

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

TRANSPORT MEETING

DUBLIN

27 FEBRUARY 2025

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty-fourth North South Ministerial Council Transport meeting was held at the Department of Transport Offices, Dublin, on 27 February 2025. The meeting was attended by Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Transport; Liz Kimmins MLA, Minister for Infrastructure and Mike Nesbitt MLA, Minister for Health. Minister O'Brien chaired the meeting.

A5 WESTERN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

2. The NSMC noted the significant progress made since the last meeting with the formal decision to proceed with the first phase of the A5 western transport corridor and that the A5, Donegal TEN-T and N2 road infrastructure projects continue to progress, with both Administrations working collaboratively, including in relation to the mitigation of impacts on the River Foyle floodplain.
3. Ministers noted the progress that is being made on the establishment of a cross-border working group, which is expected to be operational in the coming months to ensure successful outcomes through the planning processes.

NEW DECADE, NEW APPROACH COMMITMENTS

4. The Council welcomed the progress on the implementation of commitments outlined in the New Decade, New Approach agreement of January 2020, in relation to infrastructural investment.
5. Ministers commended the progress that has been made on various cross-border greenways including the Sligo-Enniskillen Greenway, the Ulster Canal Greenway; the Carlingford Lough Greenway and the completion of the Northwest Greenway network and noted that an expert-led review commissioned by the Government of Ireland on potential cross-border greenway opportunities is ongoing and is expected to be completed in Quarter 2 2025.
6. The NSMC welcomed the hourly Enterprise services between Dublin's Connolly Station and Belfast Grand Central Station, which commenced in October 2024 with funding of €12.5 million provided through the Shared Island Fund and match funding provided by the Department of Transport. The Council also welcomed the publication in July 2024 of the All-Island Strategic Rail Review.
7. The Council noted the ongoing review of the potential for Government support to renewed viable air routes from Cork to Belfast and from Dublin to City of Derry Airport.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

8. The Council acknowledged the collaboration to date on policies and projects related to sustainable mobility and decarbonisation and welcomed a commitment to continue this work by the relevant Departments in both jurisdictions.
9. Ministers noted that officials from both Administrations will progress agreed cross-border Sustainable Travel and Transport projects; continue to liaise on policy development; and seek opportunities for further collaboration.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR

10. Ministers noted that officials have progressed plans for an environmental themed workshop, to showcase and share information on biodiversity best practice across the transport sector.

ROAD USER SAFETY

11. The NSMC welcomed the continued sharing of knowledge and experience between officials in both jurisdictions on the delivery of road safety measures and that future engagement between the Department for Infrastructure and the Department of Transport would include structured working group engagement between relevant officials to support the delivery of positive road safety benefits in both jurisdictions.
12. Ministers agreed that an enhanced Road Safety item be included as an area of cooperation on the NSMC Transport Sector Work programme.

13. The Council recognised the progress that has been made in the delivery of Ireland and Northern Ireland's respective Road Safety Strategies.
14. Ministers welcomed the presentation by Dr. Kiran Sarma on mobile phone use while driving among young drivers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed to hold its next Transport meeting in autumn 2025.

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27 February 2025

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