

Capel Street Update – February 2025



Background

Capel Street became Traffic Free on the 22nd May 2022. For the first 12 months, minor improvements were made to the street including temporary benches and planting as the change was allowed to settle down.



Figure 1 Capel St early 2022

This update outlines measures that have been put in place on Capel Street and in the surrounding area. These are being implemented by the Traffic Department, the Parks Department and the Office of City Coordination who have been working together to enhance the street.

Traffic Changes

Additional traffic flow changes in the area were made since May 2022 including:

- A new pedestrian crossing at Arran Street
- Making a section of Strand Street Little two way
- A new pedestrian crossing on Mary's Lane
- Making a section of Jervis Street two-way.
- Making the majority of Mary Street Traffic Free

Interim Street Improvement Scheme

Following a tender process, Bernard Seymour Landscape Architects were appointed in November 2022 to design an interim street improvement scheme. This was done as two phases:

- Phase 1 Between Ryder's Row and Mary Street little and
- Phase 2 Between Mary Street little and Strand Street Little.

Throughout the phases extensive consultation was held with local residents and local businesses and this continued throughout the upgrades. This collaborative approach proved very successful in progressing and implementing the changes on the street. The aim of the

improvement scheme is to improve the street providing in ground planting as well as planters, benches, bike stands and improving the surface.

A tender process for carrying out the construction works was done in two phases. Cairn construction were appointed to carry out both phases of the works.

Phase 1 – works were carried out between September 2023 and April 2024. This included an upgrade to the section between Parnell Street and Ryder’s Row with new in ground planting and planters, benches and a new resin bound surface.



Between Parnell Street and Mary Street, the existing buildouts were upgraded to a resin bound surface and new planters and benches were installed:



Figure 2 Section between Mary St and Parnell St



Figure 3 Section between Parnell St and Ryders Row

Phase 2 – works commenced in September 2024 and are due to be completed Q2 2025. This includes additional build outs, resin bound surfacing, planting (in ground and in planter) and seating. Additionally the junctions at Capel Street/Abbey Street are being tightened up

and providing additional pedestrian space and reducing the crossing distance across the luas lines.



Figure 4 Capel St/Abbey St junction before



Figure 5 Capel St/Abbey St junction Feb 2025 with new buildout



Figure 6 New buildout Capel St/Abbey St junction Feb 2025 under construction

Landscaping/Planting

The planting scheme for Capel Street features a diverse selection of herbaceous plants, complemented by multi-stem specimen shrubs and trees. The landscape design primarily relies on planters; however, in select areas where underground services are absent, trees have been planted directly into the ground. The planting scheme for Phase 2 will maintain the multi-seasonal theme established in the initial phase.

Events

A number of events have been held on Capel Street since it became traffic free including:

- Family Fun Day Sep 2023
- Dublin by Night Fest Nov 2023
- New Years Eve 2023
- Dublin by Night Fest Nov 2024
- Macnas Newt Parade 2024
- Year of the Snake celebrations Feb 2025

The nature of the street has meant it is now much easier to hold a variety of events. There have also been Christmas trees in place on the street each year since 2022.



Figure 7 Dublin by Night festival

Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme

City Co-Ordination Office worked alongside the businesses on Capel St with established Street Furniture Licences to improve and enhance the outdoor dining offering on the street. This scheme was funded through Fáilte Ireland and administered through CCO. The brief was to have a more uniform standard of screens, umbrellas etc. and to reduce the level of alcohol branding on the street. Feedback from the businesses has been very positive on this initiative.



Figure 8 Outdoor dining

Ongoing Monitoring and future plans

There are plans to install traffic control bollards that can be controlled from our traffic control centre to replace the temporary bollards which are sometimes driven over and take away from the look and recent improvements to the street. It is hoped to begin the design work on this by mid 2025 with construction starting towards the end of the year.

A traffic count will be carried out in May 2025 to assess the pedestrian, cyclist and traffic numbers on Capel Street and in the surrounding areas, 3 years post implementation. The results of this will be shared with Councillors.

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