas has and will continue to stimulate private sector investment in the city centre. Luas is also key supporting infrastructure for the city’s Strategic Development and Regeneration Areas.”

**Deirdre Scully,
City Planner, Dublin City Council,
June 2024**

Sustainable communities

Increasing the number of people who use public transport or active travel modes is a core part of a successful, sustainable and liveable city.

The Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 highlights that more than two thirds of people who currently travel into the city centre do so by public transport or active travel modes. The plan aims to grow this mode share by more than 10% over the next five years.

Luas is at the heart of Dublin's public transport network and can contribute to residents shifting to more sustainable travel choices to mitigate against climate change. It provides a convenient and attractive alternative to the private car and can efficiently move large volumes of people between places of employment, housing and leisure.



Inhabitants of communities served by Luas are less likely to own a car. If they do, they use it less..

Between 2011 and 2022, the number of households in Dublin who do not own a car decreased by nearly 10%. At the same time, the number of households within 1km of Luas stops who do not own a car increased by 5%.

Living within 1km of a Luas stop, we have...



Approximately **one quarter** of Dublin's population



45% of Dublin's households who do not own a car

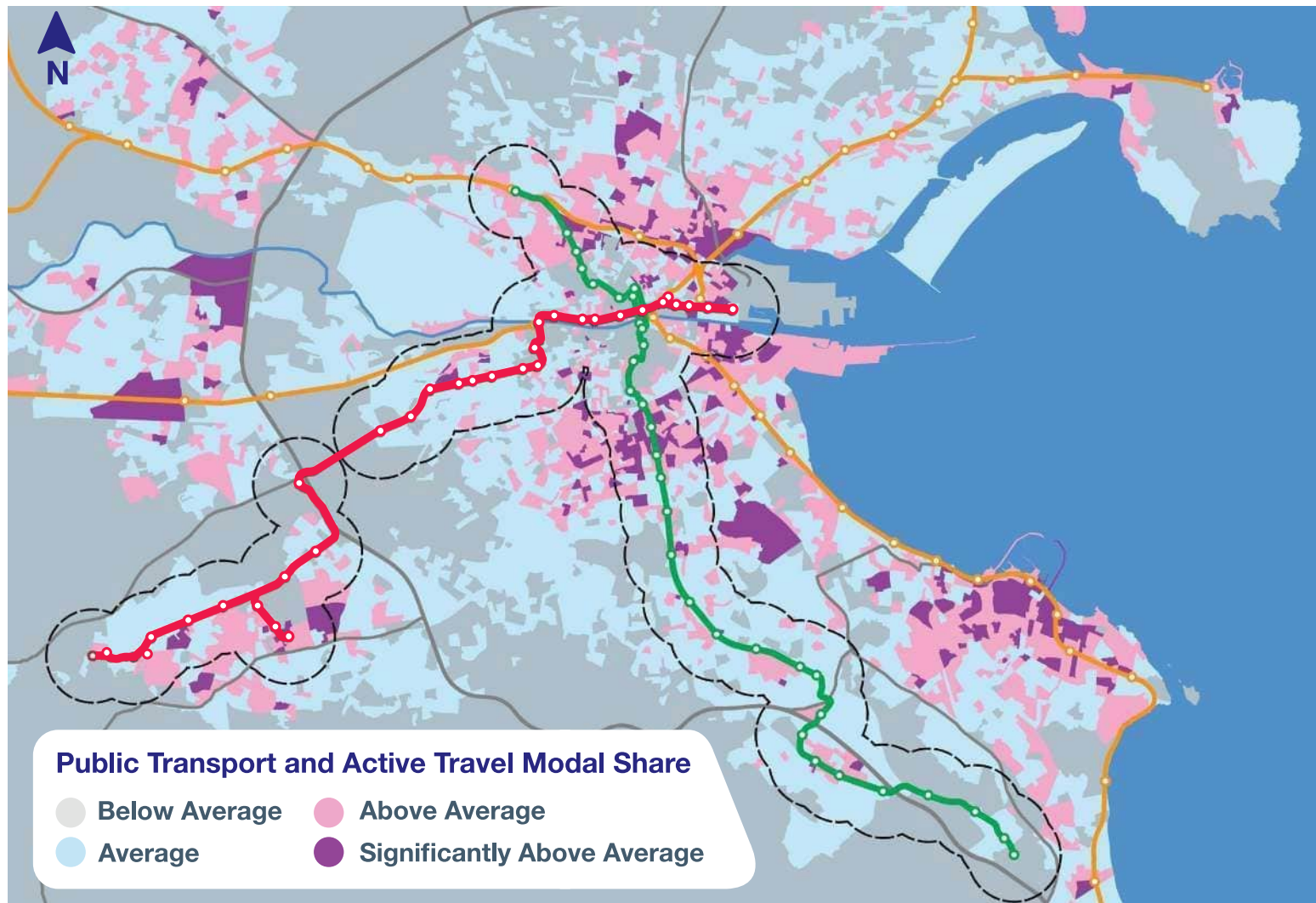


30% of Dublin's population who travel to work or school by public transport and active modes

"You know when you think about the cost of fuel, the hassle of driving in, the stress of parking, everything else. There is no comparison."

Commuter,
aged 50-59,
The Gallops,
March 2024

Luas results in sustainable travel choices



The proportion of trips being made by public transport, walking and cycling in Luas corridors, typically exceeds the average levels for central, inner, and outer Dublin. Levels are especially high in areas where Luas has supported significant housing growth in recent years, such as Tallaght, Fettercairn, and Leopardstown.

Urban regeneration

Tallaght



Opened 2004

The arrival of Luas is one of the developments that accelerated the regeneration and growth of Tallaght over the last 20 years, contributing to its emergence as a modern and innovative urban centre.

Luas has been successfully integrated with surrounding developments to create a gateway to Tallaght Town Centre, which provides access to retail and employment opportunities as well as social infrastructure.

Luas will continue to play an important role in contributing to Tallaght's position as an urban centre of regional significance, with an ambition to deliver thousands of new homes and jobs in areas surrounding local Luas stops.



“Luas is central to bringing people into South Dublin’s capital town to go to Tallaght Hospital, TUD as well as attending matches at Tallaght stadium, to shop in the Square and to attend cultural facilities including Rua Red and the Civic Theatre. Access to Luas in the regeneration area of Tallaght has also been critical in enabling the delivery of 1,500 new homes in recent years.”

Mick Mulhern - Director of Planning and Transport, South Dublin County Council, June 2024



81,020

Population of Tallaght

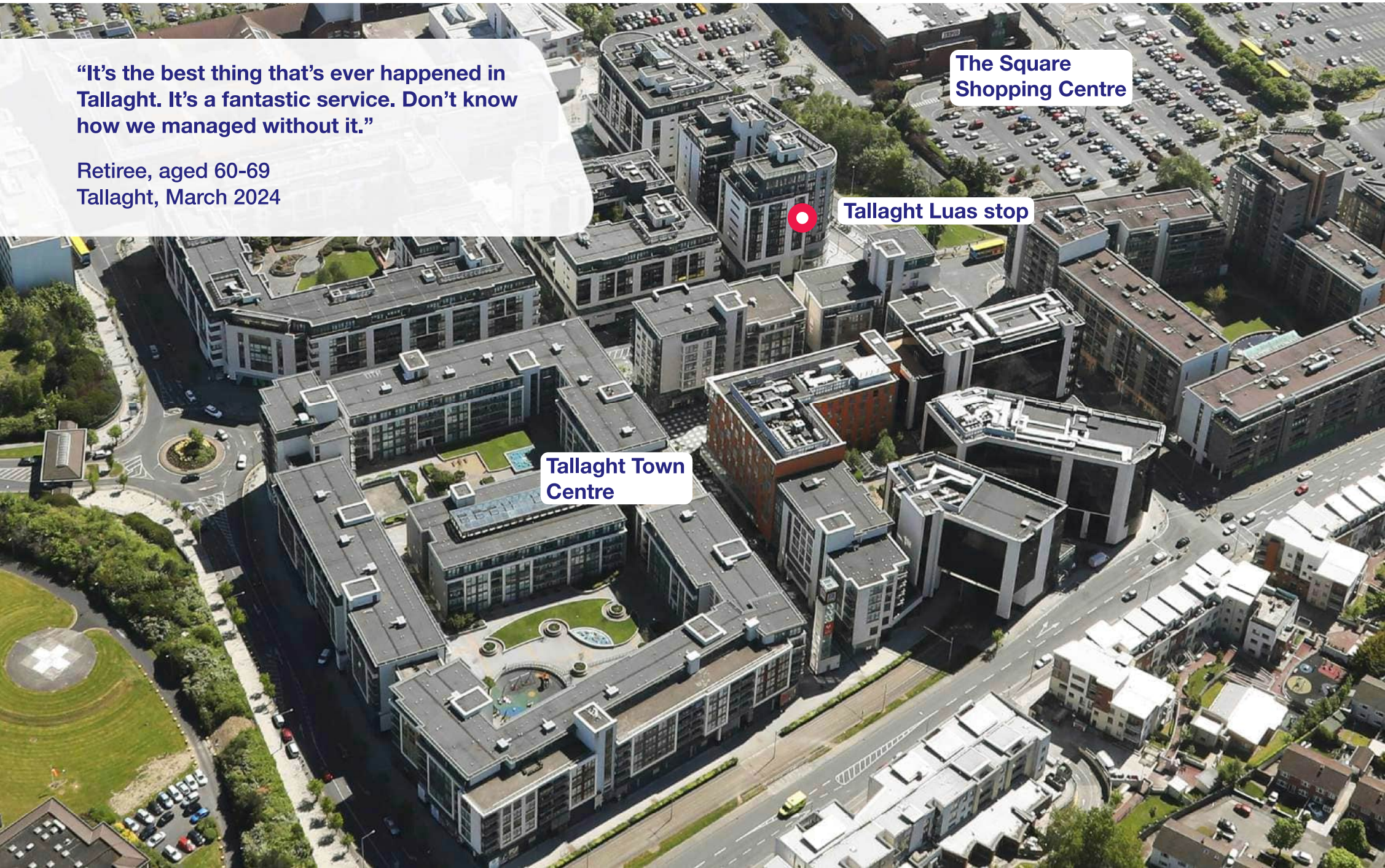
“It’s the best thing that’s ever happened in Tallaght. It’s a fantastic service. Don’t know how we managed without it.”

Retiree, aged 60-69
Tallaght, March 2024

The Square Shopping Centre

Tallaght Luas stop

Tallaght Town Centre



Supporting new neighbourhoods

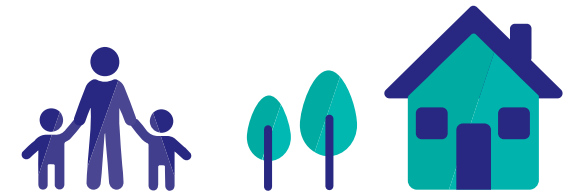
Citywest extension



Opened 2011

The Citywest extension has been a catalyst for new housing along the corridor surrounding Luas stops at Citywest Campus, Fortunestown, and Saggart.

Between 2011 and 2022, around 1,700 homes were delivered within a 1km catchment of Luas stops in the corridor, representing more than 20% of the homes delivered across the entire administrative area of South Dublin County Council (SDCC). The rate of housing delivery in the corridor continues to be high, illustrating the success of Luas in accelerating the realisation of strategic housing opportunities in the region.



4.2km

extension and 5 new stops



93%

Growth in boardings for stops on Citywest extension 2015-2023



“It’s really allowed the city to expand outwards. Saggart to Citywest, that’s a new area that has been built up...when you get off, you see how much it has grown and everything is very new and clean.”

**Professional, aged 40-49
Dublin resident, March 2024**

Sustainable communities

Cherrywood



Opened 2010

The extension of the Green Line to Brides Glen is supporting the delivery of new development in the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ), one of the largest planned urban developments in Ireland.

Luas provides critical transport infrastructure that is supporting the delivery of thousands of new homes and jobs, as well as new supporting infrastructure in the SDZ. Four Luas stops currently serve the SDZ, with a further stop at Brennanstown to be opened once new development is completed.

Luas is an intrinsic part of the development, and its provision has ensured that the new community is served by high-quality and reliable public transport which enables residents to make sustainable travel choices from the outset.



24%

of the 8,000+ new homes in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council between 2011-2022 have been in the catchment area of stops between Central Park & Brides Glen.



76%

Growth in boardings across all stops in Cherrywood SDZ 2015 - 2023



10,500

New homes and 22,000 new jobs planned overall



Cherrywood will be home to an estimated community of around 25,000 residents

“For Cherrywood, the early delivery of the Luas Green Line, was instrumental in allowing for ambitious modal splits for walking, cycling and public transport. Located in the heart of the residential communities, Luas leads the way in a low emission transport system reducing car dependency, supporting a clean, vibrant and sustainable place.”

Frank Curran – CEO, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, May 2024



M50

Brides Glen
Luas stop

Cherrywood
Luas stop

Laughanstown
Luas stop

Brennanstown Luas stop
– currently unopened*

*expected to open once further
development comes forward

03

Economic and
social vitality



City Centre - Red Line and Green Line interchange



Access to jobs

Luas connects Dublin's workforce to its major employment centres

Transport connectivity affects the scale, pattern and location of economic activity. Luas has developed in conjunction with major changes in Dublin's urban landscape. As well as new homes, employers have also chosen to locate around Luas stops.

Luas serves key employment centres across the wider Dublin area including Sandyford, Citywest and Cherrywood, as well as the city centre and Dublin Docklands.

The presence of Luas is vital in creating an attractive environment for businesses to invest and locate. It provides access to a substantial employment catchment, benefiting employers and employees.

*Similar to Gross Domestic Product, GVA is the value that producers/employees have added to the goods and services they have produced



300,000 jobs within the Dublin Metropolitan Area are within a 15-minute walk from a Luas stop



Luas commuters added over **€5 billion** in Gross Value Added* to the economy in 2022



At least **10,000** new jobs in the services and technology sectors have located along Luas corridors in the last two decades



Central Park
Luas stop

“Luas has had a very positive impact on Sandyford as it has enhanced the connectivity of the district and the quality of life for the workers and residents of the area. Over the past 20 years, Luas has been a vital, reliable, and consistent link between Sandyford and the rest of Dublin.”

Ger Corbett - CEO, Sandyford Business District,
June 2024

Connecting people and places

Luas caters for all people and trip purposes across Dublin playing an important role in promoting inclusion and participation across all socio-economic groups. Luas enables access to healthcare, education, work, retail, sports, culture and green spaces across the city.

Within 1km of the Luas network, there are:



31 Third-Level Colleges and Universities

Including Trinity College
Technological University Dublin
Dublin Business School



15 Parks

St. Stephen's Green and Merrion Square Park in the city centre as well as Phoenix Park and Tolka Valley Park slightly further afield.



12 Theatres

Gaiety Theatre
Abbey Theatre
Olympia Theatre

Turn up and go frequency

Trams every
3-5 minutes
in peak periods





+ 17 Hospitals
 Including St James's, Tallaght and the Rotunda hospitals along with the new Children's hospital.



📍 111 Electoral Divisions
 Serving communities from different socio-economic backgrounds

🏟️ 3 Stadiums /Arenas
 Tallaght Stadium
 Croke Park
 3Arena

💬 The Convention Centre
 North Wall Quay



🚆
 Travel time by Luas is 37% shorter on average than by car

🏛️ 29 Museums
 Including National Museum of Ireland (Collins Barracks & Kildare St), National Gallery of Ireland and Kilmainham Gaol

📖 47 Secondary Schools

✍️ 111 Primary Schools

Public realm enhancements

Luas and its design supports a thriving and vibrant Dublin City Centre

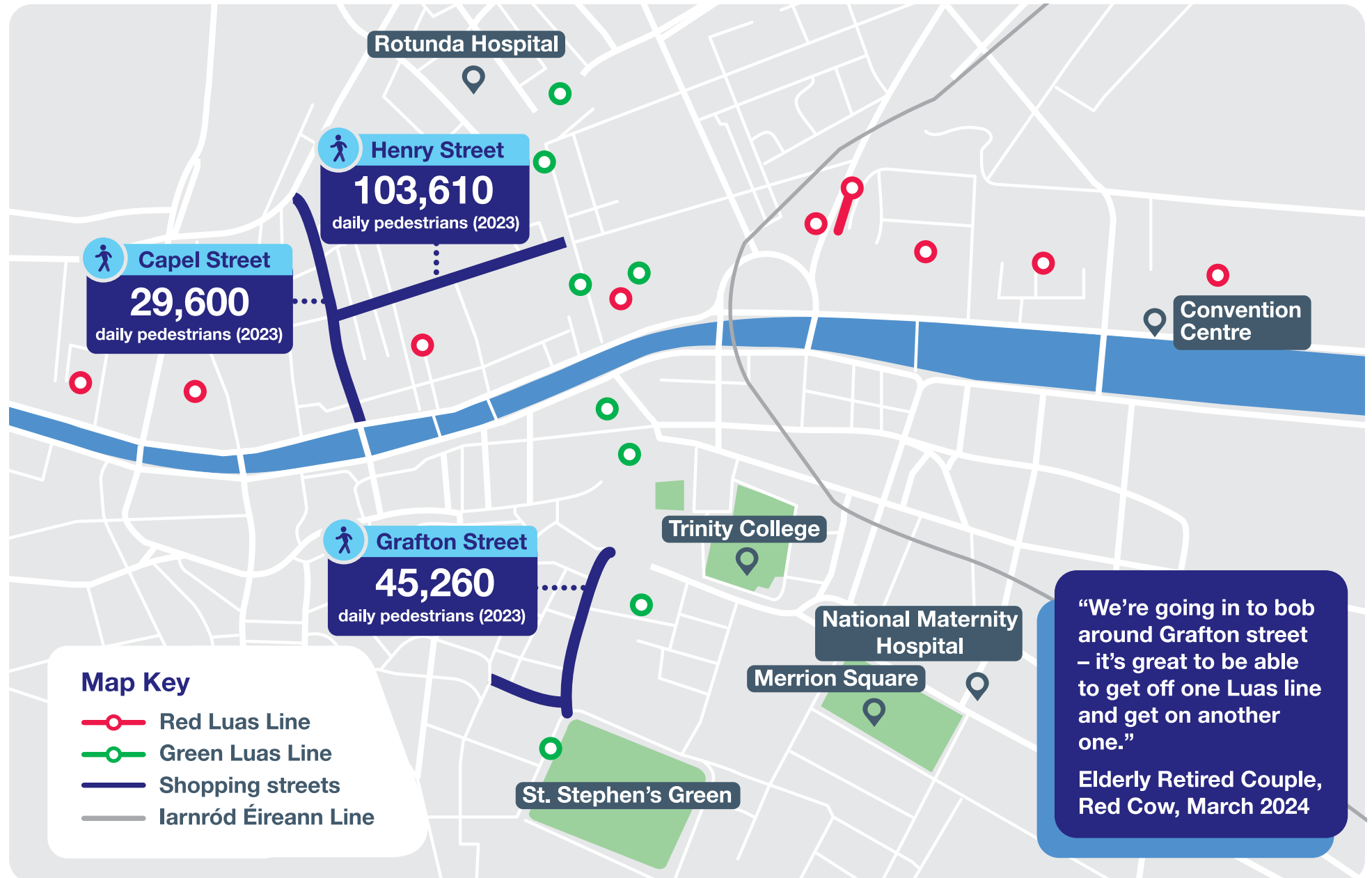
Luas has rejuvenated streets throughout the city centre, including Dominick Street, Marlborough Street, Dawson Street and College Green. The public realm improvements delivered alongside Luas Cross City have increased the attractiveness of Dublin city centre as a place to live, work and visit.

Luas links the city centre's two main pedestrianised shopping thoroughfares, Henry Street and the Grafton Street Quarter, whilst also providing access to centrally located facilities. Luas brings people into the city centre who then continue their journey on foot.

“It’s far more pedestrianised all around that area. And even though they kept the old street design, they managed to keep it flowing. You can be proud of the way they designed everything.”

Retiree, aged 60-69,
City Centre, March 2024





Urban and economic regeneration

Dublin Docklands



Opened 2009

The 1.5km long extension from Connolly to The Point is a short extension that has yielded significant reward – attracting new businesses from the tech and financial sectors, and supporting urban regeneration.

One of the key elements of the regeneration strategy for the Docklands area was to provide reliable public transport and it has been successful in transforming the area into a world-class economic hub. Dublin Docklands has contributed significantly to the social and economic prosperity of Dublin and Ireland.



Home to **500** firms and a workforce of **40,000**



Connection with Docklands station operated by Iarnród Éireann



1,100
New homes



98%
Growth in boardings across all stops in Dublin Docklands 2015-2023



River Liffey

City centre

Spencer Dock
Luas stop

Docklands
Iarnród
Éireann
station

“I’m travelling to work from Laois. As someone who doesn’t come from Dublin, I don’t want to be trying to figure out bus routes and that’s why I take Luas, it’s safe and I know where I’m going.”

Professional, aged 20-29
Spencer Dock, March 2024

The Point
Luas stop

Access to healthcare

Fatima and Rialto



Opened 2004

With Luas at the heart of the community, residents can access services, facilities, and opportunities across Dublin with ease.

The area also hosts St James's Hospital, The Coombe Hospital and the site of what will become the new children's hospital, with Luas playing an important role in providing access to this cluster of nationally significant healthcare facilities.

A community-led approach to urban renewal has been key to the transformation of areas surrounding Red Line stops at Fatima and Rialto over the last 20 years. The arrival of Luas coincided with a major regeneration programme which has delivered new housing, local enterprise and community facilities.

Fatima

Rialto



80%

Growth in boardings
2015-2023



“So, we’re on the Red Line and I would take my uncle sometimes for appointments to St James’s Hospital... because his walking is not great, it’s very convenient.”

**Professional, aged 40-49,
Dublin resident, March 2024**

Public realm enhancements

Broadstone - University



Opened 2017

The Luas stop at Broadstone - University serves Grangegorman which is a vibrant urban quarter in Dublin's North Inner City. Redeveloped state lands provide a new city centre campus for Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin), alongside new health services and social infrastructure for surrounding parts of Dublin 7.

As part of the Luas Cross City works, a 2,500 square metre (sqm) public plaza was delivered at Broadstone Gate. This provides a high quality and accessible gateway to TU Dublin for more than 20,000 students and staff, highlighting the role of Luas in creating enhanced and well-connected places.



276%

Growth in boardings
2018-2023



Broadstone is on the site of the former terminus of the Midland Great Western Railway



“I just think that the way that it drives right onto the campus at Grangegorman is great.”

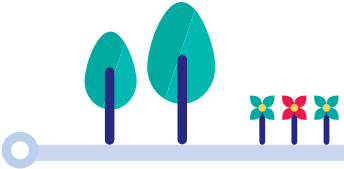
**Professional, aged 40-49
Dublin resident, March 2024**

04

Sustainable
mobility



Belgard Luas stop



Passengers

Luas has successfully delivered sustainable mobility



Luas is a convenient, reliable and safe mode of transport that promotes sustainable travel across Dublin.

Line extensions and capacity enhancements have underpinned housing and employment growth along Luas corridors.

Annual demand on Luas has grown steadily over time. 48.2 million passenger trips were made in 2023, more than double the number made in its first full year of operations.

Despite being a network of just 43km in length, trips on Luas represented almost one sixth of the 308 million public transport trips made in Ireland in 2023.


The number of people using public transport modes in Dublin and Ireland has grown in the last decade, with growth in Luas passengers particularly strong.

The number of passenger averages

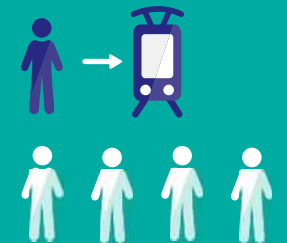
1 million
per week in 2024



75% 
of passengers travel by Luas at least twice a week


2 in 3
Luas passengers are travelling to work, school or college 

1 in 5
public transport trips in Dublin were on Luas



58 operational trams in morning peak - total capacity

18,000 
people x58

58%
growth in Luas demand in the last decade 



Reducing emissions

Improved air quality and promoting net-zero

Exhaust emissions from motorised vehicles contain a variety of pollutants, including Greenhouse gases (GHG) which contribute to climate change, and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) and very small Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) which can be harmful to human health and damage a variety of local ecosystems.

In 2022, transport accounted for one-fifth of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. It is the second largest contributing sector to climate change, and the total emissions from transport are increasing...

If we don't take action, the impacts of climate change will be devastating. Incidences of extreme temperatures, high winds and heavy rainfall in Ireland are projected to increase alongside rising sea-levels.

The first Luas Sustainability Plan was published in 2011. Since this time, Luas has monitored progress on targets including waste generation, energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Luas energy consumption (kWh/passenger) and CO₂ (kgCO₂/passenger) reduced by approximately 1% and 43%, respectively between 2017 and 2023. The reduction in CO₂ (kgCO₂/passenger) is primarily due to the decarbonisation of the electricity grid used to power the tram system.

To tackle the climate emergency, Ireland has committed to halving transport-related carbon emissions by 2030 as part of the goal to reach net-zero by 2050 (Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021).



“Luas is taking cars off the road and helping the environment.”

Homemaker,
aged 40-49,
Dublin resident,
March 2024





Reducing carbon from Transport Infrastructure

TII have adopted some initiatives to minimise emissions from Luas maintenance:

- ▶ Retrofitting of LED lights in depots to reduce energy consumption.
- ▶ Commencing retrofitting LED's on tram stops / car parks this year.



Reducing emissions from Transport Operations

- ▶ Luas is fully powered by electricity.
- ▶ The fleet produces zero tailpipe emissions at street level.



Reducing carbon from Transport Users

- ▶ If all Luas journeys in 2022 had been made by car, more than 35,000 extra car journeys per day would have been made on Dublin's roads*, increasing CO₂e emissions by more than 1,000 tonnes per month.

*Based on the fleet breakdown for Dublin from TII's Road Emissions Model (2023) with average occupancy of ~1.5

A multi-modal transport network

Providing efficient interchange

Customer journeys are rarely made using a single mode of transport, with interchanges key to enabling passengers to transfer between different services safely, conveniently, and seamlessly. By providing access to a wider range of places, the attractiveness of public transport use is increased.

The Luas network connects with a range of other public transport services including rail, bus, and coaches, significantly extending its catchment within and beyond Dublin.

Luas also serves Park and Ride facilities situated across the network, enabling users of private vehicles to continue their journey across Dublin by public transport.

A significant proportion of homes and jobs in Dublin are situated in close proximity to Luas, with walking and cycling infrastructure at stops important in creating attractive and direct connections to public transport.



27,200

Daily boardings at Iarnród Éireann stations with Luas stops (2022)



1 in 6

Luas passengers use another type of public transport, predominantly bus, as part of their trip



More than

2,500

parking spaces across seven Park & Ride sites



Universal access and design

On-board and at stops
Luas has a range of
accessibility features



Accessible lift

for step free access
for wheelchair users
and people with
pushchairs



CCTV

and emergency
help points.



Lighting

and public
address systems.



**Waiting facilities
and seating.**



Tactile paving

for visually impaired
passengers.

Every Luas tram has...



Emergency

passenger to driver
communication device.



Visual displays

with destination
information.



Audio announcements

destination and service
information for all
passengers



Priority seats

wheelchairs,
pushchairs and
assistance dogs.

Luas is designed so that all customers can use it with confidence

Luas has been designed with the aim of making travel as easy as possible for everyone. All Luas stops are accessible, with a range of onboard features ensuring a comfortable and safe experience for all passengers. Luas, as part of the wider public transport network, is helping improve social integration by giving more people a chance to participate in the opportunities that Dublin has to offer, in turn creating a more inclusive city.

TII is committed to creating a more accessible and inclusive public transport system. In doing so, the Luas User Group also plays an important role in helping to achieve this by advising on accessibility issues for new projects and improvements to the existing Luas network.

“Luas carriages in my mind are the gold standard.”

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan speaking at the launch of The Wayfinding Centre on the 31st January 2024



“I’m fully blind in my left eye, so when I’m walking through crowded areas, I have to be very vigilant– but with the Luas it means that I can just get straight to St. Stephen’s Green and then there are big wide footpaths so it’s a huge game changer.”

Professional,
aged 20-29,
Dublin resident,
March 2024

Interchange

Heuston



Opened 2004

Heuston provides Luas passengers with interchange opportunities with Iarnród Éireann.

Heuston station is Ireland's largest multi-modal public transport hub. It is served by Iarnród Éireann intercity and commuter services, Luas Red Line, urban buses and nationwide coach services, as well as taxis and express coach services to Dublin Airport.

The convenient and accessible interchange at Heuston ensures that Luas provides seamless onward connections across Dublin for all passengers.

TII recently led the delivery of a multi-agency project to improve accessibility at Heuston Station by providing a signalled pedestrian crossing, enabling people accessing the Luas stops to cross safely.



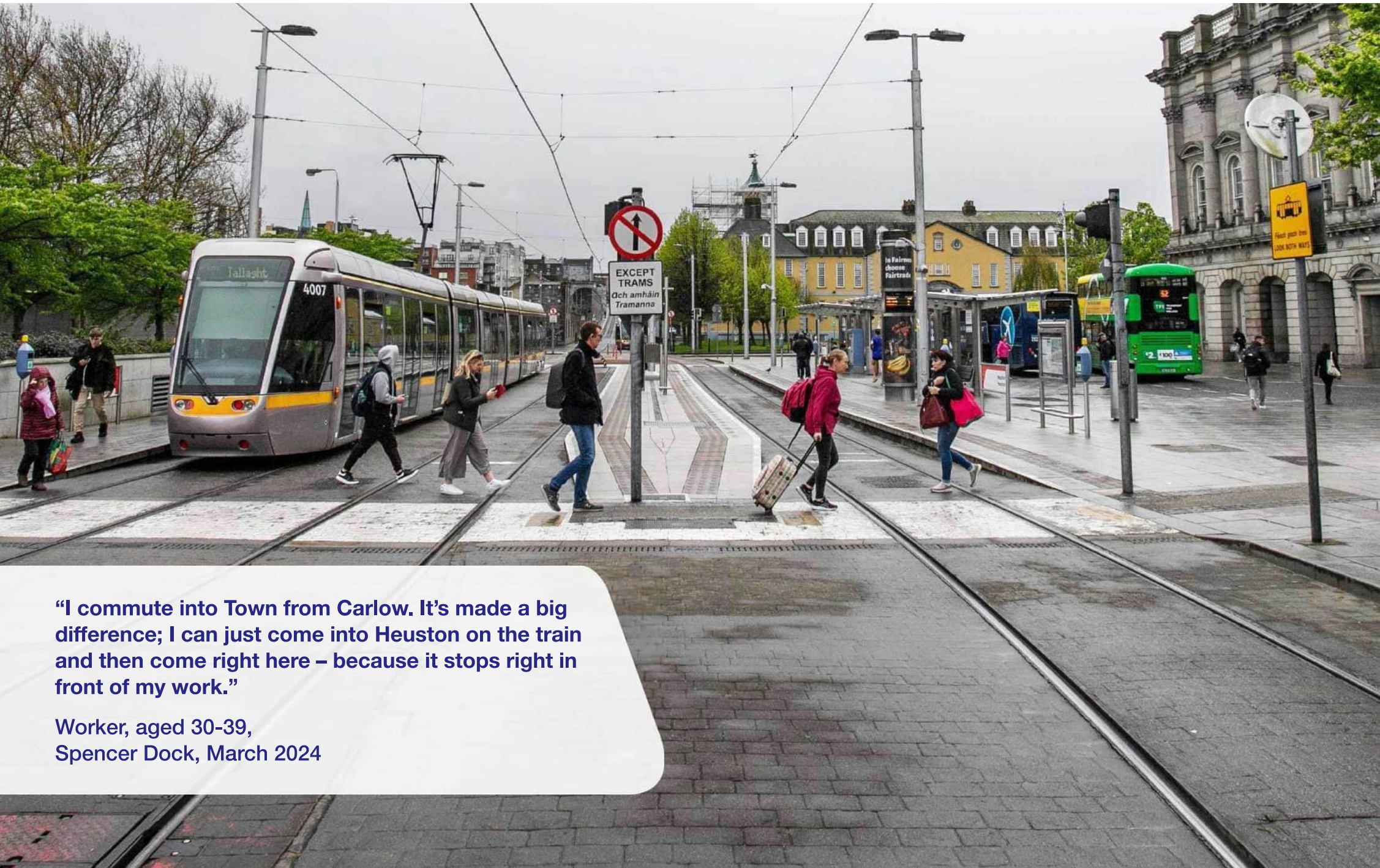
4th

Busiest stop on the Luas network (2022)



3rd

Busiest Iarnród Éireann station in Ireland

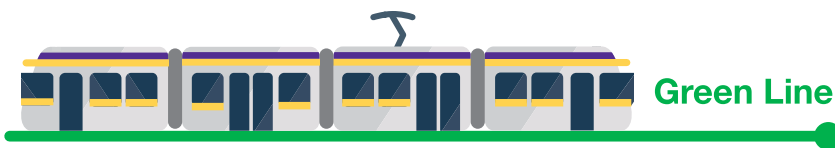


“I commute into Town from Carlow. It’s made a big difference; I can just come into Heuston on the train and then come right here – because it stops right in front of my work.”

**Worker, aged 30-39,
Spencer Dock, March 2024**

Interchange

Broombridge



Opened 2017

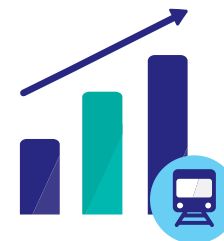
Broombridge provides passengers with the opportunity for direct and seamless interchange between Luas and Iarnród Éireann commuter services.

This has created a new public transport corridor that extends from the city centre and Cabra to destinations through to Maynooth and beyond.

The arrival of Luas revitalised the surroundings of Broombridge station through public realm improvements, cycle parking, bus stops and pick up, drop off and parking.

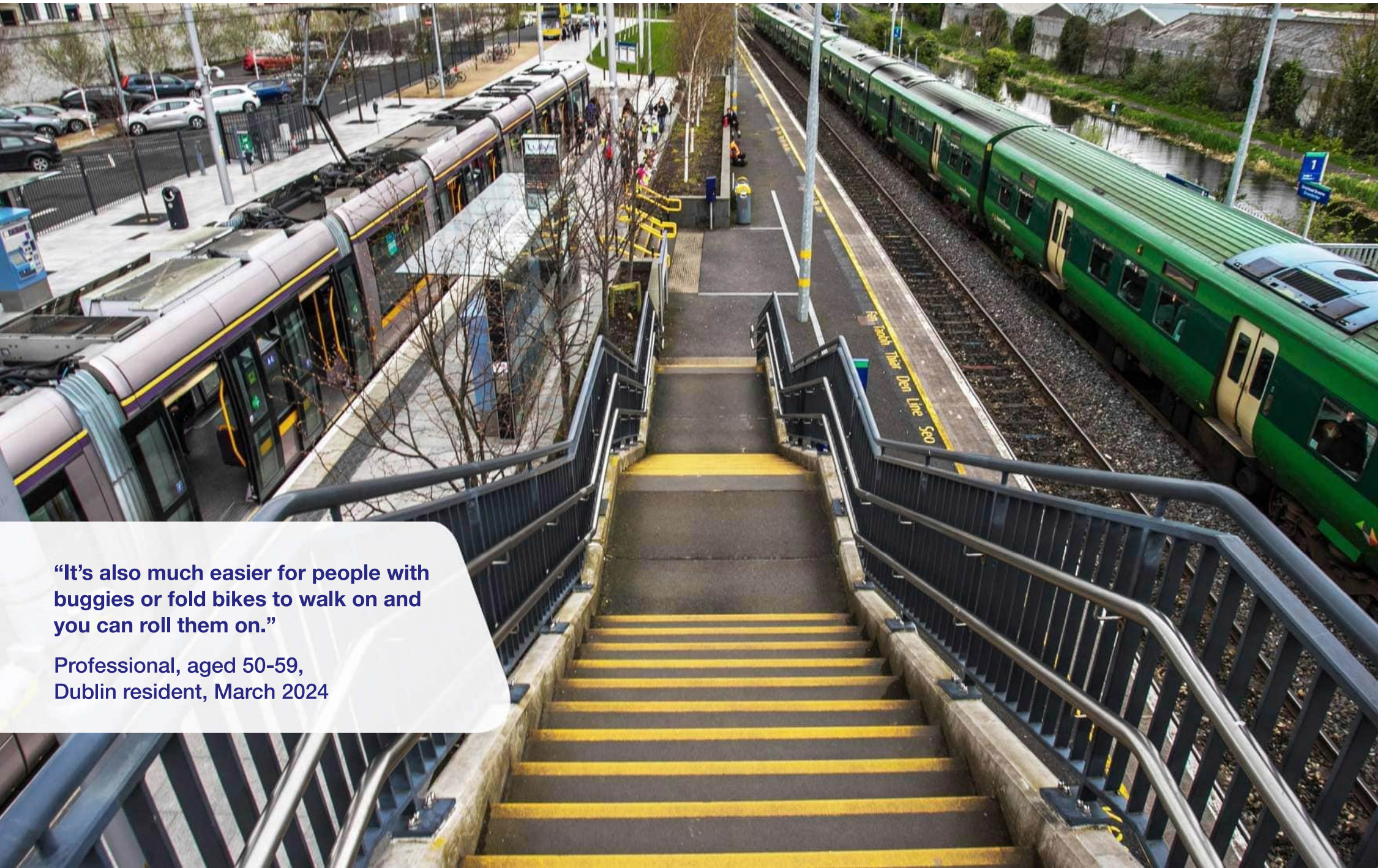


A gateway to the Royal Canal Greenway, providing access to active travel and leisure opportunities



187%

Growth in Iarnród Éireann ridership between 2016 (pre-Luas) and 2019



“It’s also much easier for people with buggies or fold bikes to walk on and you can roll them on.”

Professional, aged 50-59,
Dublin resident, March 2024

Integration

Red Cow



Opened 2004

Red Cow is an integrated transport facility that brings together Luas, urban buses, and nationwide coach services, alongside a Park & Ride site that has more than 600 spaces and is the largest on the Luas network.

Strategically located on the M50 and N7, Red Cow extends the catchment of Luas to those travelling from regional towns and rural hinterlands who may not have access to frequent public transport services.

As a multi-modal interchange, Red Cow helps divert car trips from outside Dublin onto Luas and other public transport services, reducing pressure on the M50 and the city's wider road network.

TII is investing €20m to deliver an improved transport hub at Red Cow which will include new bus bays and welfare facilities for drivers and passengers. This will enhance connectivity between different modes of transport and improve passenger experience.



13

Bus & coach routes serve Red Cow



42 coaches

per day run non-stop from Red Cow to Dublin Airport



85%

Average daily Park & Ride occupancy



I live in Kildare. We take the bus to Red Cow and then the Luas from here. The time is good, there's no mistakes - there's no traffic.

**Shopper, aged 40-49,
Red Cow, March 2024**

05

Future



Looking into the Future

Luas Benefits

Luas supports new housing and urban regeneration, contributes to Dublin's economic and social vitality, and enables people to travel across the city and region more sustainably. Luas therefore plays a significant role in achieving national and regional policy goals by enabling the creation of a national integrated network.

In looking to the future, Luas presents a model for how large-scale growth can be delivered sustainably by applying the principles of Transit-Orientated Development.

Challenges to be addressed

To maintain the successes of Luas, its expansion, and network growth, it is vital that improvements to the performance, capacity and overall customer experience continue to be delivered. This includes increasing priority for Luas services on streets and at junctions, asset renewal, addressing overcrowding, and tackling anti-social behaviour.



Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy

Luas is at the heart of a long-term transport network for the wider Dublin region

Luas can play a key role in supporting the ambitious vision for Dublin and Ireland. To ensure that new corridors across the Greater Dublin Area are achieved, further investment in the transport network is essential.

The Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy (2022-2042) highlights the services and infrastructure that are required to address the forecast growth in demand and to encourage increased numbers of people using public transport modes across the region. The strategy outlines plans to further progress and deliver Luas lines to Finglas, Lucan, Poolbeg and Bray by 2042, as well as MetroLink which will connect the city centre with Dublin Airport.



There are also proposals within the strategy for eight additional Luas corridors to be planned and designed, so that they are ready for construction post 2042 - to Clongriffin, Balgriffin, Tyrrelstown, Blanchardstown, Clondalkin, Kimmage, Tallaght /Knocklyon and Sandyford/UCD.

The strategy also proposes identifying and protecting orbital Luas alignments for delivery post 2042.

With limited Luas expansion planned for the short to medium term, TII will be working with the NTA, communities and other stakeholders to look at bringing forward the delivery of the Greater Dublin Area Light Rail strategy to build on the success of Luas to date.



Luas Finglas and Lucan extensions will deliver 20km of new track and 20 new stops



TII is developing an emerging preferred route for Luas in Cork



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