

To the Lord Mayor and
Members of Dublin City Council

Report No. 160/2023
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive &
City Engineer



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Traffic Department – Quarter 2 Report 2023

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Traffic Department

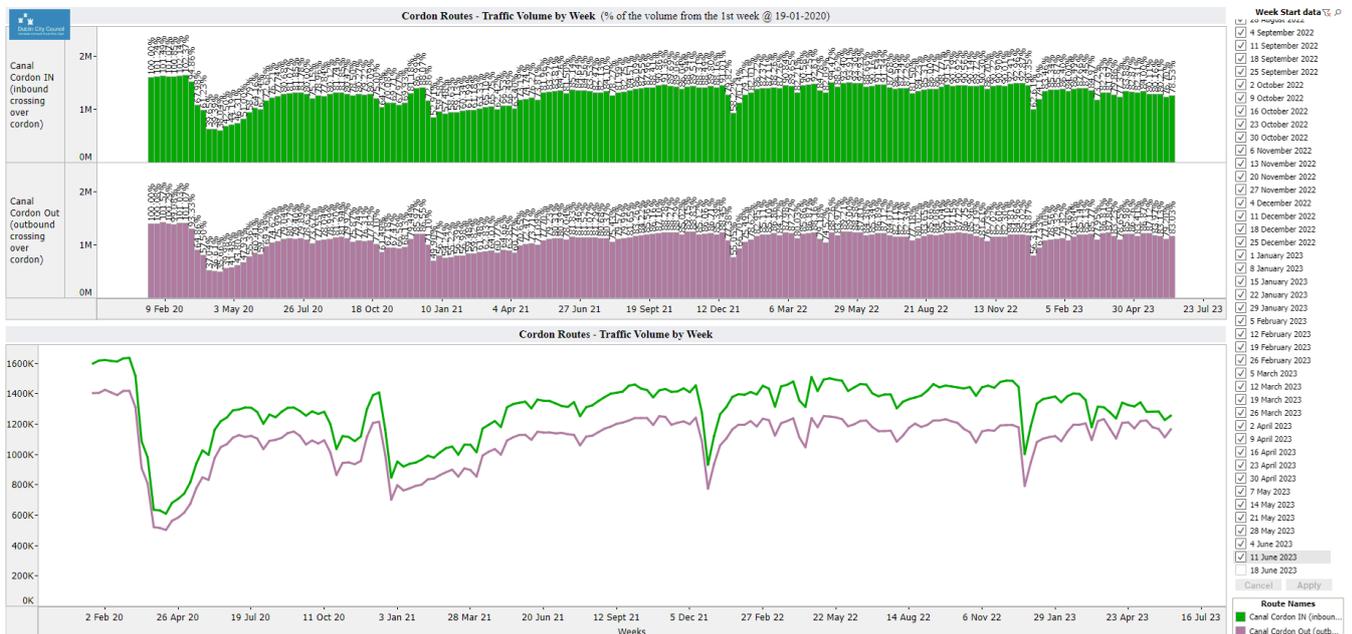
The Traffic Department report covers the area of TAG, Parking enforcement, City Centre Transport Projects, Micro mobility, and increasingly School Zones and Safe Routes to School, which are now a priority for the department.

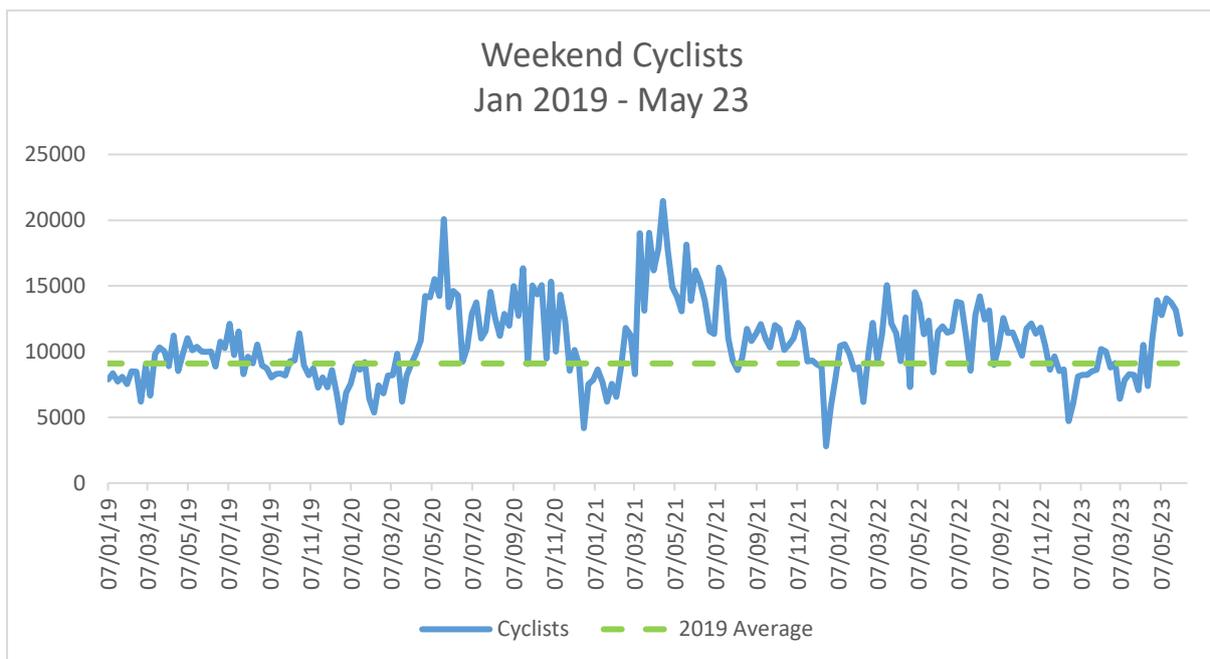
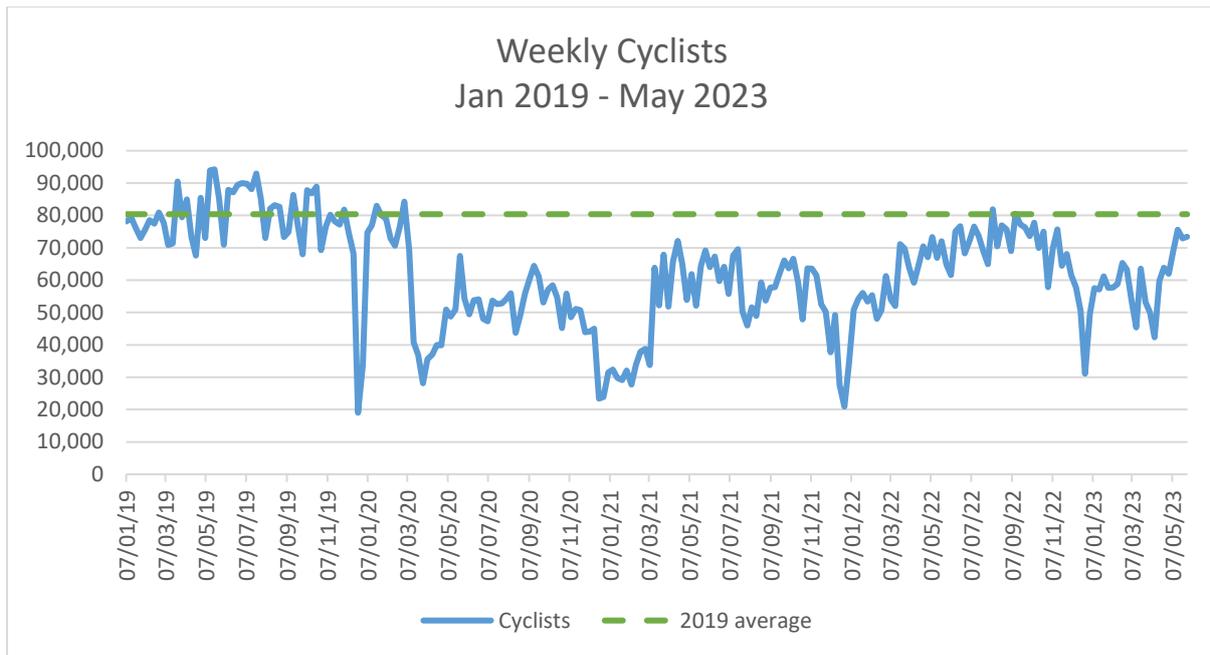
The Traffic Department has overall responsibility for traffic management in the city and coordination of all mobility projects, and works with the various departments and outside agencies to deliver a range of projects across the city. These include Bus Connects, Metrolink, Dart+ and Luas to Finglas amongst others. The Traffic Department are responsible also for the day to day traffic management managed by our traffic signals and ITS section, which includes operation of a 24*7 traffic control room and advanced traffic management systems such as SCATS and DPTIMs.

Staffing continues to be a major issue across all the sections of the Traffic department as with other departments in DCC and we are hopeful that additional staff may join us in Q 3.

Current Traffic trends

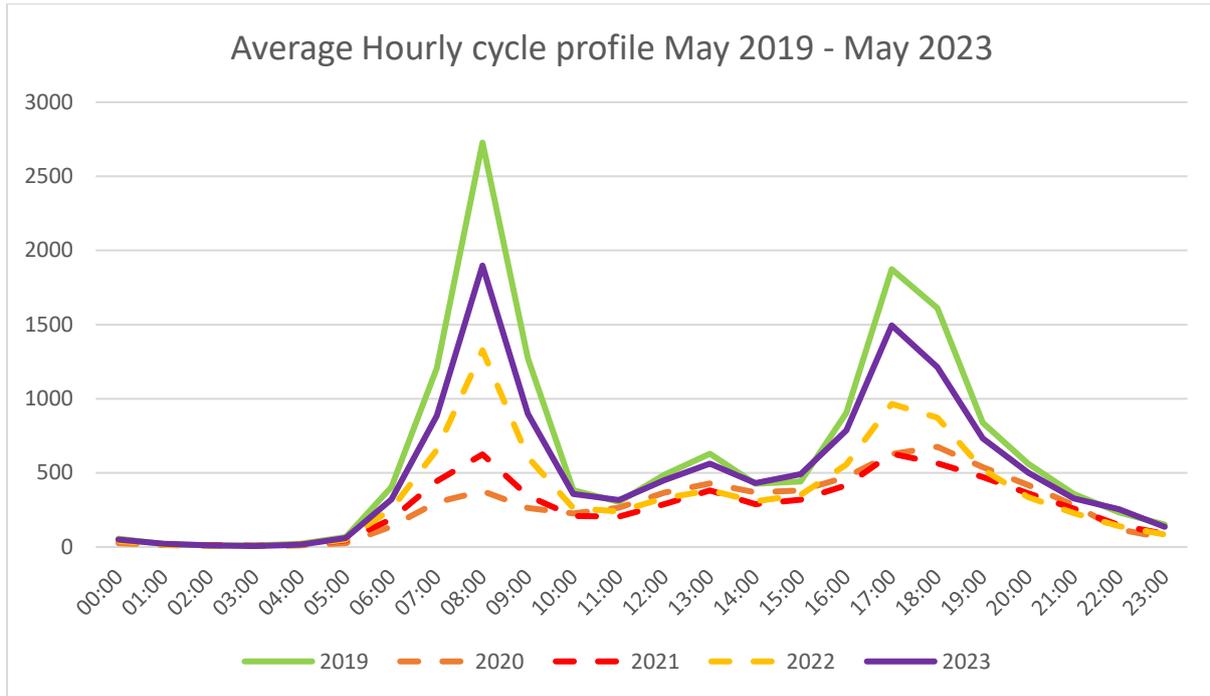
Canal cordon comparison with pre Covid shows that inbound traffic is 79% of pre Covid and outbound traffic is at 83% of pre Covid levels. These levels have been relatively stable over 2022 and 2023.





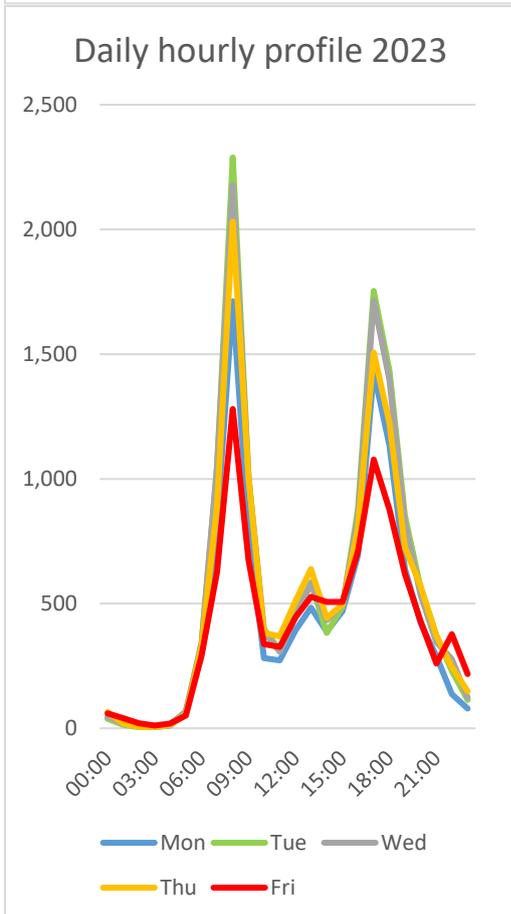
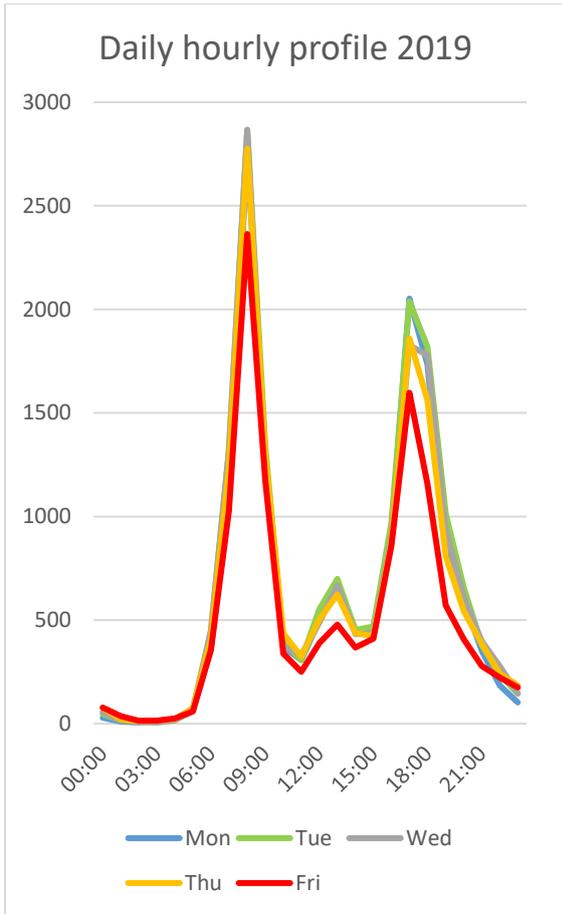
As can be seen in the above graphs, weekly cycle figures still have not fully recovered, although they are approaching pre-Covid levels. Cycle numbers at the weekend still exceed pre-Covid.

The difference in cycle numbers is largely accounted for during peak hours. As seen in the graph below, the peak of cycling has yet to recover to pre-Covid levels with cycle numbers at approximately 70% of pre-Covid numbers at 8am. However at off peak hours cycle numbers have recovered.



There has also been a significant change in the daily profile of cyclists. Pre-Covid cycling numbers were pretty consistent with a slight drop off on Fridays. However there is now a large difference with Mondays and particularly Fridays showing less cyclists, reflecting the impact working from home has had on commuting.

TRAFFIC Q2 2023 CLLR REPORT



Glasnevin to Clontarf Rd

During Q2 of 2023 a buff and red coloured surfacing has been applied to large sections of the Griffith Avenue cycle route. Zebra planters are due to be installed in late Q2 to improve the appearance of the areas of floating parking along the avenue. The new signals at the junction to Griffith Woods were made operational in late May and this will now allow for the completion of the missing sections of extruded kerb in early Q3.

East Coast Trail North: Phase 1

In January 2023 a tender was published to construct a new two way cycling facility between the entrance to the Eastpoint Business Park on Alfie Byrne Road and the junction of East Wall Road, and East Road. Tenders were assessed and the contract for installation of 1km of protected cycle lanes along Alfie Byrne Road and East Wall Road was awarded in Q2. A leaflet is currently being prepared that will be circulated to more than 2,750 homes and businesses in the area with information regarding the project and upcoming works. The contractor is due to mobilise on site on June 19th 2023.

Public transport projects, Bus Connects and bus priority measures

The BusConnects Liaison Team acts as a conduit of information exchange between the NTA BusConnects team and the various departments within DCC.

For the rollout of new routes as part of the BusConnects Network Redesign, the team provides support for the required bus stops. DCC staff accompanied NTA and staff from bus operators on route proving exercises for E spine and route N2. Proposed stops on these routes are currently being reviewed.

The team meet regularly with the NTA BusConnects Network Redesign team and also the DCC Active Travel team to ensure all teams are aware of the others' plans. The team was briefed by the NTA on the following Bus Connects CBC schemes; Ringsend, Bray, and Swords. The NTA has submitted three schemes to An Board Pleanála; Templeogue/Rathfarnham, Tallaght/Clondalkin and Swords to City Centre.

For current operations, the team has regular meetings with bus operators where delay pinch points are identified and interventions are added to reduce these delays. The team continues to review bus lane hours, adding Sunday and where possible making bus lanes 24hrs. These proposed changes will go through the TAG process.

Winetavern Street Contraflow Bus Lane

As part of BusConnects Network Redesign a new contraflow bus lane on Winetavern St was successfully implemented to facilitate the D spine (connecting Clongriffin to Crumlin/Clondalkin/Tallaght) and the G spine (connecting Spencer Dock with the Red Cow Luas Stop/Liffey Valley). Throughout Q2 2023 monitoring continued and minor adjustments were made where required.

Pathfinder: Public Transport improvements at College Green Bus Corridor and Foster Place interim enhancements

The College Green Pathfinder Project will help alleviate public transport congestion in the city core, with the extension of the College Green bus corridor from Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm, to a 7-day, 24 hour bus corridor prioritising public transport at all times. This change came into effect from May 29th 2023.

This initiative is part of the Pathfinder Programme launched in October 2022 by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan T.D. The Pathfinder Programme consists of 35 exemplar transport projects to be delivered by local authorities and agencies around the country, projects that can visibly demonstrate the value of using public space for better outcomes, such as greater safety, air quality and accessibility.

Each week over half a million pedestrians and 2 million passengers on public transport go through the College Green bus gate. This compares with just 27,000 private vehicles. However, this small number of private vehicles causes significant delays to public transport journey times in the area, particularly in the evenings and at weekends when there are no restrictions. These new traffic management measures reallocate the road space exclusively to sustainable modes of transport which account for 97% of current journeys through College Green.

The Pathfinder Project will also facilitate the interim enhancement of Foster Place, Dublin 2. Nestled between some of the city's most historic buildings, including the Bank of Ireland and the Irish Stock Exchange, the area will become a more inviting public space with planters and public seating. Access into Foster Place and the Foster Place disabled parking space will be retained. Taxi spaces will be reduced in Foster Place and increased instead at the main College Green taxi rank.

Increased interim footpath space (or buildouts) on Dame Street at Foster place will create a safer and more enjoyable experience for the half a million pedestrians travelling through the area on a daily basis. The median opposite Church Lane is being increased and the right turn from Church Lane to College Green has been removed. This median area will also be provided with interim public seating and planters in the coming weeks. As part of the intermix improvements there is also decluttering of signs, poles and bollards taking place.



(Work in Progress Fosters Place with removal of parking and extension of Footpaths)



(Work in progress extension of median and closing of the right turn from Church Lane)

Pedestrian Crossings program

The current status at end of Q2 2023 is:

Lot	Site	Site Name - Location	Area	Work Description	Stage	Est date	Completion
1	1	Stannaway Road	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, 3 arm junction	On site	Civil works due for completion end June, estimate operational early July	
	2	Clogher Road	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, 4 arm junction	Due to Start early July		Early August
	3	Ferns Road	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, Standalone	Civil works complete		Pedestrian crossing has been switched on May 23
	4	Armagh Road	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, Standalone	Civil works complete		Pedestrian crossing has been switched on Apr 23
2	5	Ballyboggan Road	Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, Standalone	Civil works complete		Estimated operational mid-June
	6	Mary's Lane	Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, Standalone	On Site		Civil works due for completion end July, estimate operational early August
	7	Portland Row	Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 4 arm junction	On Site		Civil works due for completion end July, estimate operational early August
	8	Parnell Street	Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 4 arm junction	On Site		Civil works due for completion early July, estimate operational mid-July
3	9	Brookwood Avenue	North Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 3 arm junction	On site		Civil works complete for all Lot 3 sites to be complete by end Jun, sites to be operational mid-July
	10	Botanic Avenue	Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, Standalone	On site		
	12	Coolock Drive	North Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 3 arm junction	On site		
	16	Donore Avenue	South Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 4 arm junction	Civil works complete		

4	13	Seafort Avenue	South East	Zebra Crossing	Tender Stage	Tender assessment has been completed and funding has been confirmed with the NTA. Contractor due to be formally appointed by mid-June, works to start on site late June
	14	Palmerstown Road	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, 4 arm junction	Tender Stage	
	15	Cherry Orchard	South Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, Standalone	Tender Stage	
	17	Chelmsford Place	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, 3 arm junction	Tender Stage	
	19	Ely Place	South East	Controlled Ped. Xing, 4 arm junction	Tender Stage	
5	11	Clontarf Road	North Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 3 arm junction	Advanced Design Stage	
	18	Conyngham Road/SCR	South Central	Controlled Ped. Xing, 3 arm junction	Advanced Design Stage	

Fishamble Street

From Monday February 13th, a one-way, south-bound-only arrangement for vehicular traffic was implemented on Fishamble Street. North and south-bound cycling remains permitted. This intervention was required due to the unsuitable road widths for such volume of two-way traffic, leading to vehicles mounting kerbs and unsafe manoeuvres.

Mary Street

From Monday March 27th, the section of Mary Street, between Wolfe Tone Street and Jervis Lane Upper became traffic free (while facilitating deliveries daily between 6am and 11am). This intervention provides a link between current pedestrian streets (Mary Street and Henry Street) and Traffic Free Capel Street, creating a pedestrian priority route from O'Connell Street to the Markets area. As of May, pedestrian numbers and cyclists are up 21% and 22% respectively, compared to the same period in 2022 (see graph below).

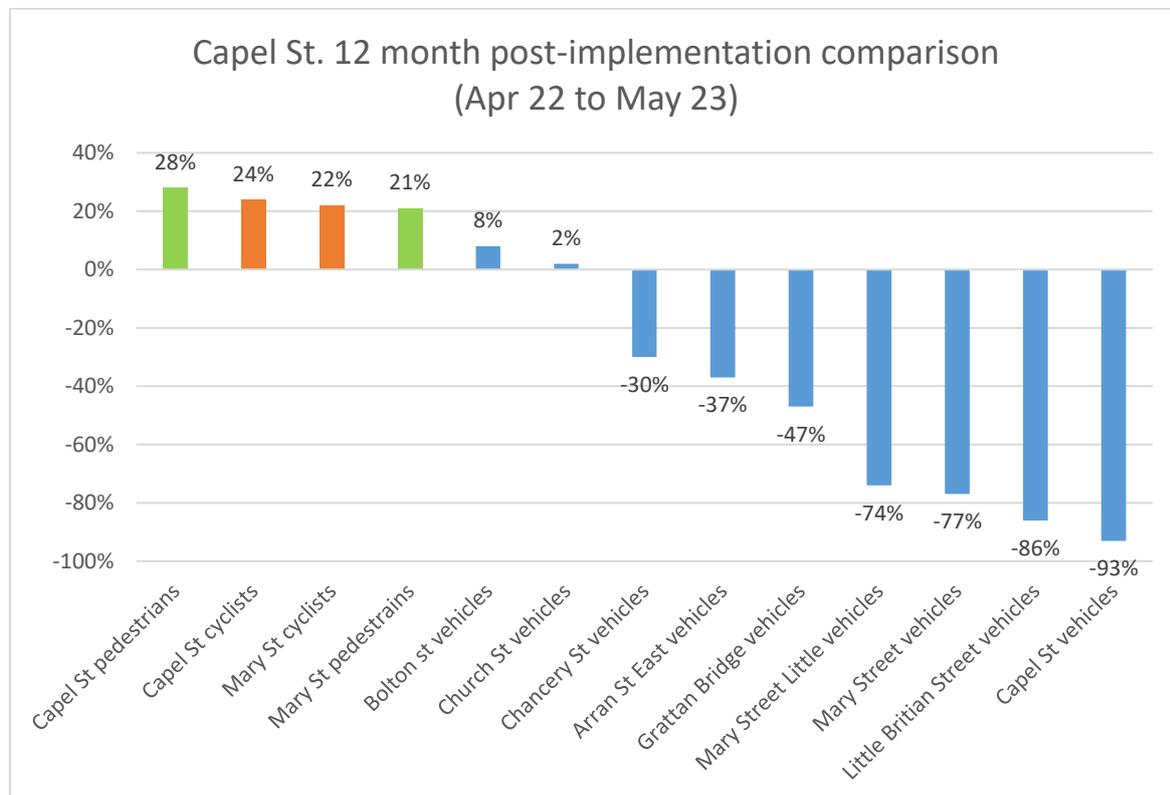
Capel Street

A tender has been issued to contractors for interim improvements for the section between Ryder's Row and Mary Street. Funding has been received for this section and it is intended to have these works carried out over the summer. Shortly, consultation with local councillors, businesses and residents will commence. This will consist of a door to door drop in with each business to show them what's happening directly outside their premises as well as a number of open consultation drop-ins for all residents and businesses on the street to view the plans and discuss any suggestions they may have.

Initial results of pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle counts, 12 months after implementation, are available and are summarised in the graph below. Overall trends are very positive with cycling and pedestrian numbers increasing and vehicle numbers decreasing on the local street

network. A more in-depth set of results will be issued to the central area committee once available.

On Sunday 21st May, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Caroline Conroy marked the one year anniversary of Capel Street being made traffic-free, by taking part in a community cycle from Capel Street to Ringsend Park as part of Bike Week celebrations.



College Green Dame Street Public Realm Project

In Q4 2022, Dublin City Council published stage one of an international competition to procure a Multi-disciplinary Design Team for the College Green project. The closing date for stage one submissions was January 24th 2023. Stage one submissions have been evaluated, with successful applicants advanced to stage two of the competition which is ongoing. Project timelines will be established once the Design Team has been appointed.

Schools Mobility Programme

The School Mobility Programme aims to improve student safety by encouraging parents and guardians not to drop off or collect in the immediate school gate vicinity, and to encourage and incentivise active travel for school journeys. It consists of front-of-school interventions under the Safe Routes to Schools Programme funded by the NTA and supported by An Taisce Green Schools Programme.

The current shortage of both technical and admin staff for the School Mobility programme, is impeding what could otherwise be a rapid roll out of these measures. A request for two additional Walking and Cycling Officers was sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on May 30th. Once appointed, these roles will assist the School Mobility Programme, as well as other projects.

For 2023, the Department of Transport prioritised 20 schools for Safe Routes to School interventions. See Q2 status update per school below. In addition to the priority list, a significant number of other schools across the city have requested school mobility interventions. Due to staff shortages, we are unable to currently assist schools outside of the priority list.

#	Round 1 and 2 SRTS Schools	Adjacent School	Community	Area	2023 Status
1	SRTS Round 1 Assumption Junior School		Walkinstown	South Central Area	Completed Q1
2	SRTS Round 1 Assumption Senior Girls' National School		Walkinstown	South Central Area	Completed Q1
3	SRTS Round 1 Our Lady of Consolation	Scoil Chiarain	Collins Ave East	North Central Area	Non-Stat Consultation completed Q2
4	SRTS Round 1 St Fiachra's Junior National School	St Fiachra's Senior National School	Beaumont	North Central Area	Progressing Non-Stat Consultation completed Q2
5	SRTS Round 1 Broombridge Educate Together National School		Boombidge	Central Area	Non-Stat Consultation completed Q2
6	SRTS Round 1 Drumcondra National School		Drumcondra	North Central Area	Non-Stat Consultation completed Q2
7	SRTS Round 1 St. Brigid's Girls' National School	St Marys Secondary School	Glasnevin	Central Area	Preliminary Design in Development Q2
8	SRTS Round 1 St Joseph's Secondary School Fairview		Fairview	North Central Area	Non-Stat Consultation completed Q2
9	SRTS Round 1 St. Joseph's CBS		Fairview	North Central Area	Non-Stat Consultation completed Q2
10	SRTS Round 1 Stratford College		Rathgar	South East Area	Preliminary Design in Development Q2
11	SRTS Round 1 Stratford National School		Rathgar	South East Area	Preliminary Design in Development Q2
12	SRTS Round 1 Harold's Cross Educate Together	St Clare's Primary School	Harold's Cross	South East Area	Preliminary Design in Development Q2

	Secondary School				
13	SRTS Round 1 Kildare Place School		Rathmines	South East Area	Preliminary Design in Development Q2
14	*SRTS Round 1 Belmayne Educate Together Secondary School *(NOT CURRENTLY IN DCC CHARGE)		Belmayne	North Central Area	Not Yet Commenced
15	SRTS Round 2 St Christopher's Primary School		Haddington Road	South East Area	Preliminary Design in Development Q2
16	SRTS Round 2 St Pauls College Sybill Hill	St Brigid's BNS	Raheny	North Central Area	Not Yet Commenced
17	SRTS Round 2 Gaelscoil Lios na n-Óg		Rathmines	South East Area	Not Yet Commenced
18	SRTS Round 2 Glasnevin National School		Glasnevin	Central Area	Not Yet Commenced
19	SRTS Round 2 St Kevin's Junior National School		Donaghmede	North Central Area	Not Yet Commenced
20	SRTS Round 2 St. Paul's CBS Secondary School New Brunswick St		Smithfield	Central Area	Not Yet Commenced

Dublin Bikes

NOW dublinbikes have clocked up over 35 million journeys since its launch in September 2009, with 600,000 journeys taking place so far this year. Though the service has experienced an overall decrease in long term subscribers since the pandemic, a recovery is being noted in recent time, as more people return to the office. A significant increase in short term subscribers has occurred this year.

NOW dublinbikes supported bike week through the offer of a Free NOW dublinbike Pedalpalooza Pass, over 350 passes were downloaded in support of the bike week cycle from Capel Street (in celebration of the streets first anniversary of being traffic free) to Ringsend Park where the final bike week event, Pedalpalooza, was taking place. NOW dublinbikes for the first time attended the event, showcasing the bike batteries, inviting people to test the bikes with and without batteries.

Bike Bunkers

Bike bunkers originated as a pilot project from a Dublin City Council BETA Project in 2015 known as 'Bike Hangar BETA'. The Project moved to the Micromobility Unit under Traffic in Q4 of 2022.

In order to progress this project a scheme review of the Bike Bunker Pilot Project is currently underway. Once complete, the review, along with recommendations on how best to implement a phased roll-out, will be brought to the Traffic and Transport SPC in September 2023.

E-Cargobike Pilot Projects

In 2022, Dublin City Council and bike sharing operator Bleeper delivered phase 1 of a 12 month e-cargobike for business pilot project. The pilot project provided 20 participant businesses with access to e-cargobikes at a discounted rate, enabling them to replace trips which would otherwise have been taken by car or by van. Phase one of this project ended in Dec 2022 and an evaluation of the project is underway currently.

Subject to funding, three e-cargobike projects are being progressed in 2023;

- E-cargobikes for Businesses phase 2,
- E-cargobikes for Non-profits, and
- E-cargobikes for Communities

The Bike Hub Crumlin

The Bike Hub Crumlin Pilot Project, located in Eamon Ceannt Park, was launched by the Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy in November 2022 to encourage accessible, inclusive cycling for people of all ages and abilities. Since the launch, The Bike Hub Crumlin has provided free-to-use access to Trishaws with trained pilots for people with disabilities or mobility issues, bike mechanic training to local secondary schools, bike mechanic workshops for members of the community and in March worked with Cycling Ireland to support an "intro to cycling" project with Ukrainian refugee children and young people.

The Silver Cycling Club was launch in May, supporting older cyclist, reintroducing silver haired folk back to the saddle. This is a summer club running through to September.

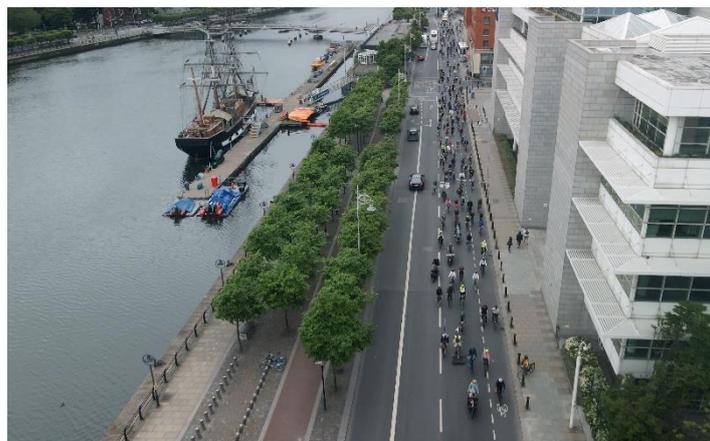
A further initiative of TBHC is to support early school leavers, this initiative is part of a wider support for these young people who will be trained in bike mechanics. This initiative is planned to start in September 2023.

Walking and Cycling Promotions

The Traffic department ran a programme of events to promote and celebrate cycling during Bike Week from 13th – 21st May. DCC's flagship event is the Pedalpalooza bike festival which took place on Sunday 21st May in Ringsend Park. The family-friendly event included a range of activities throughout the day such as bike demonstrations and opportunities to try out cargo bikes, tandem bikes, electric bikes, handcycles, wheelchair bike, adult trike or to take a trishaw ride. Free bike services were provided by the Bike Hub. Activities included kids fitness sessions, cycle-themed storytelling, pedal-powered challenges, cycling yoga stretches, bike disco, bike decoration, pop-up cycling circus tricks.



This year a cycle parade was added to the Pedalpalooza programme of events. This family-friendly cycle, was led by Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy, and started from Capel Street, coinciding with the one year anniversary of Capel Street going traffic-free. The cycle parade travelled 5km to Ringsend Park, with support from An Garda Síochána in traffic management. Hundreds of cyclists of all ages and abilities took part in the cycle. [Video footage of the cycle is available online.](#)



In order to reach new audiences beyond those attending Bike Week events, DCC created a series of short videos for social media profiling a range of different people who cycle in Dublin. Participants shared their reasons for cycling in Dublin, what they enjoy about it and encouraged others to take part. These videos included various types of bikes including a cargo bike, handcycles, trishaw and a wheelchair bike. One video from the series was shared each day during Bike Week. The video series received significant traction online. [The videos are all available on our website.](#)

DCC's Community Grant scheme provided funding to 17 local schools and community groups to organise Bike Week events in their areas. Events included community cycles, bike maintenance workshops, bike clinics, bike parades and cycle skills and safety sessions.

DCC partnered with Fingal Country Council and the OPW in the delivery of an accessible cycling day and sunset cycle in the Phoenix Park. Free bike drop-in clinics were provided for the public and DCC staff during Bike Week.

Neighbourhood Transport Schemes

The aim of these schemes is to provide communities with sustainable neighbourhoods with a focus on safety with regard to transport issues. It is the aim to allow for more walkable and calmer streets where the priority is given to pedestrians and cyclists and where parking issues are addressed. Schemes are being progressed in each of the 5 administrative areas in Dublin City Council.

Administrative Area	Scheme	Update
South East	Belmont Avenue Dublin 4 (Restricted Access Scheme trial underway)	A Restricted Access traffic calming measure was installed here on the 21 st August 2022 for a 6 month trial period. This scheme was implemented following a Non-Statutory public consultation period. The 6 month trial has come to an end with a further non-statutory public consultation period to obtain input and feedback from Stakeholders. A final report is currently being compiled which will evaluate the effectiveness of the trial. The report will be presented to elected Councillors in the South East Area Committee meeting to determine if the scheme will be made permanent or not.
South Central	Chapelizod Village Dublin 20	Dublin City Council (DCC) have previously appointed an external consultant to analyse and carry out a report on the transport situation in the Chapelizod area. This report has been circulated to Councillors in the South Central Area. As a result, support has been obtained from Councillors for a Filtered Permeability scheme to be installed at this location on a trial basis. DCC are selecting an external consultant by way of tendering process to draft preliminary drawings of the proposed scheme. A non-statutory public consultation will be conducted outlining these drawings to gauge support from Stakeholders in Chapelizod and surrounding areas. This will determine the projects next steps.
Central Area	Church Street East (Dublin 3) Filtered	Different options are being assessed to eliminate cut-through traffic in the Church

	Permeability Trial (at the junction of Church Street East / East Road)	Street East Area including filtered permeability measures at the junction of Church Street East / East Road, and another option for filtered permeability measures on Abercorn Road at the junction of Church Street East / Abercorn Road.
North Central Area	Haverty Road (Dublin 3) Filtered Permeability Trial	A report summarizing the evaluation assessments including traffic surveys and public consultation with local residents and stakeholders will be presented to Councilors in Q3 2023. Councilors will be given the time to review the report and the opportunity to advise whether to implement the trial permanently or remove it.
North West Area	Willow Park Avenue (Dublin 11)	Assessments of the area and development of a plan is ongoing. We expect to be in a position to procure consultants to develop a detailed design in Q3 2023.

TAG

The Transport Advisory Group makes recommendations on service requests requiring statutory orders such as Pedestrian Signals, Parking Prohibitions, Traffic Signs, Road Markings, Pay and Display, Permit Parking, Disabled Parking Bays, One-way Systems and Loading Bays.

The Citizens Hub Portal for Traffic Requests went live to the public on the 24th April 2023.

For 2023, the Transport Advisory Group (TAG) has received a total of 710 service requests in all Council Areas by end of Q2. The Transport Advisory Group Area Engineers carried out of a total of 393 TAG decisions year to date.

Brendan O'Brien

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John W. Flanagan

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26th June 2023