

To the Lord Mayor and
Members of Dublin City Council

Report No. 265/2021
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive
and City Engineer



Covid Mobility Measures and Major Walking and Cycling Projects – October 2021

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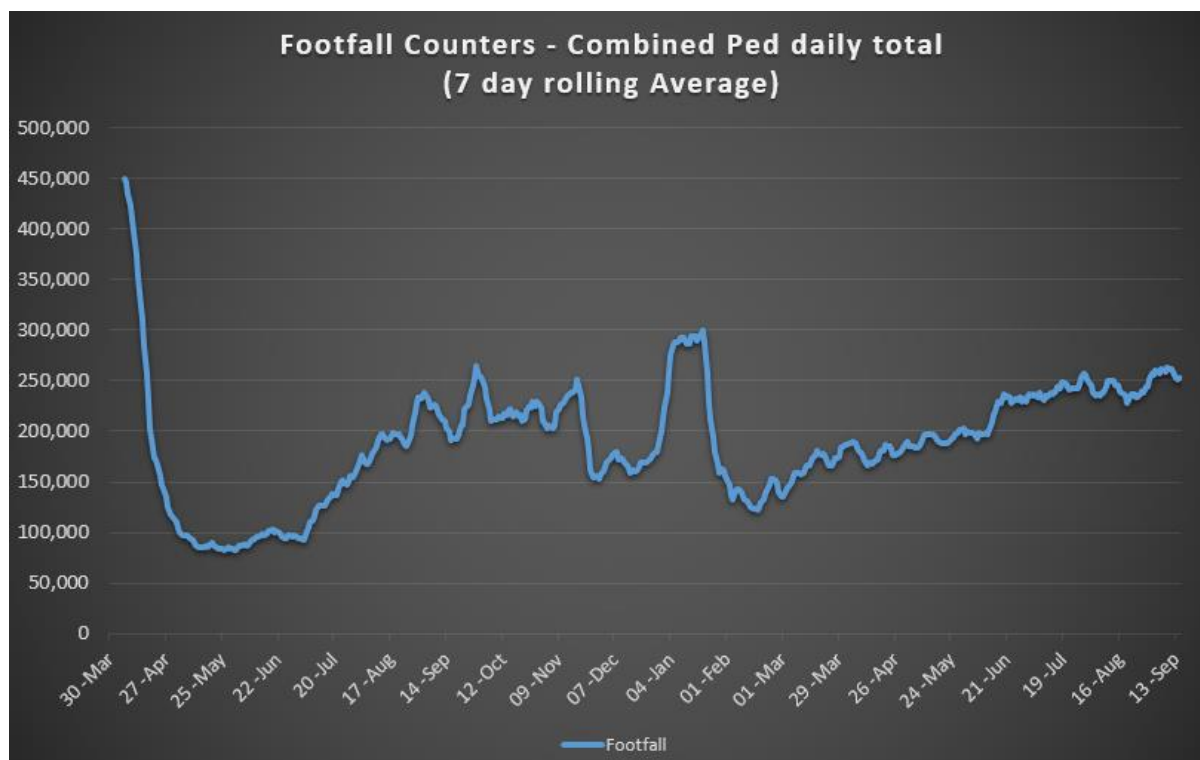
Part A: COVID Mobility Measures Update

1. Introduction

In line with Government restrictions and advice, the Covid Mobility Team continue work on those interventions that have been designated critical infrastructure.

1.1 Pedestrian Volumes

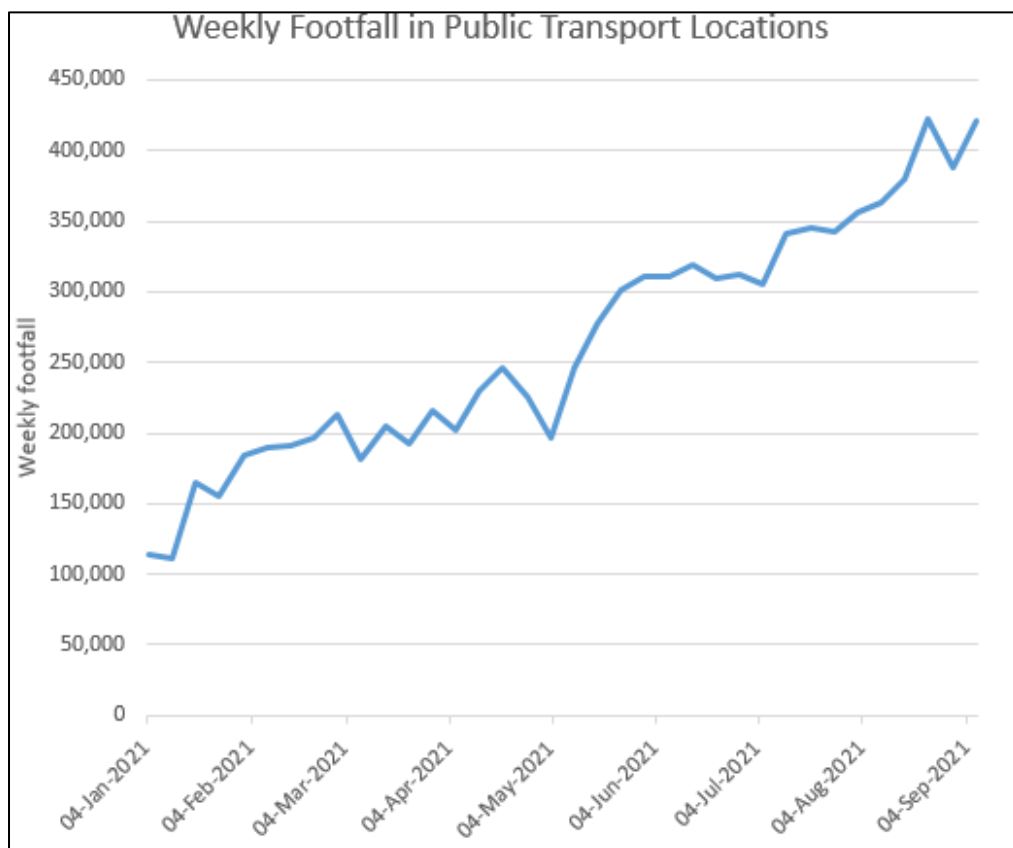
Dublin City Council (DCC) footfall counters in the city center show footfall has been climbing steadily in 2021.



The monthly footfall in the city centre, as measured at 16 locations, since January 2020 (pre-Covid) is shown below. Footfall has been rising steadily between January 2021 and May 2021 and has remained steady during the summer.

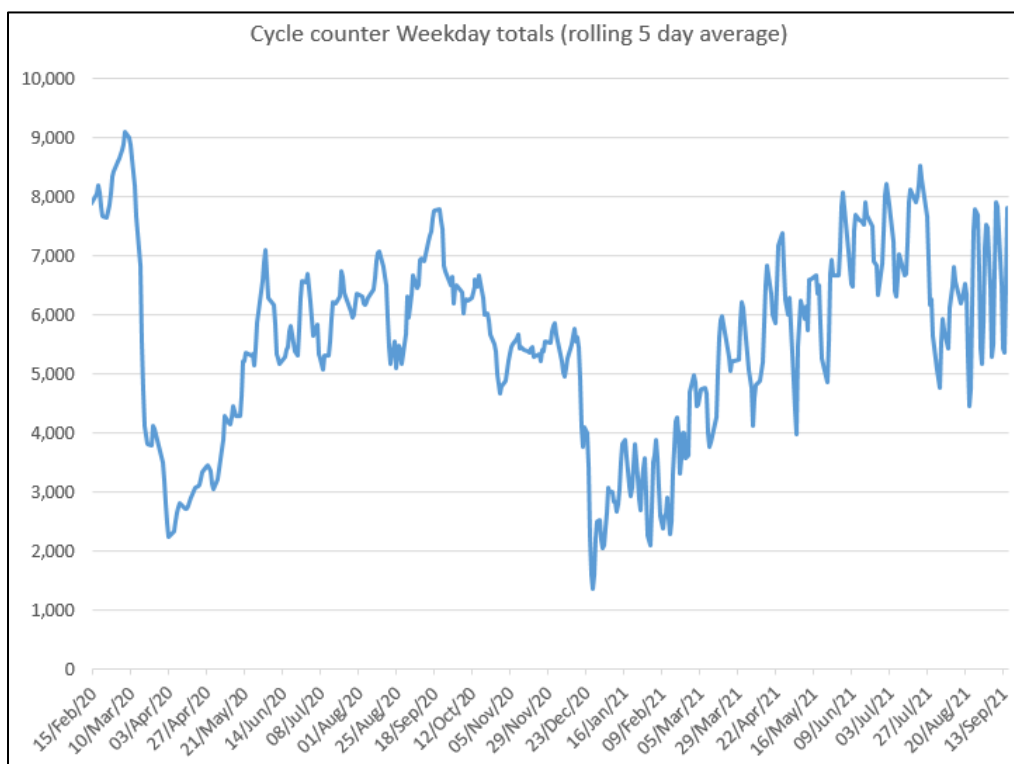


Footfall at key public transport locations (the Quays, College Green and Westmoreland Street) has increased steadily since the start of the year in line with the easing of restrictions and increased capacity on public transport.

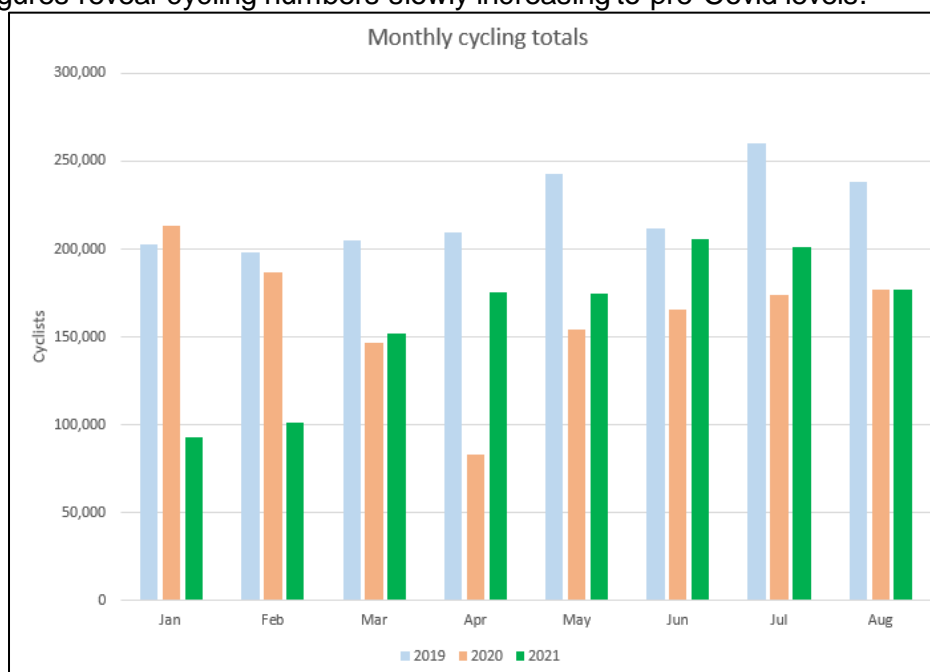


1.2 Cycling Volumes

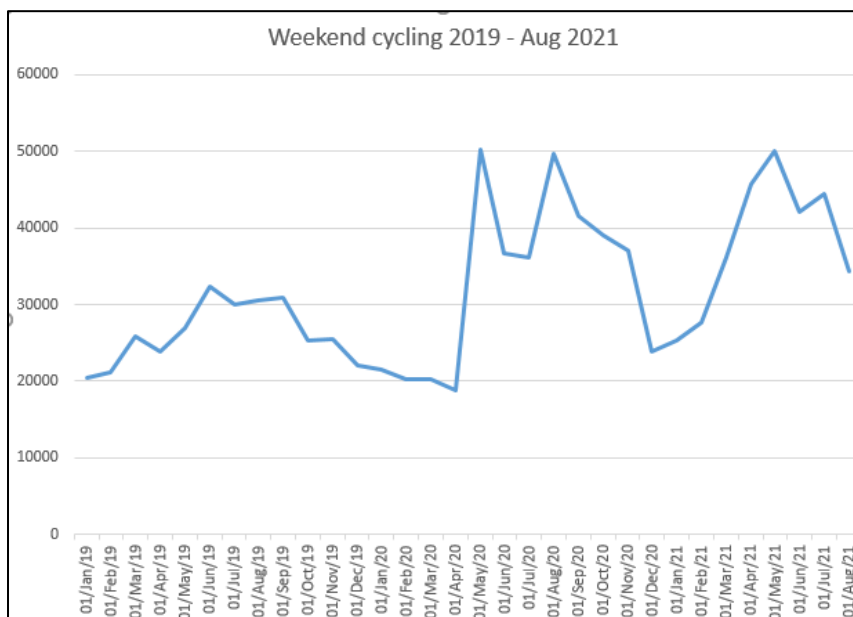
Cycling numbers dipped slightly during the summer but are now rising again.



The graph below allows us to compare the monthly totals from January to August for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Figures reveal cycling numbers slowly increasing to pre-Covid levels.

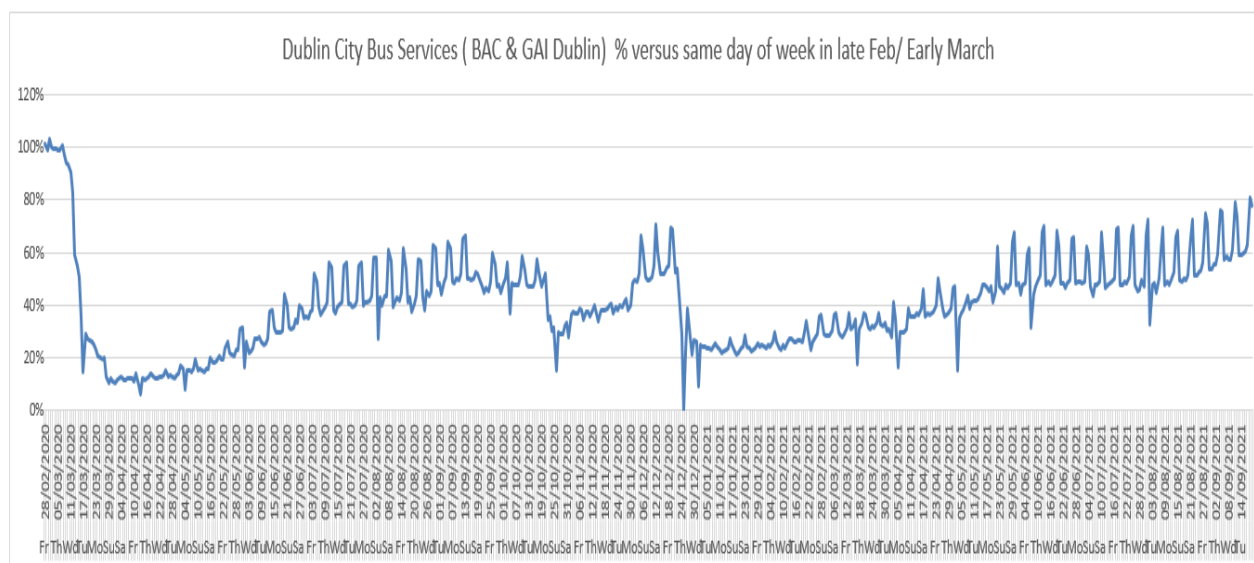


Weekend cycling figures increased sharply in April 2020 and have largely remained much higher than pre-Covid, apart from during the severe lockdown of January and February this year.



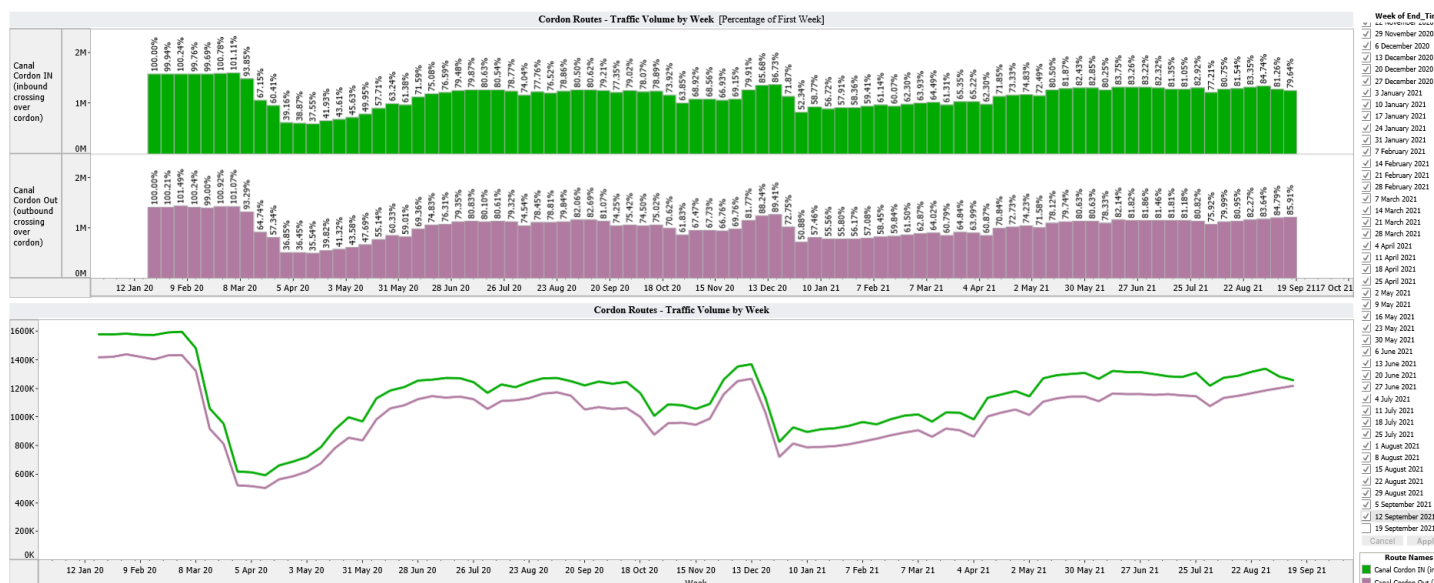
1.3 Bus Passenger Numbers

Passenger numbers are currently around 80% of pre-Covid volumes, the reinstatement of 100% capacity will mean that passenger numbers will continue to grow.



1.4 General Traffic Volumes

Traffic volumes have been rising and are around 80-85% of pre Covid.



The source of the Traffic volume data is from the traffic signal detectors at junction. Thus, it should not to be viewed as absolute values but they provide an indication of trends. Road side detectors can break and at times, they need to be recalibrated

2. Pedestrian Crossings

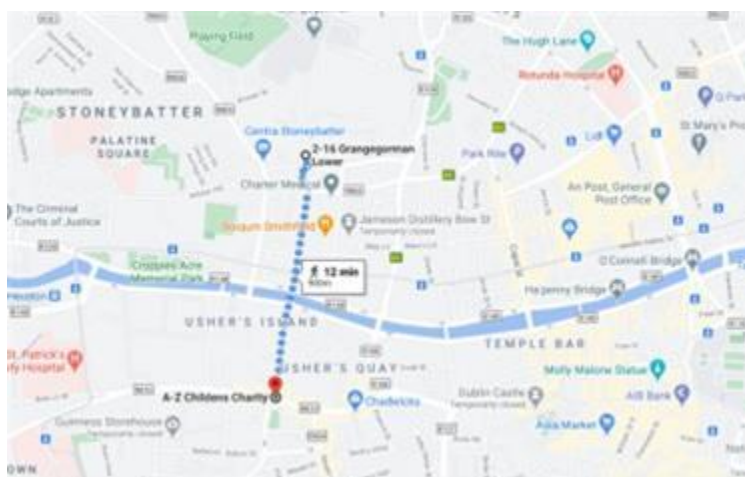
2.1 Pedestrian Crossings

Design work has begun on a number of pedestrian crossings across the city, which are due to be installed later in the year.

3. Walking & Cycling Network Improvement Schemes

3.1 Grangegorman to Thomas Street Walking and Cycle Route

Preliminary design is almost complete, a Road Safety Audit and AA screening is required to complete the process. Construction will likely commence in Quarter 3, 2022.



Map of the scheme

3.2 Griffith Avenue Cycle Route

Works are progressing on the upgrade of the junction of Ballymun Road/St Mobhi Road/Griffith Avenue including the provision of new pedestrian crossings and protected cycle links through the junction. Design works for the upgrading of the junction of Griffith Avenue and the Swords Road are complete. We are in the process of finalising the tender documents and would expect to go to tender for this work before the end of September. We have engaged a Landscape Consultant to assist in the development of designs for the permanent protection of the cycle lanes and will be liaising with both Councilors and residents during this process.

3.3 Collins Avenue Cycle Route

Following the Public Consultation earlier in the summer we have engaged a contractor to install extruded kerbs along sections of the Collin's Avenue Ext. in the vicinity of the DCU entrance and would intend to start this work later this month.

3.4 South Circular Cycle Route

Road marking changes and junction changes are currently underway with the scheme expected to be complete in the next few weeks.

3.5 Sean Moore Road Cycle Route

The major works for the Sean Moore Road cycle route are almost complete. The cycle lanes should be in operation in October.

3.6 Cycle Parking

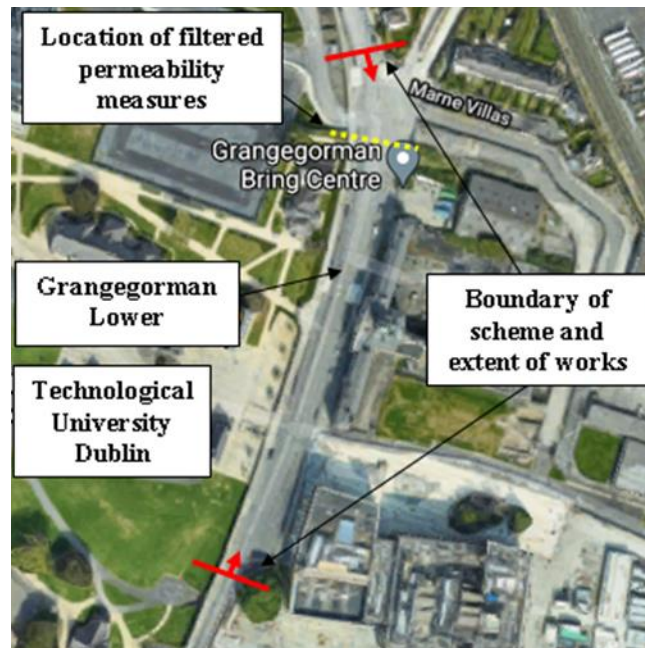
The installation of Batch 17 of the On-Street Cycle Parking programme is now complete. We are currently developing the designs for Batch 18. It is expected that we will be in a position to tender Batch 18 later this year with installation works starting in early 2022.

4. Traffic Calming Schemes

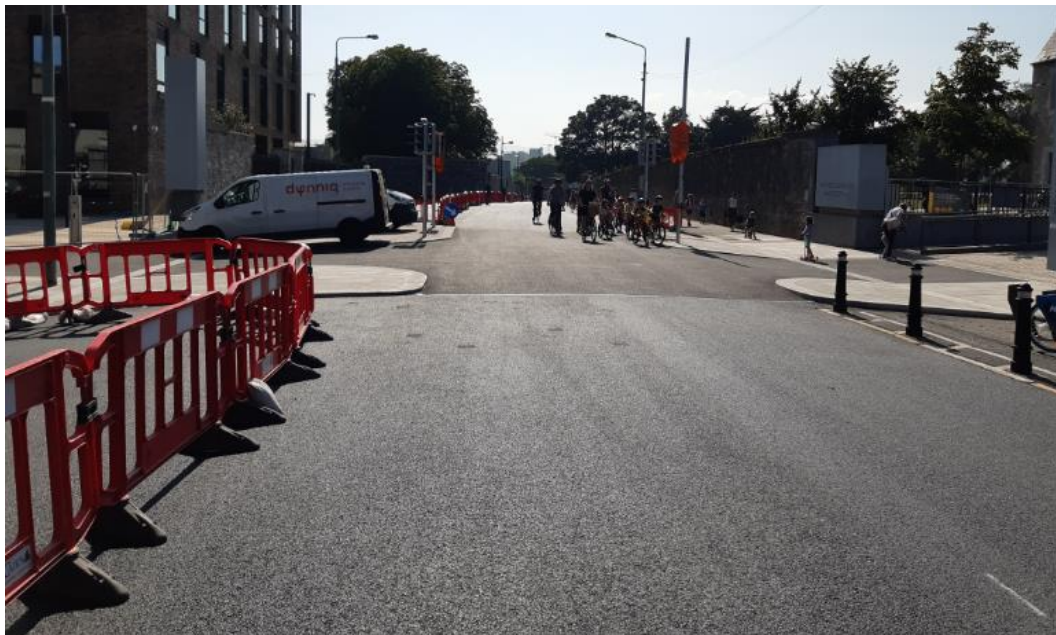
4.1 Grangegorman Filtered Permeability Scheme

Construction works commenced on 26 July 2021 and the major works will be completed in the coming weeks. Minor works including planting will be carried out in October and November in keeping with the planting season. Notification leaflets were delivered to local residents, prior to the construction work commencing, informing them of the plans and notifying them of the upcoming works.

Pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular access in the area is being maintained at all times during construction works.



Aerial image showing the extent of the resurfacing works on Grangegorman Lower.



Resurfacing works on Grangegorman Lower are complete.



Construction underway on concrete buildouts with planting / landscaping at the filtered permeability location.



Computer Generated Image of the completed scheme at the filtered permeability location.



Computer Generated Image of the completed scheme at the southern end of Grangegorman Lower.

4.2 Belmont Avenue

Following feedback received from Councillors and members of the public regarding transport related issues on Belmont Avenue Dublin City Council engaged external consultants to clearly identify the transport issues which currently exist and to identify potential solutions available. Following discussions with the Elected Members two solutions were identified as being feasible. Both options are designed to significantly calm traffic in the area and reduce the types of behaviour by road users which are currently problematic and contribute to safety concerns in the area. A 6-week public consultation went live on Dublin City Council's Website on Monday the 13th of September 2021 and will close on Monday the 25th of October 2021, <https://consultation.dublincity.ie/traffic-and-transport/belmont-avenue-traffic-calming/>

5. City Recovery - Business Support

The Covid Mobility Team continue to assist the City Recovery Programme through the re-allocation of road space to facilitate on-street dining across the City. New 'Zebra' interventions were added to the following locations in September:

No.	Name	Location	Parking spaces/ loading	Quantity of zebras required
48	Tiller & Grain_	Frederick St	10m loading	12
49	Slice	Manor Place	12m P&D/ Permit parking & 2m loading	14

The number of requests for new outdoor carriageway space has decreased significantly in the past month. It's not anticipated there will be many more additional locations added from now on. The [outdoor dining map](#) has been updated with the latest locations.

6. Traffic Free Areas

6.1 Capel Street & Parliament Street

Following a direction from the Lord Mayor and Elected members one final additional week has been added with the traffic free evening weekends now finishing on the 3rd of October.

We received approximately 7,000 submissions as part of the public consultation. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our largest consultation. It will take some time to fully assess all the submissions and understand any issues and see what ideas have been put forward. A full report detailing the consultation and the next steps will be prepared for elected members.



7. School Mobility Programme

Workshop on the exploration of sustainability and the generation of energy using pedalling bikes to create energy were delivered to five schools as part of the School Zone project. The workshops were delivered by [Pedalcents](#) and consisted of two types of activity.

Activity 1 – The VÉLOCITY Energy Awareness Challenge - 3rd class to 6th class

Pupils received instruction on sustainability, energy and how their School Zone could be used to switch to more energy efficient active transport where less greenhouse gases would be emitted contributing to positive action on climate change. The students pedaled bikes which were linked to a monitor showing how much energy they were generating and what was its equivalence in terms of a home appliance.

Activity 2 Pedal Powered Spin Art - junior infants to 2nd class

Involved discussion on green subjects like renewable energy (wind turbines), energy conservation (turning off appliances when not in use), being kinder to the environment and the purpose of their School Zone to support walking, cycling and scooting to school. In this activity the children mixed their own paints into a bike pedalled drum which generated Spin Art Work.

The following Schools were selected to celebrate their School Zones on the basis that they were well established and had taken action to enhance the effective use of their School Zones each administrative area was represented.

- St Louis Senior Primary School, Williams Park, Rathmines, Dublin for the South East Area
- St. Ultan's Primary School, Cherry Orchard Avenue D10NY53- for South Central Area
- St Vincent's Girls National School, North William St Dublin 1- for central area
- St Joseph's Girls National School, Barry Avenue, Finglas West, Dublin 11 for North West area
- Scoil Eoin, Greendale road Kilbarrack D05 K5P2 for North Central Area.



Spin Art Workshop



Spin Art generated by pupils at Scoil Eoin

8. Communications

8.1 Website

The [COVID Mobility webpage](#), is being updated regularly to keep the general public informed of COVID mobility interventions. As previously advised we will be making more extensive use of the Consultation Hub to provide information on proposed measures.

8.2 DCC Consultation Hub/Citizen Space

Details of schemes on the Consultation Hub at present include:

[Griffith Avenue Protected Cycle Track](#)

Members are alerted on a regular basis to any new proposals, which are available to view on the Consultation Hub. The aim is to have a more dynamic process for ensuring that support for projects, suggestions on how to improve them and concerns and issues, which may need to be addressed, can be handled. Any feedback on this approach is welcome.

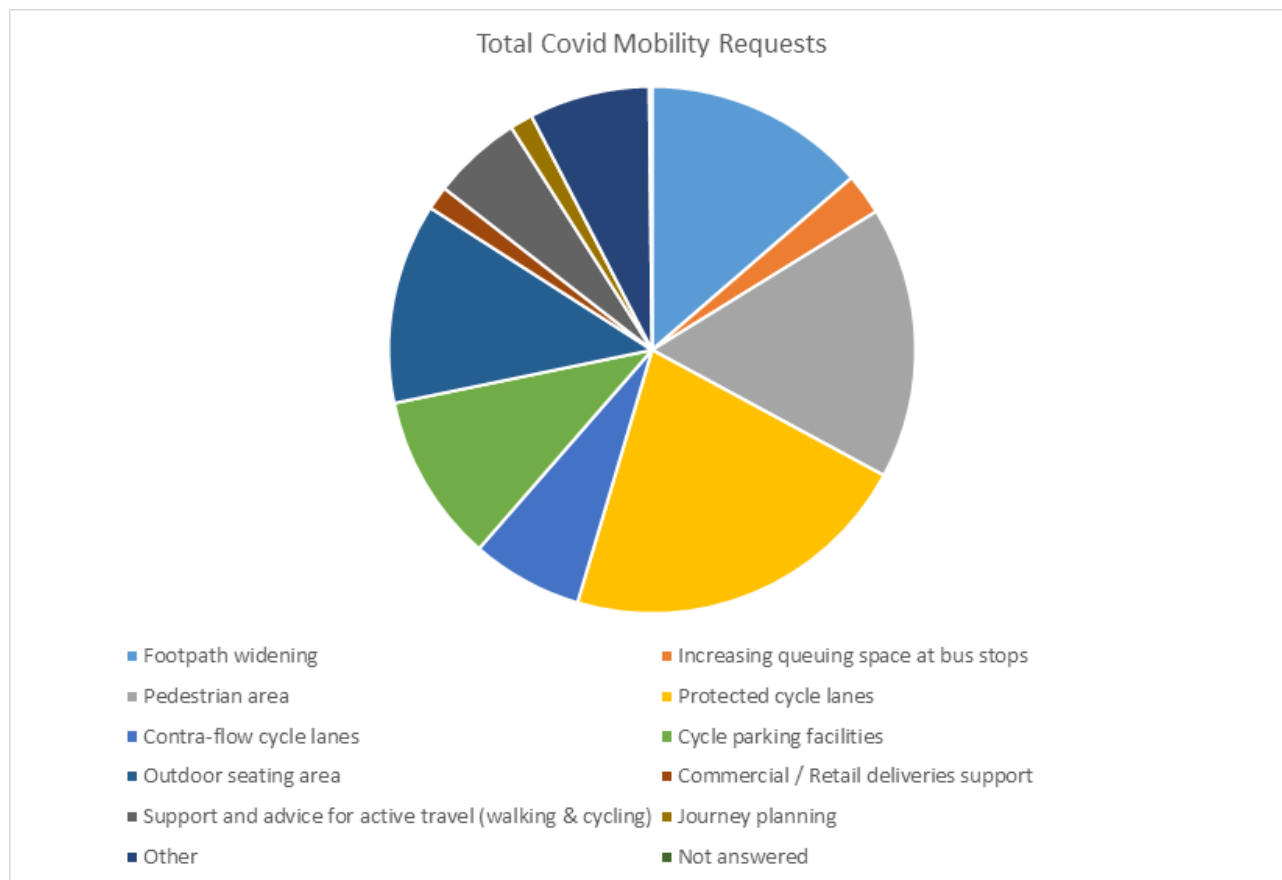
[Belmont Avenue Traffic Calming](#)

This 6-week consultation is open until October 25th, 2021..

8.3 Dedicated COVID-19 Mobility Measure Request Form

We have received 44 new requests for COVID Mobility Measures in the past month. This brings the total number of COVID Mobility requests to 6,070. A breakdown of these requests is below.

Mobility measure requested	Number
Footpath widening	830
Increasing queuing space at bus stops	153
Pedestrian area	1014
Protected cycle lanes	1316
Contra-flow cycle lanes	415
Cycle parking facilities	628
Outdoor seating area	747
Commercial / Retail deliveries support	88
Support and advice for active travel	334
Journey planning	85
Other	449



8.4 COVID Mobility E-Mail

The dedicated e-mail address continues as the primary channel to contact the COVID Mobility Team. It is attracting huge volumes of queries and feedback. The intention is that the e-mail is for general queries and the COVID Mobility Request Form should be used for specific requests at specific locations.

8.5 Councillor Updates

Updates on COVID-19 mobility measures will in future be issued to Elected Members on a monthly basis via the combined monthly report. Updates via e-mail are also being issued to stakeholders via the Transportation SPC and to the NTA for distribution to disabled persons user groups.

8.6 Active Travel Promotion

We are continuing to utilise Dublin City Council Social Media Channels:

- to highlight COVID-19 mobility measures that have been implemented;
- to encourage the public to walk or cycle, where possible;
- to encourage social distancing as people move around the city and;
- to encourage more respect for vulnerable road users

9. Promotional Events

9.1 *Bike Week*

A range of activities took place for Bike Week which took place from the 12th to the 18th of September.



➤ **Pedalpalooza** –a cycling festival for all kicked off the week on Sunday September 12th in Fairview Park. A host of exciting activities took place on the day including:

- VÉLOCITY Challenge with Pedalcents
- Spin Art with PedalCents
- Cycle Fashion with ReCreate
- Bike Maintenance workshop with Rediscovery Centre
- Fitness for Kids with Marcin's Monkeys
- Cycling obstacle course for children with Irish Centre for Cycling
- Cycling acts with Street Theatre Ireland
- Space invaders – 'Efficiency of Space' challenge
- Outdoor cinema
- Live music
- Cycling tours
- Alternative Cyclist Competition
- Yoga
- Children's games
- Bike demos (Bleeper Bike, Moby Bike and Accessible Cycles)



Participants enjoying activities on offer at Pedalpalooza

The event attracted over 1,800 participants throughout the day with a maximum of 400 people in the event space at any one time. The event also attracted high media coverage including a report on Virgin Media News.

Other Bike Week activities included

- Lunchtime City Cycles
- Community Cycles
- Staff Cycle Training and Cycle Challenge
- Schools Workshops and Cycle Training
- Community Bike Maintenance
- Social Media Campaign

9.2 Make Way Day

[Make Way Day](#) is a national awareness campaign, taking place on September 24th, which aims to educate and inform the public of the obstacles which have been inadvertently placed in the way of people with disabilities. These obstacles create significant difficulties for people with disabilities when attempting to negotiate their way through towns and cities.

We organized a lunchtime webinar on Tuesday, September, 21st 'Make Way Everyday - overcoming everyday obstacles to accessible streets' to hear from about the impact blocked streets have on people with disabilities and learn more about the Make Way Day campaign which takes place on September 24th. The webinar, which was facilitated by Michael Foley of One Open Dialogue, included Panelists:

- Mary Tallent and Naomi Oldenburg, National Disability Authority
- Robbie Sinnott, Voice of Vision Impairment
- Pierce Richardson, Disability Federation of Ireland

In addition, we will run a social media campaign on the day to raise awareness of the everyday challenges faced by people with disabilities. We have produced a video showcasing some of the key issues and will publish this on all our social media channels on Make Way Day.

We will also encourage people to complete the Disability Federation of Ireland survey detailing any obstacles on the footpaths in their local area. This survey will be available on 24th September at <https://www.makewayday.com/>

9.3 Climate Action Week

A number of staff took part in discussion panels over the course of Climate Action Week focusing on topics such as:

- *A Just Transition for Transport*
- *Safe Routes to School*
- *Women for Climate*

We partnered with the Climate Action Regional Office to screen the film “2040” open air in Fairview Park on September 12th.

Part B Walking & Cycling Major Infrastructure Projects

1. Staffing

The post of Programme Director for walking and cycling projects has now been approved by the Department, and is due to be advertised over the next few weeks, the Programme Director will be responsible for delivery of the walking and cycling major infrastructure projects over the next five years. To date no staff have been added to the walking and cycling team.

2. 5-Year Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Delivery

Over the next five years, Dublin City Council will undertake the planning and implementation of up to 140km of cycling and walking infrastructure. This is made up of 55km from 27 existing projects and 85km from 31 new corridors. The full list was circulated in Report No 67/2021 issued in February 2021. Initial assessments are continuing on the following corridors.

- **Finglas to Killester Corridor:** The overall corridor is approximately 7.3km long. The assessment is seeking to identify projects along this corridor that can be delivered over the course of five years. The inability to staff the Project Teams is causing delays to work on this corridor. It is now anticipated that proposals will be brought to the North Central and North West Area Committees in Q 1 2022.
- **Santry Greenway:** The project will include a river restoration and biodiversity element. It is being led by the Water Framework Directive Office.
- **Kilmainham to Thomas Street:** The assessment of the corridor has also started. It is anticipated that a list of interventions along this corridor will be presented to the South Central Area Committee in November 2021.
- **Cabra to Blanchardstown:** The corridor assessment commenced in August 2021. The assessment is seeking to identify projects along this corridor that can be delivered over the course of five years. It is anticipated that a list of interventions along this corridor will be presented to the North West in Q2 2022.
- **Naas Road to Inchicore:** The corridor assessment commenced in August 2021. The assessment is seeking to identify projects along this corridor that can be delivered over the course of five years. It is anticipated that a list of interventions along this corridor will be presented to the North West in Q2 2022.
- **Bayside to Donaghmede:** The corridor assessment commenced in August 2021. The assessment is seeking to identify projects along this corridor that can be delivered over the

course of five years. It is anticipated that a list of interventions along this corridor will be presented to the North Central Area Committee in Q2 2022.

- **Harold's Cross to Ballymount:** The corridor assessment commenced in August 2021. The assessment is seeking to identify projects along this corridor that can be delivered over the course of five years. It is anticipated that a list of interventions along this corridor will be presented to the South East Area Committee in Q2 2022.

In addition, a number of infrastructure projects that had been paused will be resumed. The following projects have resumed;

- **Dodder Greenway:** The NTA Cycling Design Office has been tasked with updating the options selection report. The review has so far identified items in the Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Reports that need to be reconsidered in light of recent court judgements and changes to legislation (S.I. 293/2021 - European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2021). The options review is currently focused on Beaver Row and Milltown Road.
- **Grand Canal Greenway (Blackhorse to Portobello):** A Project Team has been set up and work has commenced with a review of current proposals in the context of new projects that have come on stream, such as Busconnects.

3. Schemes with Statutory Planning Approval

There are no new schemes undergoing the statutory planning process. This is unchanged from last month. There are four projects with statutory planning consent. These are;

- Royal Canal Greenway
- Dodder Greenway
- Clontarf to City Centre
- The Point Junction Improvement Scheme

3.1 Royal Canal Greenway

The Royal Canal Greenway is being delivered in four phases.

Phase 1: Implemented.

Phase 2: The site is looking great and this summer it has enhanced opportunities for communities to walk and cycle as well as a visual amenity. Landscaping is now substantially complete. There will be additional work over the next few weeks, including the planting of Hawthorn to soften and to enhance the boundary walls.

Phase 3: Tenders leading to the appointment of a works contractor were received at the end of May 2021. The contractor selection process is being finalized, in conjunction with seeking the necessary approvals to proceed to construction.

Phase 4: The amending Part 8 for the scheme was lodged during September. It is anticipated that the Chief Executive's recommendation will be brought to Dublin City Council for their consideration at the December Council meeting.

3.2 Dodder Greenway (Herbert Park to Donnybrook)

A preferred tender has been selected. The project is currently experiencing delays. As a result, the award of the construction contract has been deferred.

3.3 Clontarf to City Centre

Tenders leading to the appointment of a works contractor were received in May 2021. In October, Dublin City Council will be submitting an updated business case to the National Transport Authority for their consideration and approval.

Information on the project is now accessible on the DCC webpages. The address is www.dublincity.ie/c2cc. The following information is now available;

- Project Overview and Progress Update
- Drawings and Visualisations
- Bus Stop Design
- Temporary Traffic Management

The Project Team is finalising bus stop designs following the engagement with disability groups and organisations and information leaflet, based on the feedback received from members. A leaflet is also being prepared for business and residents in line with the communication plan.

3.4 The Point Junction Improvement Scheme

A Project Team has been set up to resume the project.

Interim Schemes

The implementation of two interim schemes to facilitate immediate safety improvements for cyclists is ongoing. This is to compensate for delays in the delivery of the main schemes. These are:

- Liffey Cycle Route
- Fitzwilliam Cycle Route

4.1 Liffey Cycle Route

Works have been completed at a number of locations on the South Quays from Fishamble Street to Queen Street.

In July, works were completed along Victoria Quay and the upgrade of the Victoria Quay/St. John's Road West junction. The designs from O'Connell Bridge to Matt Talbot Memorial Bridge, for both the North Quays and South Quays are being finalised. Tenders leading to the appointment of Contractors will be issued shortly.

For the full permanent scheme, Dublin City Council has appointed service providers to provide the baseline archaeology, architectural heritage and conservation reports. The desktop studies to inform the brief for the design team and the screening reports are now being finalised. The archaeology team has received the final draft report. The drafting of the public realm and opportunities study resumed in June and will be finalized in September 2021.

4.2 Fitzwilliam Street Cycle Route

A survey contractor was appointed to monitor the performance of the interim scheme. The results will be used to inform the final design of the permanent scheme. This is as reported in the last report.

Brendan O'Brien
Executive Manager (Traffic)

John W. Flanagan
Assistant Chief Executive & City Engineer

28th September 2021