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Department of Transport



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach
County and City Management Association



ROADS Services Training Group

LOCAL AUTHORITY ROADS CONFERENCE and EXHIBITION - 2022

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo May 2022



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LOCAL AUTHORITY ROADS CONFERENCE and EXHIBITION – 2022



The Identification of a National Cycle Network for Ireland

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Transport Infrastructure Ireland



Presentation Format

1. Overview
2. NCN Plan Development to date
3. Proposed NCN
4. Public Consultation
5. Next Steps



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Overview



The NCN is mandated in the NDP 2021-2030

“The development of a new **National Cycling Network Strategy**...will **map existing cycling infrastructure** in both urban and rural areas, including Greenways, and will serve to **inform future planning and project delivery decisions** in relation to walking and cycling infrastructure for the remainder of the decade.” p.61

“Transport Infrastructure Ireland will work with key stakeholders, including the NTA, to develop a **National Cycling Network Strategy** which will both map existing cycling infrastructure and identify gaps where future investment could be focused in order to **establish a comprehensive and connected cycling network around Ireland**. Given its national focus, this Strategy will encompass both urban and rural areas, and will be a valuable resource in relation to active travel connectivity around Ireland.” p.84

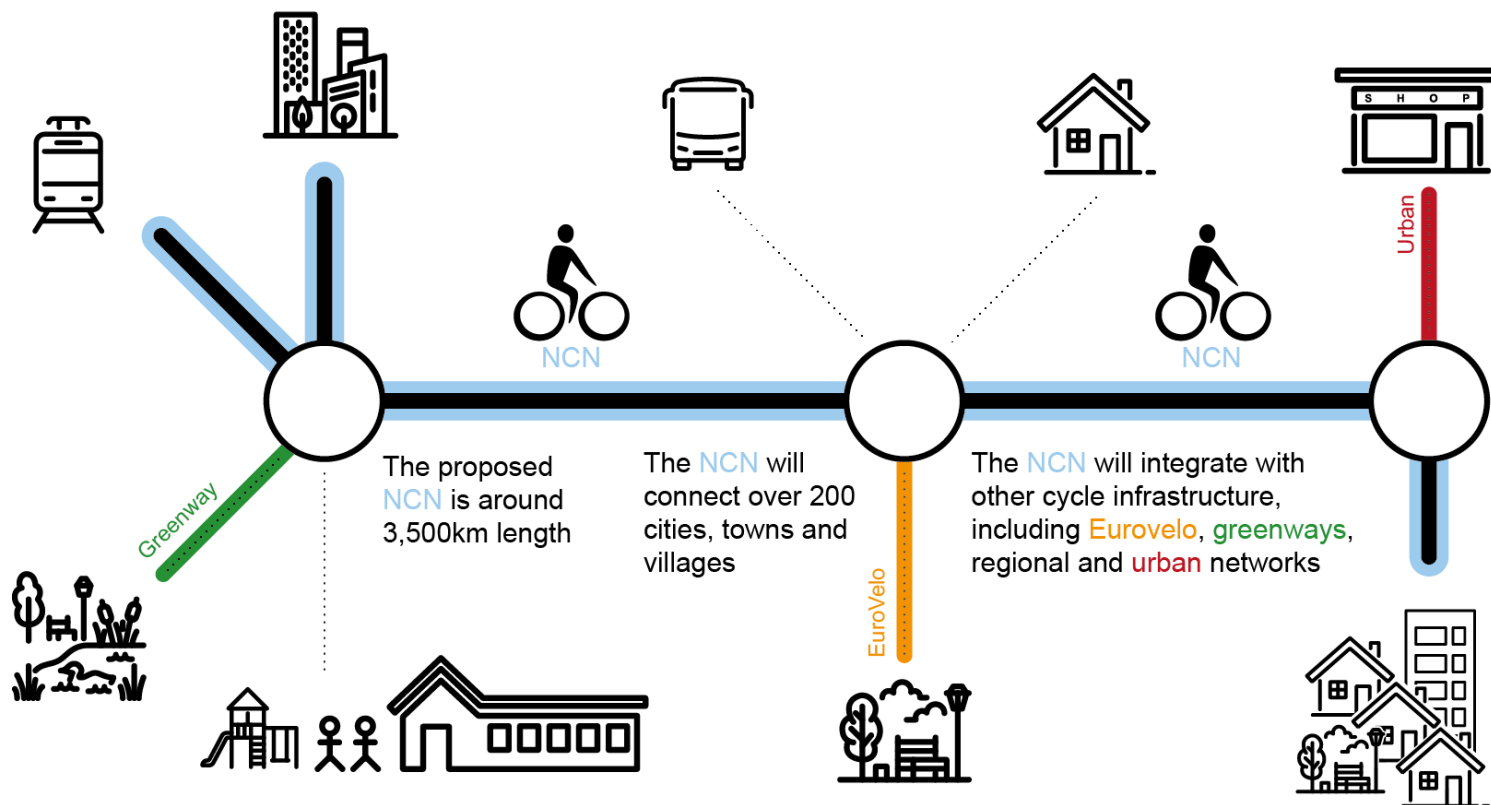


Climate Action Plan sets timelines for NCN Plan Delivery

Action 232 Develop a coherent and connected National Cycle Network Strategy				
Steps Necessary for Delivery	Proposed Output	Timeline	Lead	Key Stakeholders
Complete consultation on a draft National Cycle Network strategy to support development of a strategic national network of signed, mainly segregated or low-traffic routes primarily for cycling but also accessible and attractive for those walking, scooting, or wheeling	Complete Public consultation process for drafting strategy	Q2 2022	TII	D/Transport, NTA, Local Authorities, Other key stakeholders: Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Trails Office, Sports Ireland etc.
Publish Strategy	Strategy published	Q4 2022	TII	



The NCN will act as the core network connecting towns, cities and destinations across Ireland





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NCN Plan Development to date



Delivery Stages



Stage 1 Strategy Planning	Stage 2 Data Collection and Analysis	Stage 3 Options Development and Assessment	Stage 4 Public Consultation	Stage 5 Finalisation
Vision setting Objectives development Stakeholder engagement	National survey International case study analysis Stakeholder engagement	Network identification Options assessment Stakeholder engagement	Public engagement Revision of NCN	Finalise NCN Implementation planning



In consultation with delivery partners, the NCN team developed a project vision statement, priorities and objectives

Develop a safe, connected, and inviting cycle network between urban areas and key destinations to achieve accessible, sustainable, and high-quality routes that will help to reduce the carbon impact of transport and promote a healthy and inclusive society.

The NCN Plan will:

- Prioritise inter-urban connectivity between areas of 5,000+ population, as well as strategic destinations (e.g., transport hubs, centres of education/ employment, leisure and tourist destinations)
- Aim to maximise the number of users and encourage modal shift
- Optimise the potential for daily activities via active travel (e.g., school and work commutes)
- Integrate with existing and proposed cycle infrastructure
- Prioritise both road safety and the safety and security of users



NCN Plan Objectives

National Policies

e.g. Combat climate change & improve air quality
(NPF, CAP, NIFTI, & RSES)

Policy Goal

Reduce emissions from transportation by supporting
modal shift from private vehicles to cycling and
walking.

NCN Plan Objectives

Increase the number of cycle trips by improved
provision of safe and attractive cycling infrastructure.
Enhance local environments and biodiversity where
possible (e.g. pollinators, green corridors).



NCN Plan Objectives

National Policies

Healthy living
(NPF & SRTS)



Regional accessibility and
economic development
(NPF & RSES)



Safety & accessibility
(RSS & NPF & SRTS)



Prudent use of public funds
(PSC)



Policy Goals

Encourage active travel for daily
activities and recreation

Support connectivity and economic
growth of regional areas.

Propose safe and accessible
infrastructure that encourages
modal shift and limits interactions
with other vehicles.

Ensure appropriate balance
between value for money and
quality of outcome



Project Governance





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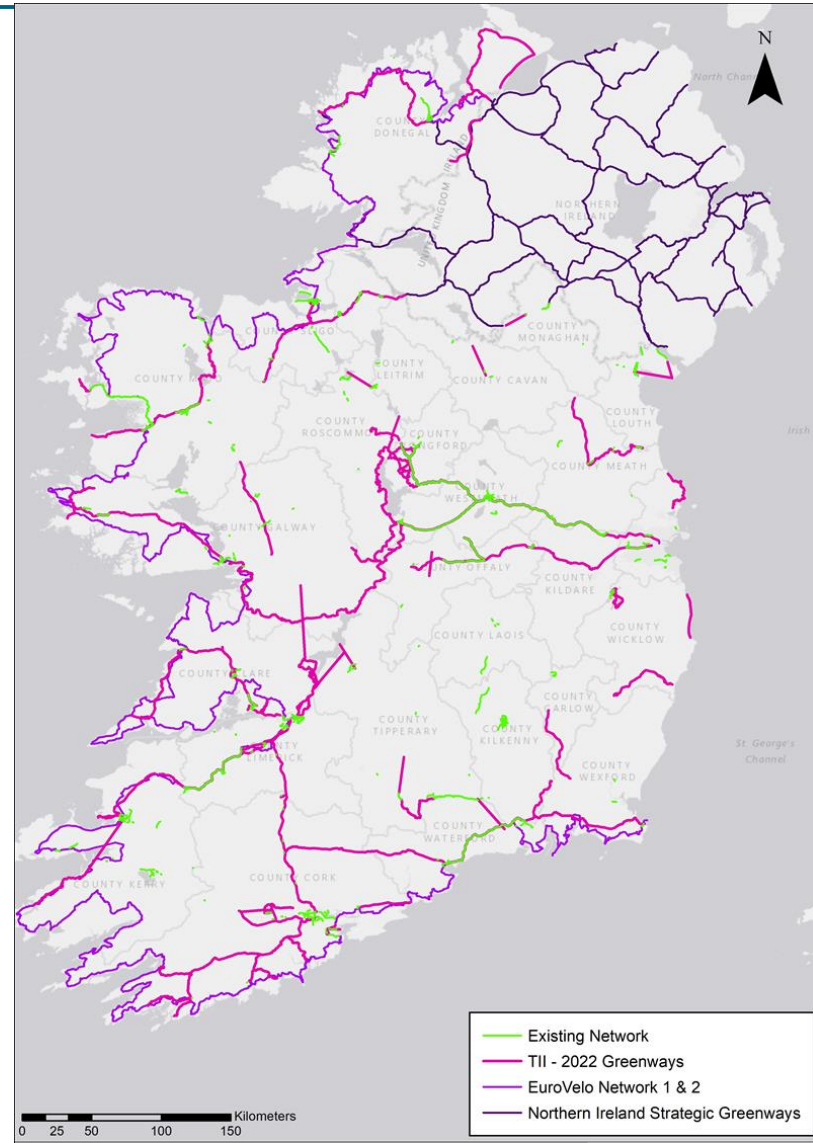
Engagement with key stakeholders





Stage 2 - Data Gathering

- Legend
- Existing cycle infrastructure
- Planned cycle infrastructure (2022 TII)
- Eurovelo routes
- Northern Ireland strategic greenways (proposed)





International best practices were reviewed and incorporated into the project approach

International case studies:

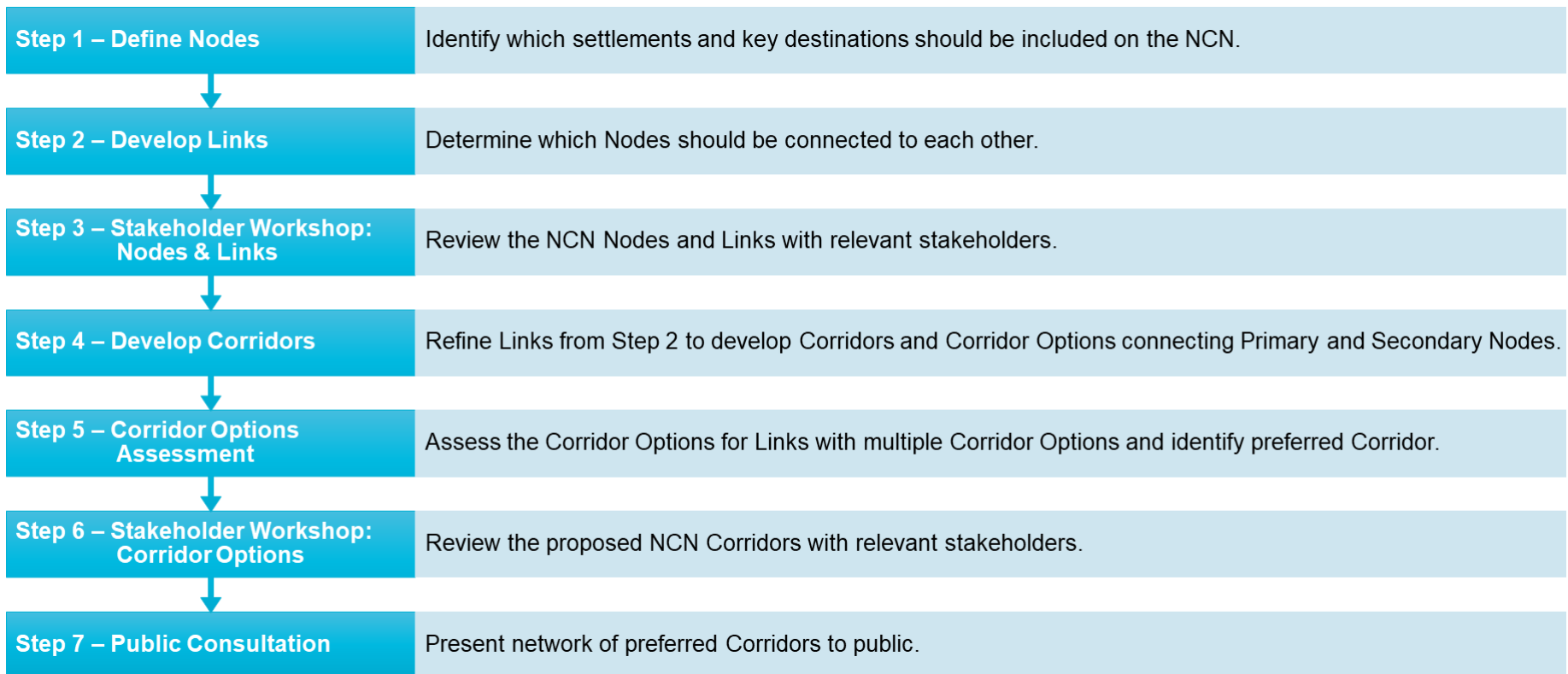
- ❑ Denmark
- ❑ United Kingdom
- ❑ Hungary

International expertise:

International expert working for the Vlaams-Brabant Province in Belgium, focusing on national and regional cycle networks, including the implementation and roll-out of the Cycle Highways project in Flanders



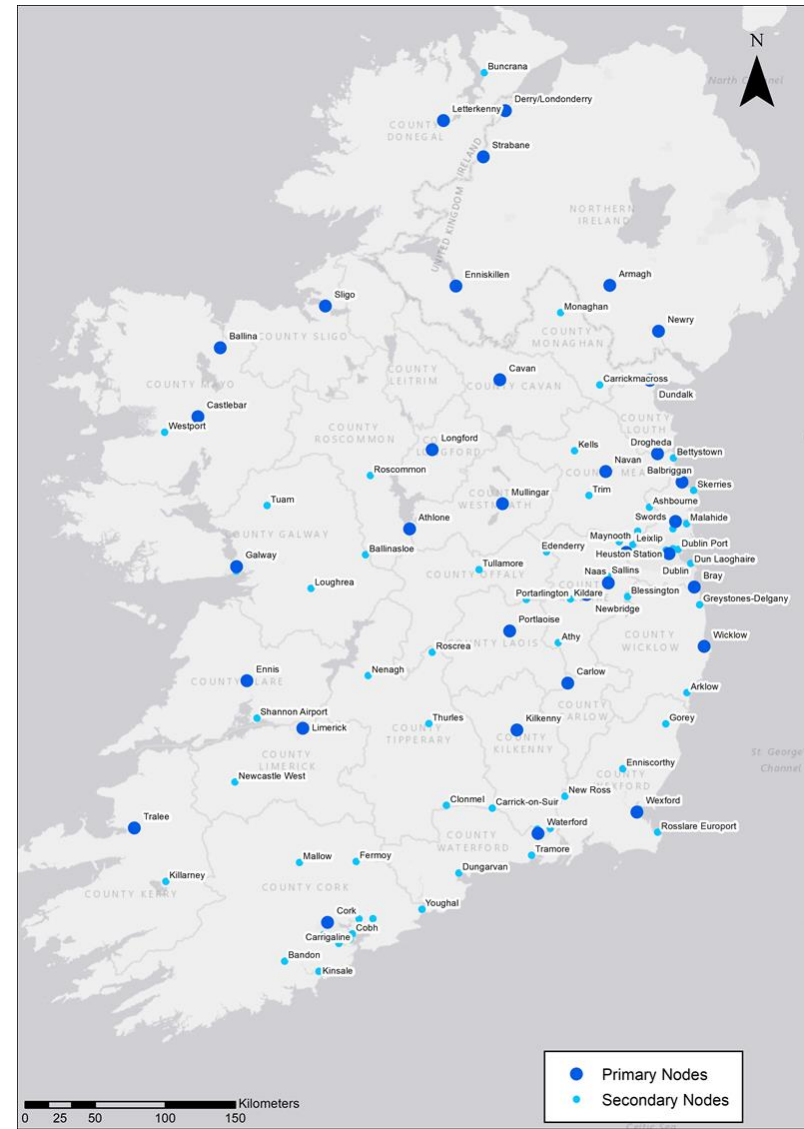
Stage 3 – Network Development Process





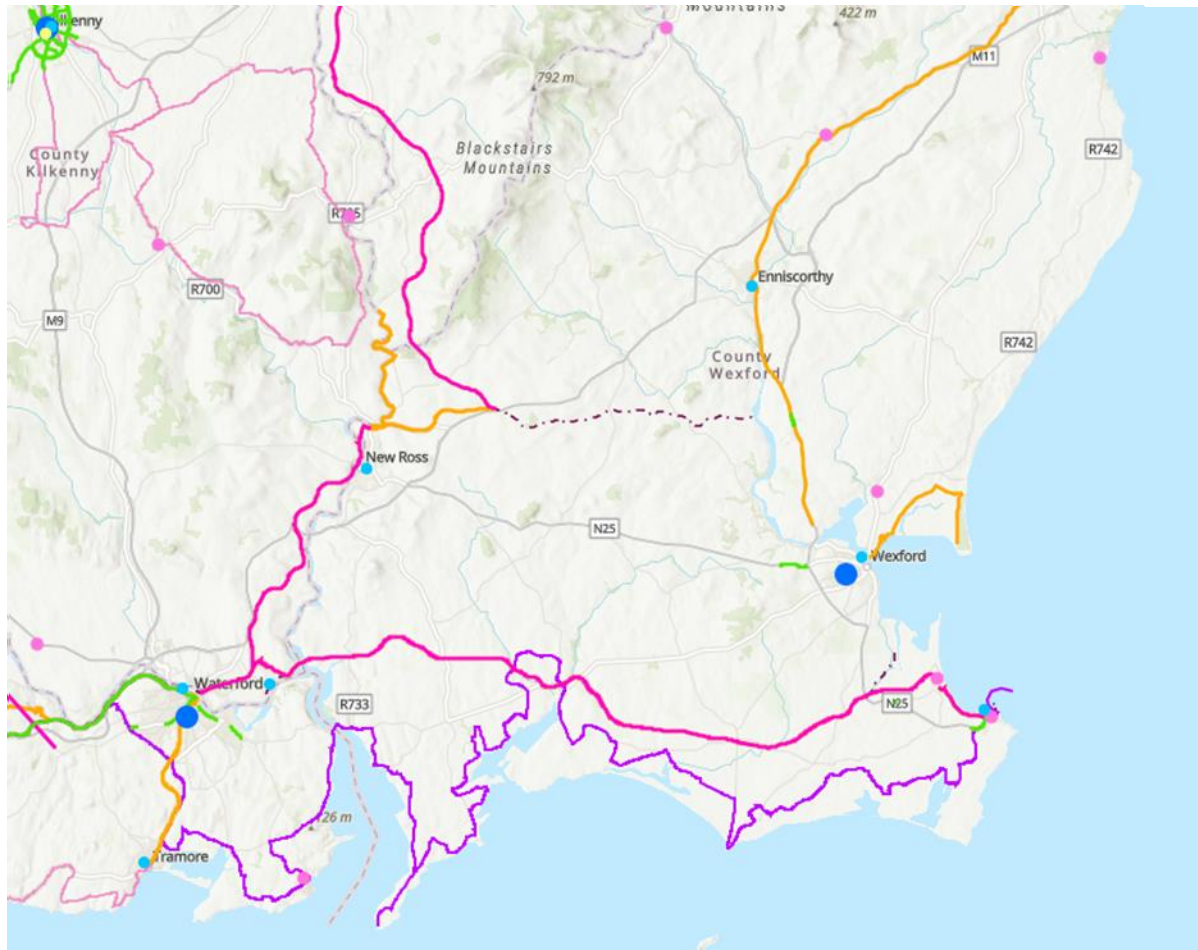
Step 1 – Define Nodes

- **Primary:** Cities and large towns of >20k population + some towns of >10k population.
- **Secondary:** Medium sized towns of >10k + some towns of >5k population. Strategic destinations (i.e., rail transport hubs, ferry/ cruise ship ports).
- **Tertiary:** Additional destinations located between primary and/or secondary nodes which will be included on the NCN where possible (e.g., transport hubs, centres of education, centres of employment, leisure destinations, and tourist destinations).





Step 4 – Develop Corridors





Step 5 – Corridor Option Assessment

NCN Plan Objectives	NCN Assessment Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of cycle trips by improving the provision of safe and attractive cycling infrastructure. • Connect to strategic destinations outside of urban areas as appropriate (including centres of education, centres of employment, and leisure destinations). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for Commuting Trips School Trips Leisure Trips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the design of cycling infrastructure that meets safety requirements. • Promote the design of cycling infrastructure that provides a safe and secure environment for all users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Safety Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate with existing and proposed cycling infrastructure (including greenways, safe routes to schools, the EuroVelo network, Interreg projects), as appropriate • Incorporate existing greenways, disused railways, canals, bypassed national roads, regional and local roads, long distance trails, as appropriate. • Propose corridors to maximise the number of users. • Future-proof cycle route capacity, taking account of population growth and additional demand from modal shift. • Connect to strategic destinations outside of urban areas as appropriate (including centres of education, centres of employment, and leisure destinations). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration with Existing Cycle Infrastructure Integration with Planned Cycle Infrastructure Integration with Existing Infrastructure Integration with Future Growth Integration with Smaller Settlements Integration with Tourist Attractions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of cycling and walking culture in Ireland. • Enhance local environments and biodiversity where possible (e.g., pollinator plans, green corridors). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on sensitive areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect to strategic destinations outside of urban areas (including transport hubs and tourist destinations), as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Trip Destinations Social Inclusion Interchange Between Transport Modes



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Proposed NCN



Key Outcomes

1. The NCN will be the core cycle network for Ireland, connecting towns and destinations and will serve as a spine to which other cycle networks will connect.
2. The NCN will act as a multifunctional network available for commuters, leisure users and tourists.
3. The NCN will establishing a coherent and coordinated network that integrates with existing and proposed cycle routes being developed by TII and other bodies.
4. The NCN will help inform how local authorities prioritise Exchequer-funded investments in cycle infrastructure.
5. The NCN will make use of existing infrastructure wherever possible including greenways and declassified roads where there is enough space to provide safe and appropriate cycle facilities.
6. The NCN will provide high-quality cycle infrastructure to promote safety, comfort and increased participation in cycling. Minimum design standards will be developed for how the network will be built.
7. The NCN will be clearly signposted to identify and distinguish it from other cycle facilities



Proposed NCN

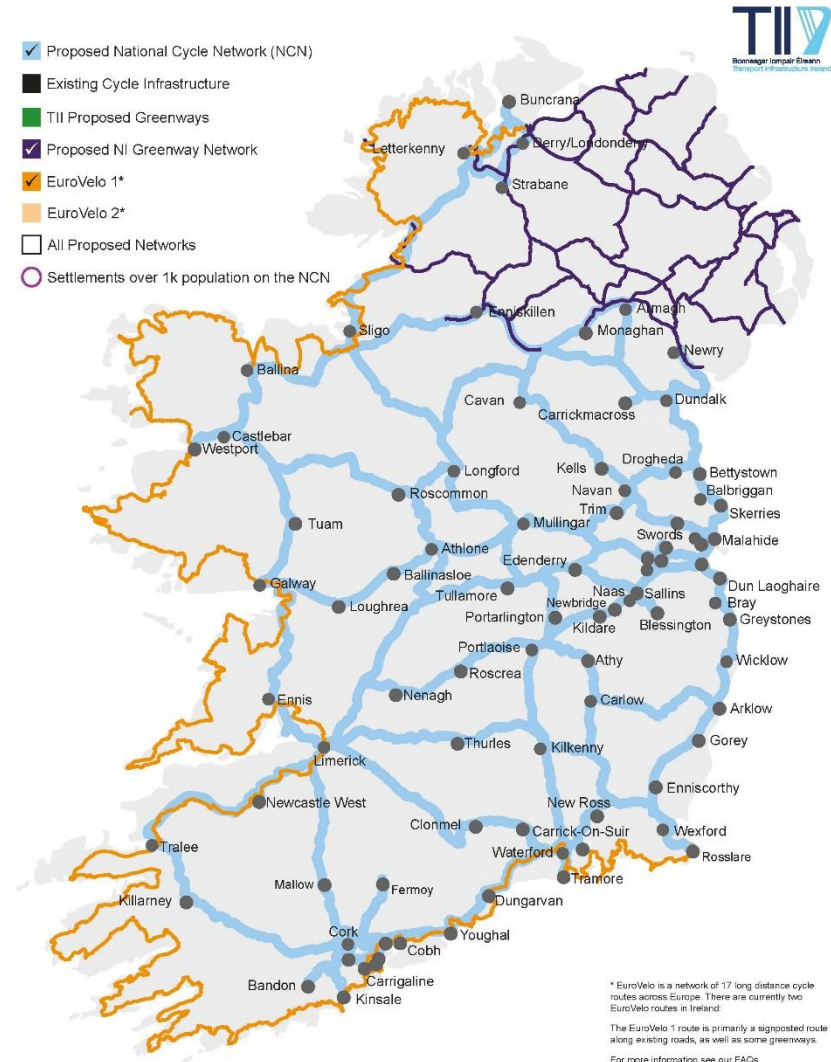
- Total length of NCN: ~3,500km
- Corridors are 4km wide and do not include design information





Proposed NCN

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- NCN links in with existing networks e.g. EuroVelo 1 and NI Greenway Network





Proposed NCN

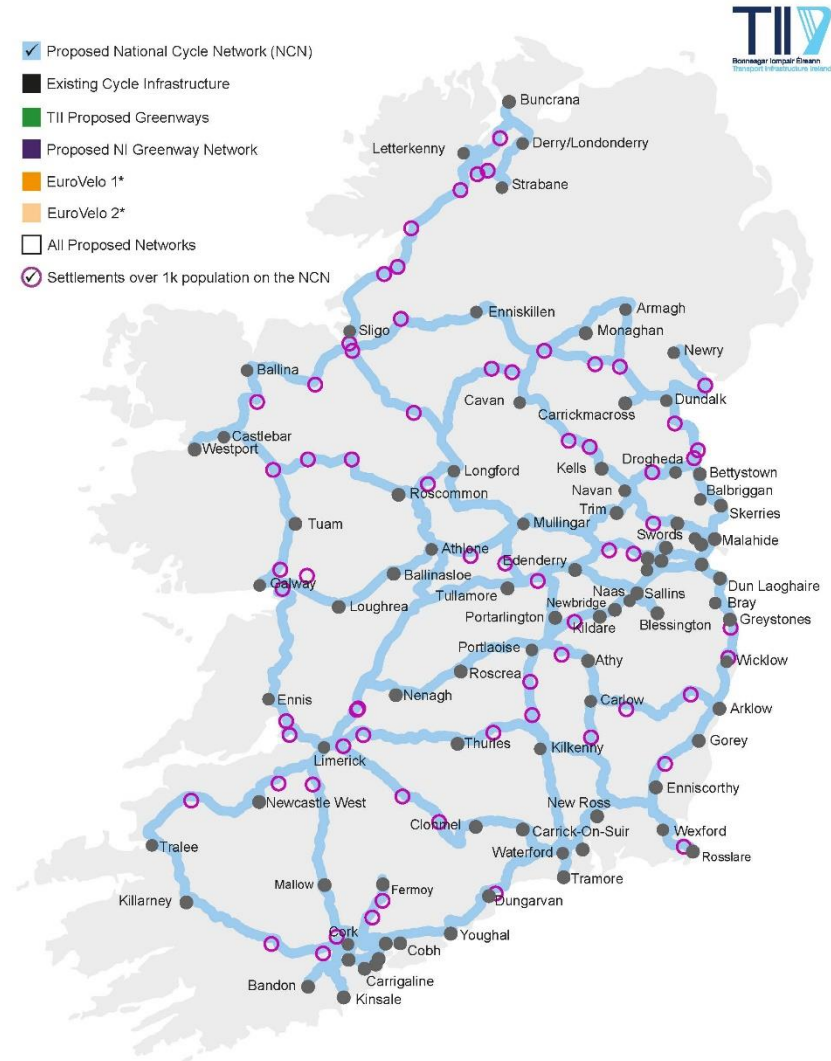
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- NCN makes use of existing and proposed greenways where appropriate.





Proposed NCN

- Total length of NCN: ~3,500km
- Corridors are 4km wide and do not include design information
- NCN links in with existing networks e.g. EuroVelo 1 and NI Greenway Network
- NCN makes use of existing and proposed greenways where appropriate.
- NCN connects over 200 cities, towns and villages.





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Public Consultation



Public Consultation

Website development:

- 4th May Go-live <https://ncn.consultation.ai>
- Open to public for comment for four weeks
- Consultation period ends 7th June

Stakeholder engagement:

- 4th-22nd April stakeholder workshops on proposed NCN in advance of public consultation



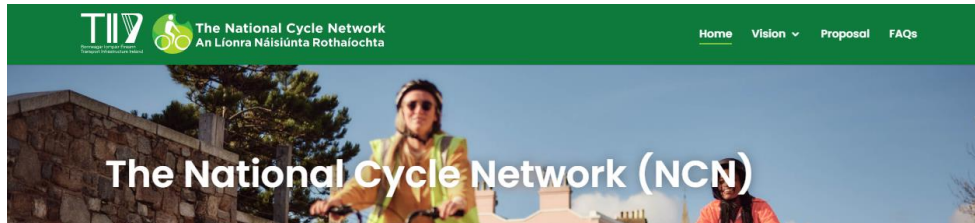
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Public Consultation Website



What is



Vision



Proposal



FAQs

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What are the main NCN objectives? ▼



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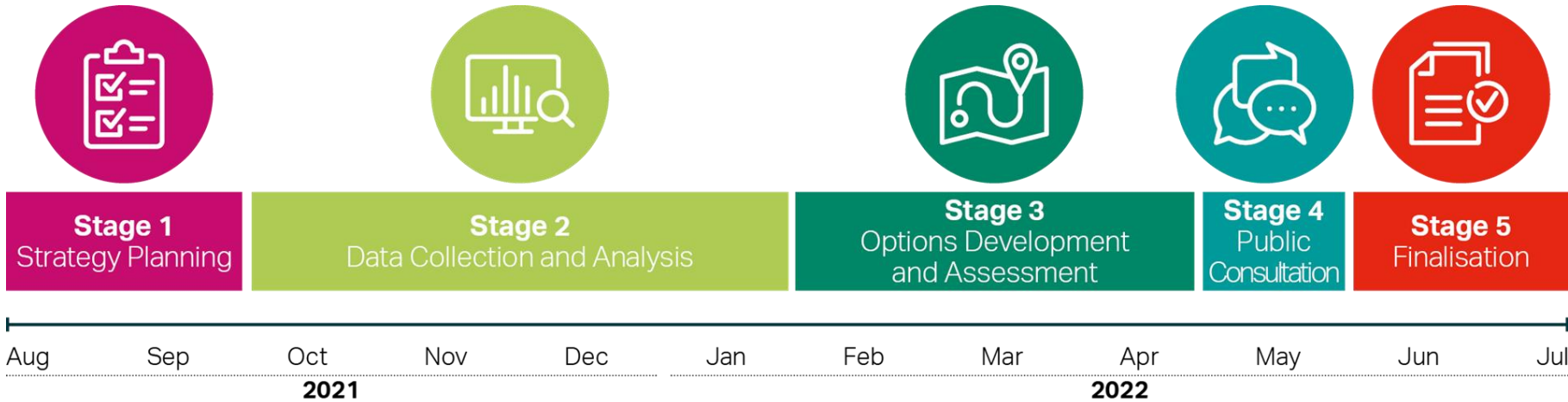
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Next Steps



Steps to Plan Completion



Project Stage

Key Tasks

Stage 4 – Public consultation

- Public consultation
- Stakeholder workshops
- Summary of feedback

Stage 5 – Finalisation

- Final NCN Plan report
- Ministerial review and approval



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Thank You

