

## July Jobs Stimulus Plan

### A. Supporting Pedestrians and Improving Accessibility

€40million

**Jobs Impact Estimate:**

**440**

This programme will support local authorities in their response to COVID-19 mobility needs of local communities and businesses and support the sustainable development of villages, towns and cities across the country.

The programme consists of two significant components:

#### **Footpath provision, renewal and rehabilitation**

- The provision of footpaths along with renewing, rehabilitating and/or replacing footpaths benefits everyone by providing an improved means of accessing village, town and city centres whether for work or leisure purposes.
- Upgrading deficient and defective footpaths along with footpath provision can encourage more people to build walking into their daily journeys and importantly also greatly benefits those with reduced mobility whose journeys can be particularly negatively impacted by poor quality footpath surfaces.
- The funding will support the provision / replacement / renewal / upgrade of defective and deficient footpaths in all local authority areas.
- In 2020 it is expected to provide/improve/maintain approximately 175km of footway\* across the country.

*(\*NB: exact km quantification is dependent upon specific locations given variances in cost depending on materials and location issues)*

#### **Improve pedestrian accessibility**

- Complementing the investment proposed to provide, renew, rehabilitate and replace footpaths, this component of the programme will see increased investment in providing safer pedestrian crossings across the country.
- As with the footpath works, this will benefit all pedestrians including those with reduced mobility.
- Measures envisaged include dishing of footpaths at junctions & upgrading crossing facilities and introducing signalised crossings where necessary.
- The funding will support works in all local authority areas.
- In 2020 it is expected the funding will support approximately 250 improved pedestrian crossings and approximately 100 signalised crossings

## **B. Supporting Cyclists in Urban and Rural Ireland**

**€42million**

**Jobs Impact Estimate:**

**462**

This programme will support local authorities in their response to COVID-19 mobility needs of local communities and businesses and support the sustainable development of villages, towns and cities across the country.

The programme consists of four significant components:

### **Urban Sustainable Mobility**

- Many of our current urban cycling routes rely on on-street cycle lanes and cyclists' journey experience can be negatively impacted by degraded surfaces, defective manhole covers and potholes which all result in difficult, and potentially unsafe, conditions for cycling.
- This programme will focus on supporting on-street urban cycling through expanded street resurfacing in urban areas and improving street layouts to better facilitate cyclists.
- Improvements under this programme will also benefit bus services which can similarly be negatively impacted by poor surfaces.
- In 2020 the funding will deliver approximately 30km of street/cycling improvements in major cities.

### **Cycling Parking**

- This component will seek to increase investment in urban cycle parking thereby complementing investments elsewhere in providing improved cycling infrastructure by providing more options to safely park bicycles.
- The programme will predominantly target the provision of on-street parking but with the potential of off-street locations to be included also.
- In addition, funding will also be provided to schools for the installation of new or additional cycle parking.
- In 2020 approximately 7,000 spaces are expected to be delivered.

### **Active Travel Workplace Facilities**

- A new grant scheme will be introduced to assist with the costs of installing active travel facilities in workplaces (e.g. bike storage, showers, drying facilities etc.)
- In 2020 the primary activity will be establishing the parameters and administrative requirements to allow for commencement of a scheme next year.

### **Rural Cycling**

- Convert hard shoulders on certain wide regional roads to cycle ways/footways – "Greyways".
- This would provide better and safer cycle facilities, between towns and villages, facilitate modal shift and also help to reduce vehicle speeds because of reduced carriageway widths.

- The main task in 2020 will be to prepare suitable design options and undertake a pilot project of approximately 20km of cycleway.

### **C. New and Expanded Local Bus Services**

**€2million**

**Jobs Impact Estimate:**

**182 (Full Time Equivalents)**

This programme will allow for the planning, design and introduction of new and expanded local bus services across the country.

#### **Rural areas**

This funding will enhance PSO and Local Link services in:

- Cavan
- Clare
- Carlow
- Laois / Offaly
- Mayo
- Kerry

#### **Large Towns**

- New services will be introduced in Drogheda in 2020.

#### **Cities**

Improved and expanded services will be introduced in:

- Cork
- Dublin
- Galway
- Limerick

#### **Greater Dublin Area Commuter services**

Improved and enhanced services will be introduced on services from Ashbourne, Drogheda, Kells, Mullingar, Navan and Rathoath.

#### **D. Improving rail journeys**

**€21million**

**Jobs Impact Estimate:**

**235**

This programme is comprised of three components:

##### **Track relaying**

- Track relaying along the Dublin – Cork line will benefit passengers through increasing line speeds on the new track to 100mph / 160 kmh.
- The funding provided in 2020 will mean approximately 20km of new track will be laid resulting in approximately 133kilometres of the route being capable of 100mph / 160kmh running by year end, which represents 50% of the line.

##### **Ballast cleaning**

- Ballast cleaning improves passengers' journey experience through supporting smoother journeys.
- It also facilitates greater service reliability and punctuality across the network.
- The funding provided in 2020 will see an additional 16km added to the ballast-cleaning programme for the year.

##### **Station improvements**

- This component of the programme will see enhanced and expanded improvements to, and maintenance of, train stations across the network.
- It will benefit passengers through improving the upkeep of stations, as well introducing energy efficiency measures in a number of locations.

#### **E. Adaptation of the road network to protect it in respect of climate change (including repairs to damaged roads as a result of severe weather events)**

**€10million**

**Jobs Impact Estimate:**

**110**

In general terms expenditure would be focussed on the adaptation of the regional and local road network to protect it from the effects of climate change including

- Remedial measures on roads damaged by severe weather events;
- Improved drainage provision; and

- The upgrade of certain strategic roads to protect them from the effects of climate change.

#### **F. Grants for EVs for local link services**

**€250,000**

**Estimates Jobs: Local link services assist to provide access to jobs in rural areas**

This programme will support a limited number of Local Link Offices to transition to zero-emission vehicles for the provision of local public transport services in rural areas of Ireland.

The programme consists of two main components:

##### **Suitable Electric Vehicles**

- In 2019, two electric vehicles were purchased through the *Green Public Transport Fund* to provide Local Link services on Cape Clear with zero tailpipe emissions.
- Both vehicles are 100% electric and one has been converted to be wheel chair accessible to address the transport needs of the local community.
- This programme will focus on supporting additional similar vehicles in another suitable rural location(s) to assist in the decarbonisation of Local Link services.
- This programme would also play an important demonstrative role, normalising the use of electric vehicles within a locality, as well as enabling a number of citizens to experience the technology and carry out their public transport journeys with reduced transport emissions.

##### **Associated Recharging Infrastructure**

- Funding will also be provided for the installation of recharging infrastructure to power the vehicles.
- Adequate recharging infrastructure will alleviate any range anxiety experienced by the Local Link service provider.
- Information on recharging requirements can be subsequently utilized to develop and refine recharging strategies for other future Local Link service providers.