



Westmeath County Council Active Travel Investment Programme

PPN Linkage Group
7th May 2025

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National Policies & Plans

- **Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework 2040**
- **Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2021 – 2030**
- **National Climate Action Plan 2023, 2024 and 2025**
- **National Sustainable Mobility Policy 2022**
- **National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland 2021 (NIFTI)**
- **Cycle Design Manual, 2023**
- **Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS)**
- **Cycle Connects: Irelands Cycle Network (at Public Consultation)**



Regional Policies & Plans

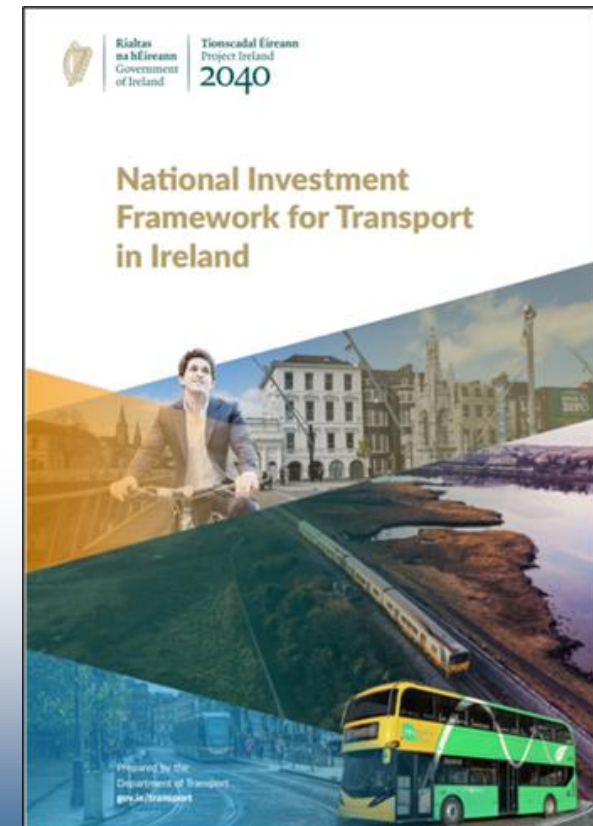
- **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031 (Eastern & Midland Region)**

Local Policies & Plans

- **Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027**
- **Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan (in preparation)**
- **Mullingar Local Area Plan (in preparation)**
- **Westmeath County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029**

National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland 2021 (NIFTI)

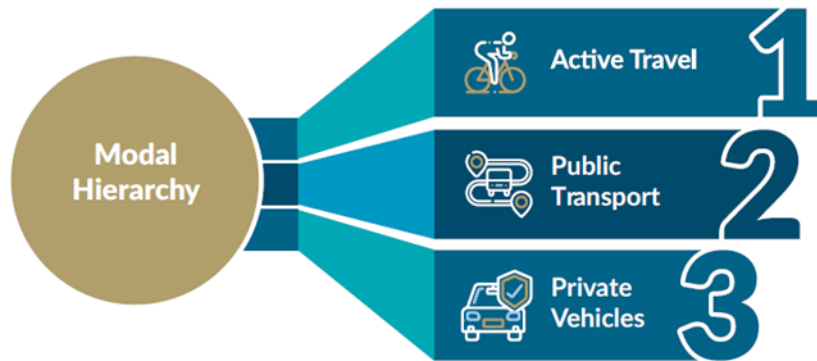
- Sets out clear principles for the consideration of future transport investment.
- Ensures that the appropriate balance is struck between the protection and renewal of our existing transport assets and the development of new infrastructure.
- A key objective is to protect and renew existing transport assets to safeguard the value of past investment
- NIFTI sets out four strategic investment priorities all of which have equal weighting:
 - Decarbonisation
 - Protection and Renewal
 - Mobility of People and Goods in Urban Areas
 - Enhanced Regional and Rural Connectivity





National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland 2021 (NIFTI)

Options development for routes follow the NIFTI modal & intervention hierarchies as below:



Modal Hierarchy – Sets out a hierarchy of travel modes to be accommodated and encouraged when investments are made.

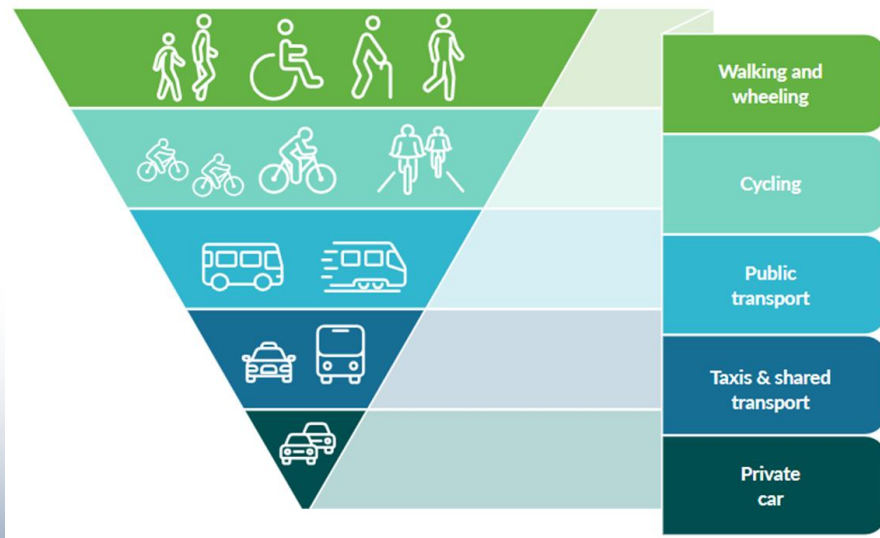
Intervention Hierarchy – Sets out to ensure that investment is proportionate to the problem identified and aims to make the best use of existing assets.

National Sustainable Mobility Policy 2022

Publication was an action under Climate Action Plan 2021

One of the actions in the Policy:

- Develop and implement an **Active Travel Infrastructure Programme** for regional growth centres and key towns outside of the Greater Dublin Area.



Hierarchy of Road Users model

Image courtesy of National Sustainable Mobility Policy



Climate Action Plan 2023, 2024 & 2025

- ❑ The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) is the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019
 - 20% reduction in total vehicle kms and significant increases in sustainable transport trips and modal share.
 - 50% increase in daily active travel journeys
- ❑ The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) and the Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) are the third and fourth annual updates to Ireland's Climate Action Plan
 - No change to CAP23 targets, it builds on them
 - Targeted delivery of 110km of walking/cycling infrastructure in 2024 and 200km in 2025
 - Accelerate implementation of Safe Routes to School Programme





Climate Action Plan 2023 – Principles for Change



- **Develop** our services, communities and infrastructure in such a manner as to **AVOID** the need to travel as much as we do today.
- **Enhance** the relative attractiveness of sustainable travel modes to encourage a **SHIFT** away from private car use.
- **IMPROVE** the efficiency of residual vehicle based movements e.g. through electrification and use of biofuels as transitional measures.



Climate Action Plan 2023 – Key Measures and Actions to Deliver Abatement in Transport which relate to Active Travel

Avoid

- Enhanced Spatial and Land Use Planning

Avoid + Shift

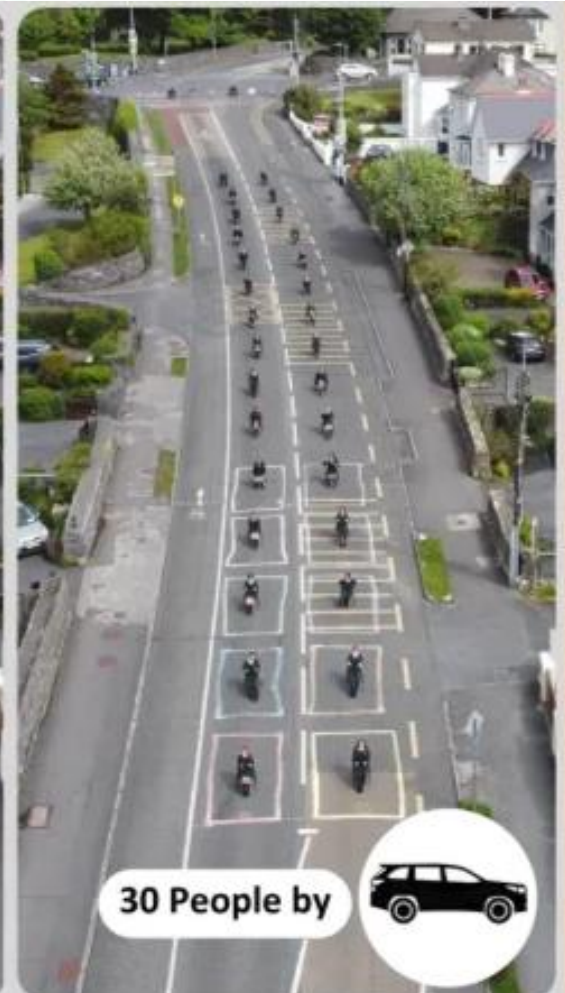
- Road Space Reallocation
 - Identify roads and streets for Road Space Reallocation.
 - Guidelines for Local Authority Climate Action Plans to include specific actions and indicators in respect of accessibility, modal shift and active travel.
 - Review of road traffic policy and legislation to prioritise the safety of walking and cycling.



Climate Action Plan 2023 – Key Measures and Actions to Deliver Abatement in Transport which relate to Active Travel

Shift

- Active Travel Infrastructure Programme
 - Advance the roll-out of 1,000km of walking/cycling infrastructure nationally
 - Advance the roll-out of National Cycle and Greenway Networks
 - Provide safe and high-quality active travel infrastructure to significantly increase the scope for active travel to become a default mode of mobility
 - A dedicated team in each Local Authority to expand walking and cycling facilities



Active Travel, What is it?

The Dept. of Transport defines Active Travel as ‘travelling with a purpose, using your own energy’

- **Core Principles for infrastructure:**

- Convenient
- Safe
- Universal



Active Travel – Food for Thought





Active Travel Investment Programme

- **Funded by the Department of Transport (DoT)**
- **Overall programme managed by a dedicated Active Travel team in the National Transport Authority (NTA)**
- **Individual projects managed and delivered by Local Authorities**
- **Projects include segregated cycle lanes, widened footpaths, new walking and cycling bridges, new pedestrian crossings etc.**
- **Programme is underpinned by the aims and objectives set out in the Government's Climate action Plan, of which one of the key aims is to increase the number of walking and cycling networks so that walking, cycling and public transport will account for 50% of all journeys made by 2030.**

NTA Role for Active Travel Projects



- Since 2021, the NTA's Approving Authority role in urban centres was extended to the financing and construction of active travel projects developed by Local Authorities throughout the country, other than Greenway projects.
- The NTA is responsible for funding and securing the delivery of Urban Greenways. Urban Greenways are identifiable as having a high commuting function in addition to recreational and amenity use.
- The NTA works in partnership with TII, and the Local Authorities, on coordinating and delivering major rural Active Travel and Greenway projects, in a manner that is coherent with those in urban areas.





Westmeath County Council Active Travel Investment Grants 2025 Allocations

• WH/21/0002	Mullingar: Saunders Bridge, New Pedestrian & Cycling Bridge	1,698,000
• WH/21/0004	Mullingar: Harbour Street Active Travel Scheme	67,000
• WH/21/0005	Mullingar: Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme	23,000
• WH/21/0006	Mullingar: Mount Street Lower Pedestrian Interventions Active Travel Scheme	10,000
• WH/21/0007	Mullingar: Grange South to Orbital C-Link Active Travel Scheme	137,000
• WH/21/0008	Mullingar: National Science Park Junction Improvements Active Travel Scheme	11,000
• WH/21/0009	Mullingar: Sundays Well/Lynn Rd – Auburn Rd - Millmount Rd Pedestrian & Cycling Improvements	46,000
• WH/24/0003	Athlone: Creggan to Town Centre (Route 1) Active Travel Scheme	15,000
• WH/24/0004	Athlone: Garycastle to Town Centre (Route 2) Active Travel Scheme	120,000
• WH/24/0005	Athlone: Cornamaddy to Garycastle (Route 3) Active Travel Scheme	80,000
• WH/24/0006	Athlone: Cornamaddy to Town Centre (Route 4) Active Travel Scheme	121,000
• WH/24/0007	Athlone: Coosan NS to Town Centre (Route 5) Active Travel Scheme	157,000
• WH/24/0008	Athlone: Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge to Baylough (Route 6) Active Travel Scheme	15,000
• WH/22/0001	Local Authority Active Travel Staff Costs	460,000
• WH/23/0001	SRTS (Round 1) St Josephs Secondary School, Rochfortbridge	5,000
• WH/23/0003	SRTS (Round 1) Scoil Naofa, Rochfortbridge	5,000
• WH/25/0004	SRTS (Round 3) Cluain Maoláin National School, Clonmellon	10,000
• WH/25/0005	SRTS (Round 3) Columba College, Killucan	10,000
• WH/25/0006	SRTS (Round 3) St. Josephs National School, Killucan	10,000
• Total:		€ 3,000,000



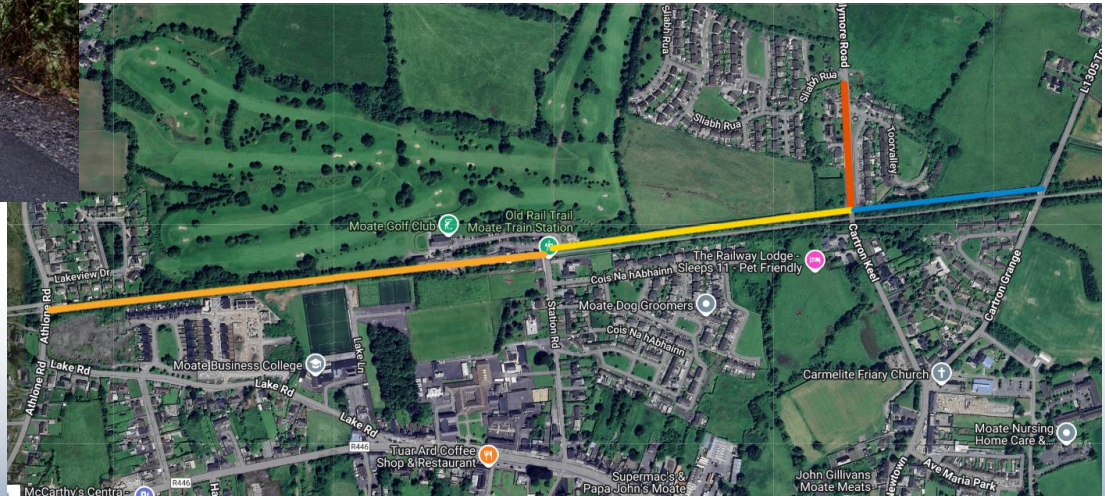
Segregated Footpath/Cycleway: Ardmore Road



photo courtesy of Westmeath Examiner



Moate: “CIE Road” 2023



- Upgrading of surface and provision of public lighting to provide shared facility linking residential areas with schools, town centre & amenities



Low-Cost Permeability Measures: Petitswood, Mullingar



Before



After

Low-Cost Permeability Measures: Beechlawns, Mullingar



Before



After



Low-Cost Permeability Measures: Love Lane, Athlone 2023



Before



After

***Pedestrian Crossing Upgrade: Zebra Crossing near St Finian's College,
Mullingar***



Before



After

Pedestrian Crossing Upgrade: Zebra Crossing Clonmore Road, Mullingar



Before



After

Delvin Active Travel Scheme: Shared Facility to St Ernan's NS, Delvin



Before



After



Pedestrian & Cycleway Bridge @ Saunders Bridge



Low-Cost Junction Tightening: Ballymore 2023



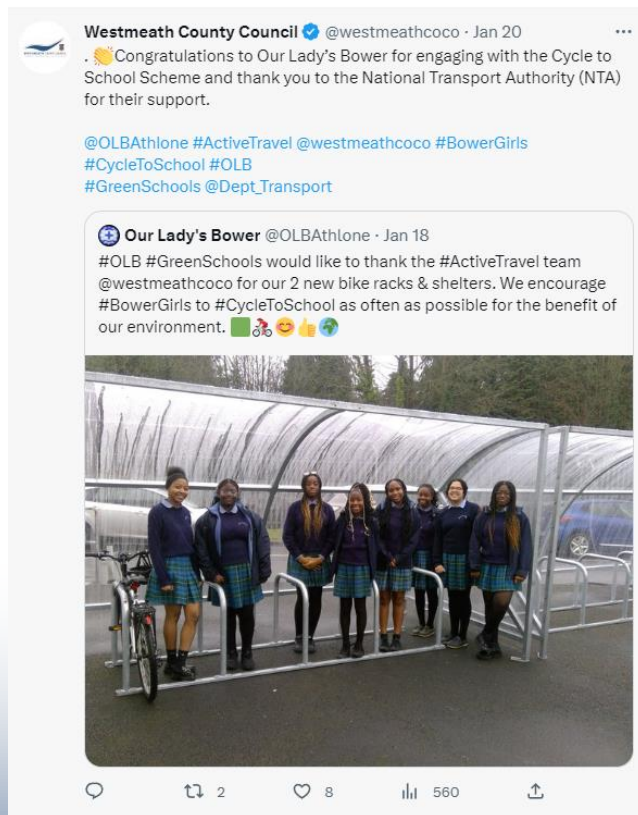
Moate Road Junction Before



Moate Road Junction After



Cycle Parking: Feedback from Schools



- 90 Schools in Westmeath contacted directly, 42 expressed an interest in, and were supplied with, cycle racks & shelters

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme

- Programme is an initiative of the Dept. of Transport supported by the Dept. of Education
- An Taisce Green-Schools coordinates the Programme
- A dedicated Infrastructure Officer works with Schools & Local Authority to produce an Outline Delivery Plan for each School
- 11 schools in Westmeath completed the Expression of Interest form in 2021



Draft Delivery Plan Scoil Chroí Naofa

Rochfortbridge,
Co. Westmeath
N91 CP38
Roll Number: 20439i



Draft Delivery Plan St. Joseph's Secondary School

Castlelost Road
Rochfortbridge
N91 XV56
Roll Number: 63310T



Outline Delivery Plan Scoil an Chlochair

Dublin Road,
Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath
N91 FY53
Roll Number: 20063M



Outline Delivery Plan Athlone Community College

Retreat Road,
Athlone, Westmeath
N37 Y985
Roll Number: 71410T

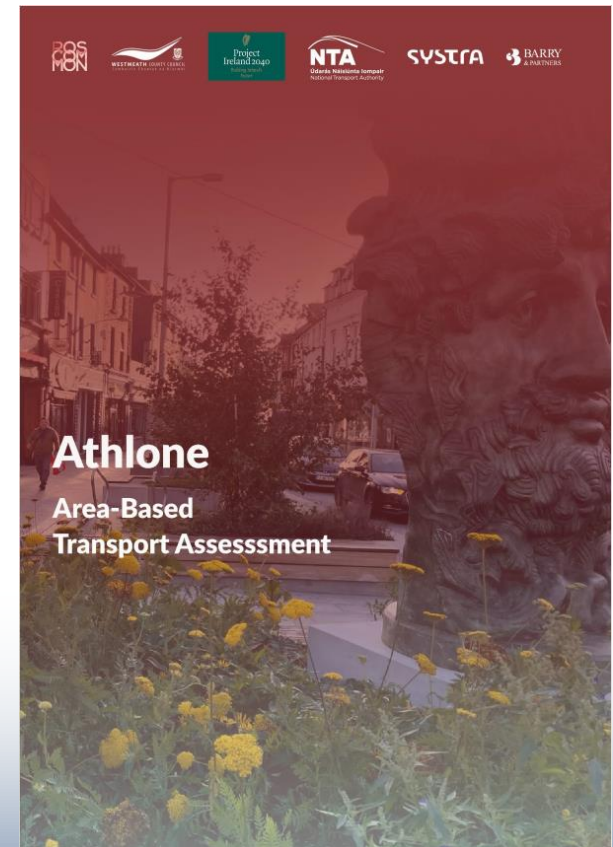
Mullingar Local Transport Plan

- Report presented to the Elected members of The Municipal District of Mullingar-Kinnegad in September 2024.
- Evidence based assessment of all transportation modes which will be required to facilitate growth of the town up to 2040
- Strategy will be incorporated into the Transportation Section of the Mullingar Local Area Plan Mullingar Local Area Plan 2024-2030 which is currently in preparation



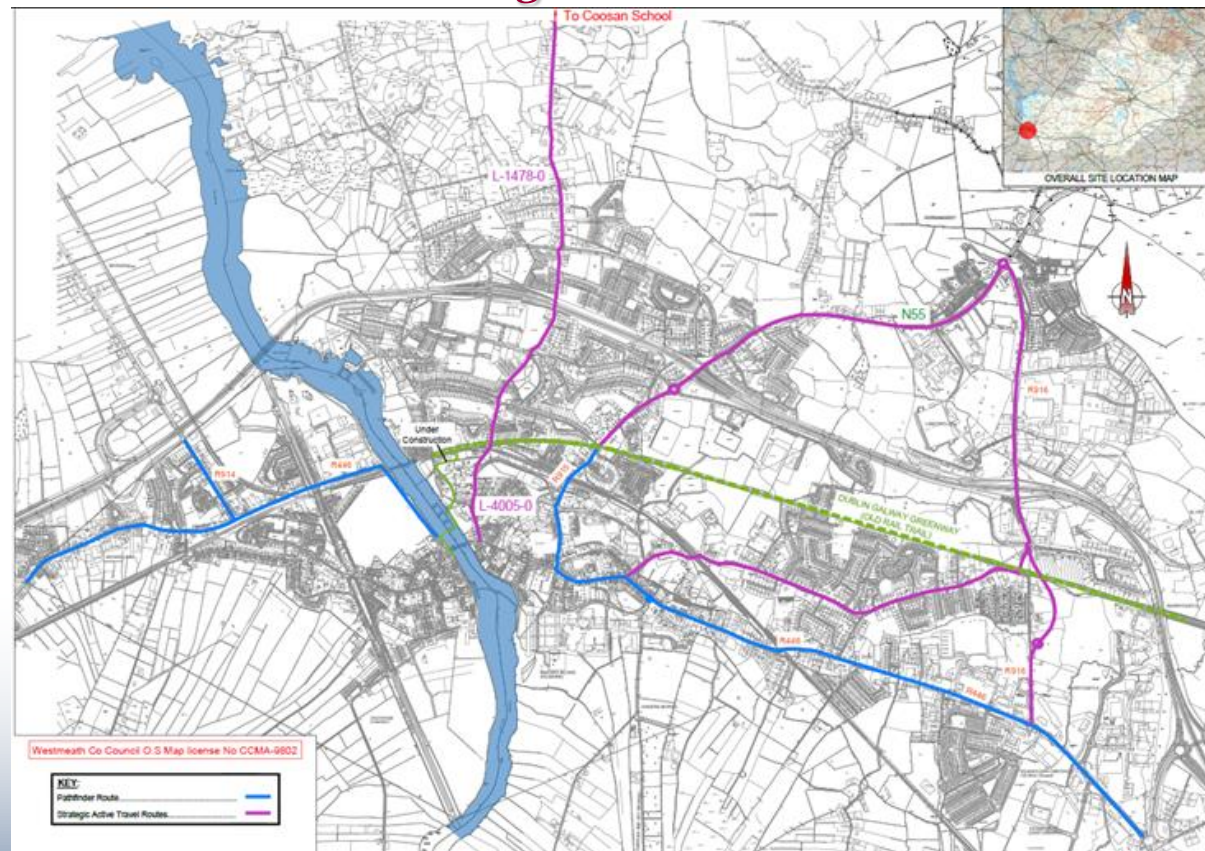
Athlone Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) 2023

- **Collaboration between Westmeath County Council and Roscommon County Council.**
- **Completed and presented to the Elected members of The Municipal District of Athlone – Moate, Westmeath County Council and the elected Members of the Municipal District of Athlone, Roscommon County Council in June 2023**
- **Evidence based assessment of all transportation modes both existing and those which will be required to facilitate growth of the town up to 2040**
- **Strategy will be incorporated into the Transportation Section of the Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan 2024-2023 which is currently in preparation**





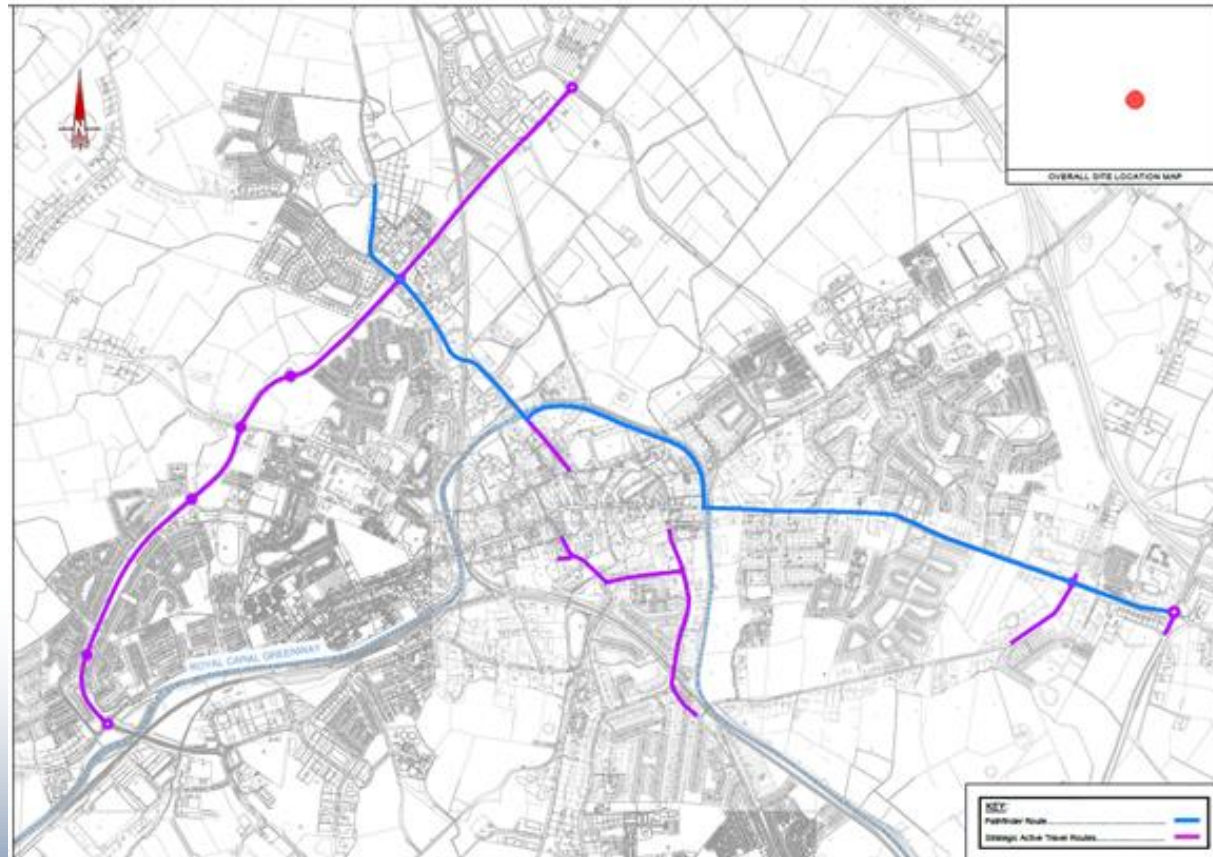
Athlone: 6 Strategic Active Travel Schemes



- Part 8 Planning for first scheme to commence Q2 2025



Mullingar: 6 Strategic Active Travel Schemes



- Similarly, Part 8 planning applications anticipated to commence in Q2 2025.

Westmeath County Council Other Allocations from the NTA 2025

- **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

€500,000



Examples of the new Bus Shelters in Athlone & Rochfortbridge



Thank You