



Summary

Public Consultation on Sustainable Mobility Policy

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Transport policy is very important for health and wellbeing.

But some impacts are damaging:

- Physical injury or death from vehicular traffic impacts
- Air and noise pollution
- **1100 people die prematurely** in Ireland every year due to air pollution, 90% due to PM, transport emissions are main cause
- Ireland has a high prevalence of asthma (about 450,000 people) and other lung diseases that may be exacerbated by air pollution
- Vehicular transport can make active transport (walking, cycling etc) more dangerous and push people into cars reducing physical exercise, which is essential for health
- Greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change, are likely to have many severe health impacts, and increasingly into the future

Recommendations

- Inclusion of health in all policies
- Prioritise co-benefits – active transport is sustainable and better for health
- Identify unnecessary use of vehicular transport and comprehensively integrate transport planning with planning in other sectors towards developing a sustainable future
- Prioritise safe and accessible walking and cycling, then public transport and then private vehicular traffic
- Incentivise sustainable and equitable transport
- Remove perverse incentives

Recommendations

Public Transport and Accessibility

Accessibility policy in transport should not be confined to public transport.

Accessibility starts at our pathways, road crossings etc. For example, dished kerbs for car access create a challenge for people with mobility problems walking due to angle of path. **Consider health in all transport policies.**

Active Travel

Active travel is important to improve physical activity, reduce air pollution and tackle greenhouse gas emissions from transport. It needs to be:

- Safe** including safe routes – from vehicular impacts, air pollution
- Suitable** for different types of active travellers – e.g. disabled pedestrians who need exercise to increase mobility, parents with buggys, children on tricycles, people in wheelchairs, athletic walkers, runners, non-competitive cyclists, athletic cyclists

There are co-benefits with health from reduced air pollution and more opportunities to exercise.

- Prioritise pedestrian transport, then cycling, then public transport followed by cars as per Dept of Transport Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets)
- Facilitate security of bicycles
- Make active travel the easy choice**

Greener Buses

All public transport needs to move away from fossil fuels.

Regulation of Public Transport

Use regulation to support priorities, including protecting public health, and supporting healthy sustainable transport policies

Public Transport in Rural Ireland and Land Use and Transport Planning

Sustainability needs efficient use of resources and cutting out waste across sectors. Disjointed policies contribute to challenging and costly problems which also impact on health e.g. Difficulties and delays in accessing essential health services, health inequalities

Fully integrated planning is essential to:

- Identify and prioritise “work from home/hub” reducing need for big commutes
- Support and incentivise viable communities in terms of economies of scale for public transport
- Support and incentivise coordinating and sharing transport resources where frequent public transport is not feasible

Climate Change Challenge

Fossil fuel emissions from vehicular transport, as well as carbon cost of vehicle production contribute to the massive global risks from climate change, and air pollution. 1100 people die prematurely in Ireland annually from air pollution.

Transformative policy to move to active and green transport has important co-benefits with health.

Congestion

- Wasted time costs health sector too
 - Air pollution is exacerbated
 - More cars add to carbon cost (production)
 - Disruption of emergency service
- There is a need to:
- Discourage unnecessary vehicle use in congested areas
 - Maximise alternatives - reduced need to travel, active transport, park and ride, with easy active transport and public transport links from park and ride