





NORTH WEST



GREENWAY

NETWORK

'When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought on anything but the ride you are taking.' *Arthur Conan Doyle*

Overview

The North West Greenway Network is a project led by Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) working in partnership with Donegal County Council, the Department for Infrastructure and Sustrans (the UK based walking and cycling charity).

The project's goal is to develop 46.5km of cross-border greenway in the North West Region by December 2021. It has received funding of €14.8 million from INTERREG VA, administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) towards a total cost of approximately €18.5 million, with match funding provided by the Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland) and the Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Republic of Ireland).





What is a greenway?

A greenway is a dedicated cycling and walking route and can take a variety of forms: either off road (traffic free); or on road within part of the verge or footway, but segregated from motorised traffic and generally referred to as a 'shared path' for cycling and walking.

Greenways offer a wide variety of green infrastructure benefits including: facilitating modal shift; improving air quality; sustainably connecting people to place; and as an economic driver, through leisure and tourism.

In the North West a high quality greenway network of 30km already exists called the Derry~Londonderry Urban Greenway Network. This includes the Foyle Valley Greenway and the Waterside Greenway, plus shared path routes within the council area. (Routes 1 and 2 will link in to the existing urban greenway network, while route 1 will be incorporated into EuroVelo 1.)

'The economic benefits are evident everywhere you go - coffee shops, hotels and other accommodation providers, bars, shops, restaurants, bike hire companies and more all reporting a boom in trade'

Michael Walsh, CEO, Waterford City & County Council, discussing the Waterford Greenway.

The Project and Route Catchment Map

The North West City Region is home to a rich natural, cultural and built heritage landscape, and some of the island's highest quality, natural scenery. Situated on the Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland jurisdictional border, the area is heavily reliant on cross-border movement of both people and goods, with approximately 325,000 cross-border vehicle journeys made per week in the region. (Based on 2016 statistics.)

In 2015, Derry City & Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council published the *North West Greenway Plan: a vision and action plan for Greenway Development*. This Plan sets out a high-level strategic vision to develop upwards of 250km of cross-border greenways and cycleways in the north west, encompassing Derry~Londonderry, east Donegal and Tyrone.

The North West Greenway Network project will design, develop and deliver 46.5km of cross-border greenway by 2021, across three routes:

- ROUTE 1** Derry to Buncrana, with a spur to Newtowncunningham, incorporating Bridgend, Burnfoot, Fahan and Lisfannon (32.5km)
- ROUTE 2** Derry to Muff, incorporating Thornhill College, Culmore Village and Country Park and Muff (10.5km)
- ROUTE 3** Lifford to Strabane, linking the North West Regional College to Strabane town centre, continuing on to St Patrick's National School in Murlog, Lifford (6.7km)

The partnership envisages that these greenway routes will contribute to socially, economically and environmentally transforming the North West City Region, aligned to the sustainable transport objectives of the Draft Programme for Government 2014-2020 and the National Planning Framework: Ireland 2040.



Via Venaissia Greenway, Carpentras, France

Key project outputs

To develop 46.5km of cross-border greenway and cycle routes by December 2021

To achieve a 5.5% rise in cross-border modal shift (about 500 users) by 2022

Expected project benefits

Environmental

By developing high quality greenway infrastructure and encouraging at least 500 people to use these new routes to commute to work, school or college on a daily basis, we estimate that this will prevent approximately 300 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

Social

Improving people's physical and mental wellbeing through provision of greenway infrastructure and encouraging people to incorporate active travel into their daily routines.

Economic

Whilst the emphasis of the project is to develop routes to facilitate modal shift, greenways will also be a tourism asset and key economic driver, providing a much needed boost to the local economy. This is evidenced in similar greenway projects developed in other parts of the island including: the Waterford Greenway, the Great Western Greenway and the Comber Greenway.

The Irish National Cycling Policy Framework (2009) estimated that for every €100 million invested in cycling in Ireland, a return of €400 million could be obtained.

Bicycle-friendly towns are cleaner, healthier, quieter, safer and more liveable.



Travel Behavioural Change

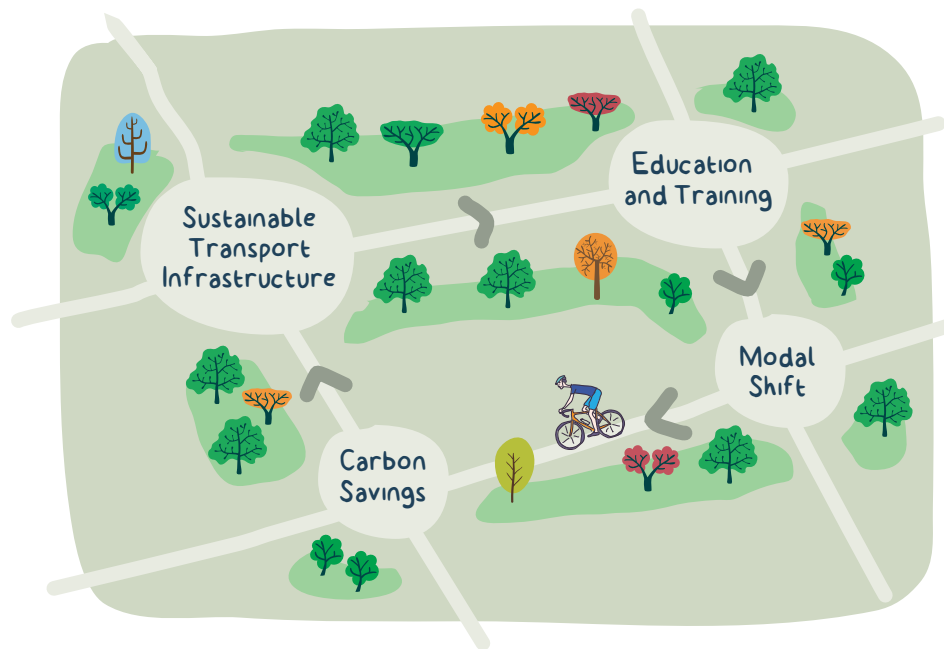
Riding a bike is healthy, fun and a low-impact form of exercise for all ages.

Cycling and walking will help reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, asthma, type 2 diabetes, obesity and some types of cancer. It can also improve one's mood and reduce the risk of depression.

To encourage more people to cycle or walk on a regular basis, many barriers must be overcome. For example, physical: lack of appropriate infrastructure; mental: lack of confidence and perhaps a fear of cycling; and social: the cost of buying a bike and equipment.

In order to assist workplaces and schools to overcome such obstacles, INTERREG VA funding has facilitated the appointment of an Active Travel Officer to engage with schools, colleges and workplaces (trip generators) to offer advice and guidance, and to implement a range of programmes to effect travel change, including: bike training and road safety programmes.

Information on the programme of activities as coordinated by the Active Travel Officer will be available in due course from www.nwgreenway.com.



Progress to date

Background

By January 2018 the dedicated Project Delivery team – comprising staff based in Derry City & Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council – was appointed. Subsequently, an Integrated Consultant Team (McAdam Design Ltd) was appointed to develop route options, prepare detailed designs, secure planning permission and procure construction contracts to deliver the cross-border project.

The project was officially launched in An Grianán Hotel, Burt on Monday 26 February 2018.

ROUTE 1

Derry to Buncrana

The *Stage 1 scheme assessment report for route 1* was published to coincide with the public consultation events which were held on Tuesday 26 June 2018 in the Lough Swilly Yacht Club, Fahan, County Donegal and on Wednesday 27 June 2018, Templemore Sports Complex, Derry.

While an emerging preferred route for much of the corridor linking Derry to Buncrana has been identified, as a result of analysing route options and taking into account feedback received from June 2018's consultation events, a supplementary

consultation event was held in Fowler's Hall, Tooban (7 February 2019) to consider possible new routes in section 3, namely the area between Inch Levels and Fahan in County Donegal.

Once these new route options have been considered within the constraints study, the emerging corridor for the Derry to Buncrana greenway will be published. The programme team plan to publish details of this route in Spring 2019.



Gina McIntyre, CEO of SEUPB flanked by partners and dignitaries at the launch in February 2018



ROUTE 1

- Route 1
- Inch Levels to Fahan (section to be finalised)
- Border

Lough Swilly

Explore Inishowen
Tourist Office

Buncrana

R238 Fahan

St Mura's Church
and Graveyard

Inch Wildlife
Reserve

Burnfoot

R239

R238

Bridgend

Grianán of
Aileach Fort

N13

O'Doherty's
Castle, Burt

A2

Templemore
Sports
Complex

Derry~
Londonderry

St Columb's
College

Buncrana Road

A2

Lough
Foyle

Eglinton

Newtowncunningham

ROUTE 2

Derry to Muff

The *Stage 1 scheme assessment report for route 2* appraising route corridor options was published on 23 May 2018. Public consultation days were held for **route 2** on 23 and 24 May 2018 with over 300 members of the public attending (combined).

In November 2018, the emerging preferred route linking Derry to Muff via Culmore was made available to the general public in the *Stage 2 Preferred Route Corridor Selection Report for route 2*. Public information events were held on 28 and 29 November in Culmore and Muff respectively.

Subsequently, both Councils commenced the planning process for the preferred route in their respective jurisdiction. Construction is scheduled to commence before January 2020.

The installation of a protected bike lane in New York in 2012 saw injuries to street users decrease by 58% while retail sales increased by as much as 49%.

Artists impressions: before and after



Bay Road, Derry



Culmore Road at Ballynagard Crescent, Derry



Link to Kilderry Lane, Muff





ROUTE 2

- Route 2
- Border




ROUTE 3

Lifford to Strabane

The emerging design proposals for the cycling and walking route linking Strabane in County Tyrone to Lifford in County Donegal went on public display on 24 and 25 October 2018 in Strabane and Lifford respectively. In tandem, the *Stage 1 and 2 Constraints Study, Scheme Assessment and Design Options Report* was published outlining the plans for the 6.7km route.

The goal is to construct a segregated, shared looped route connecting some of the key residential, commercial and civic centres in the two towns.

Planning applications were lodged by both councils in November 2018. In Donegal, permission was granted by the Council in January 2019. Construction is scheduled to commence by spring 2020.



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Chairman
Councillor Shelia &
Councillor an tSiobhán Bala

Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Community Engagement Event

Emerging preferred route, Lifford to Strabane


Derry City & Strabane District Council are developing a shared cycling and pedestrian route as part of the North West Greenway Network.

Members of the public are invited to attend a public engagement event to view the emerging preferred corridor identified for Route 3: Strabane to Lifford.


The route plan and visualisations will be available for inspection as follows:

**Wednesday 24 October 2018,
14.00-18.00
1st Floor gallery, Alley Theatre,
Strabane, County Tyrone**

Further information is available from www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Northwest-Greenway-Network or by contacting Dermot Gibbons by telephone: 028 71 253 253 or by email: dermot.gibbons@derrystrabane.com.



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Interreg
Northern Ireland - Ireland - Scotland
European Regional Development Fund

This project has been supported by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

www.derrystrabane.com

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Derry BT48 7NN
Strabane C/o Council Offices, 47 Derry Road
Strabane BT82 8DY

Artists impressions: before and after



Dublin Road, Strabane



Dublin Road near Asda, Strabane



R264, near St Patrick's National School, Lifford





St Patrick's National School

R264

Murlog

N14

Lifford Greyhound Stadium

Donegal County Council

Lifford

Lifford Rd

A38

Strabane

River Foyle

A5

Strabane Cricket Club

Derry City & Strabane District Council

North West Regional College

Derry Rd

Canal St

Dock St

Alley Theatre

Park Rd

Railway St

Main St

Market St

Patrick St

Church St

Barrack St

Let the Dance Begin

Branch Rd

Playstation Adventure Play Centre

Bradley Way

Melvin Sports Complex

Mourne River

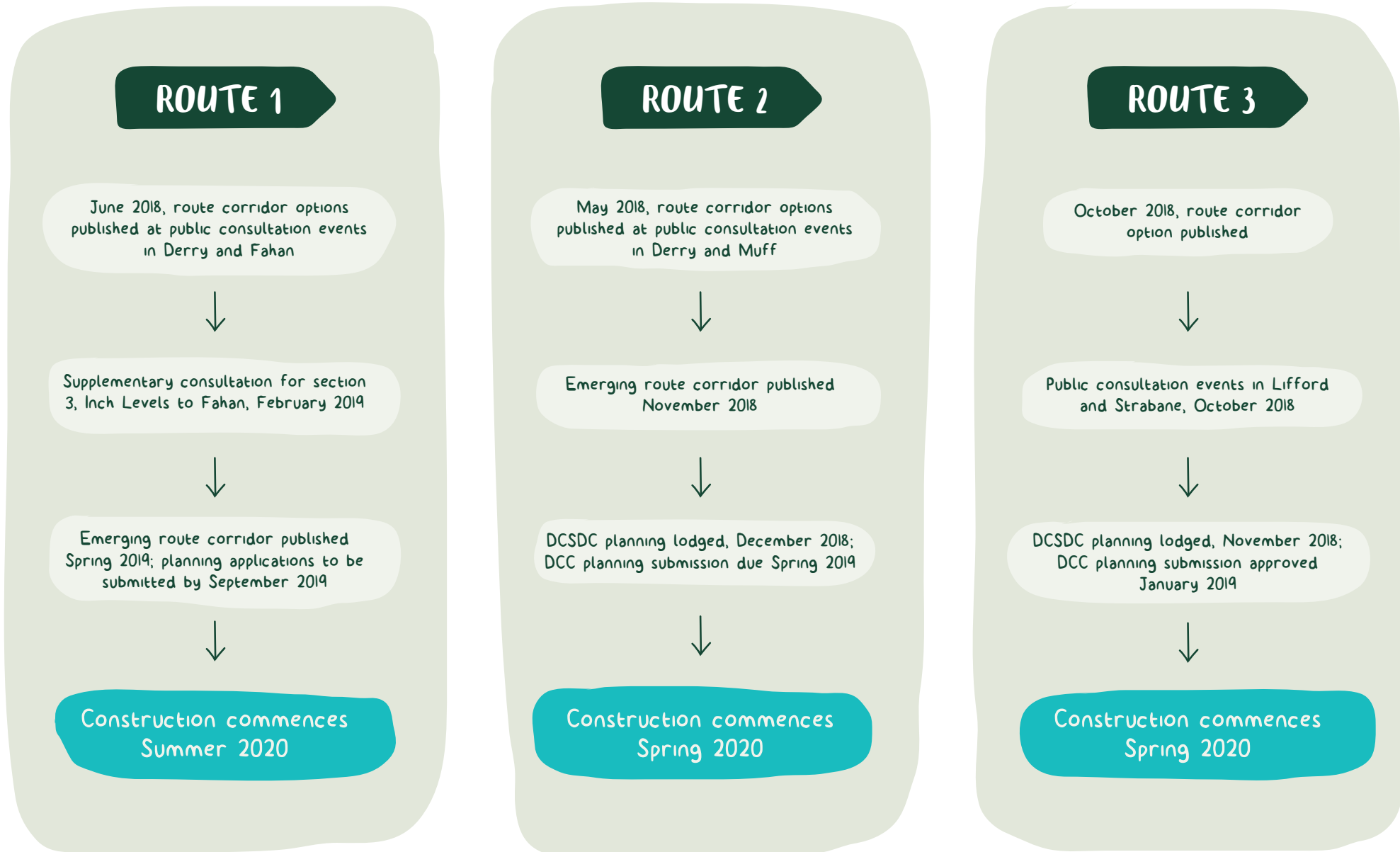
Great Northern Link

ROUTE 3

- Route 3
- Border



Programme Overview









'Walking is the best possible exercise. Habituate yourself to walk very far.' *Thomas Jefferson*

www.nwgreenway.com

 @nwgreenway  @nwgreenway



An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



This information is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, Braille, PDF, audio formats (CD, MP3, DAISY) and minority languages.

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