

Cork Environmental Forum

Position Paper 5 – Transportation Priorities



Transport Policy must be based on sustainable development principles, and its objectives should be:

- 🌱 **To integrate** transport and land use policy in order to minimise the need for transport and increase the proportion of trips made by environmentally less damaging modes.
- 🌱 **To achieve** standards of air quality that will prevent damage to human health and the environment.
- 🌱 **To improve** the quality of life in towns and cities by reducing the dominance of cars and lorries and providing alternative means of access.
- 🌱 **To increase** the proportion of personal travel and freight transport by environmentally less damaging modes and make the best use of existing infrastructure.
- 🌱 **To halt** the loss of land to transport infrastructure in areas of conservation, cultural, scenic or amenity value unless the use of land for that purpose has been shown to be the best practicable environmental option.
- 🌱 **To reduce** carbon dioxide emissions from transport.
- 🌱 **To reduce** substantially the demands that transport infrastructure and the vehicle industry place on non-renewable materials.
- 🌱 **To reduce** noise from transport.

It requires:

- 🌱 The preparation of Environment Standards.
- 🌱 Strategic Environmental Appraisal of Transport Plans against these Standards.
- 🌱 Limiting transport development to these Standards.
- 🌱 Environmental Impact Assessment of all road and traffic management proposals, and large-scale developments that increase traffic flows by 10-30%

It needs to prioritise proposals for:

- 🌱 Adequate, efficient and affordable Public transports systems for Cork City, suburbs, hinterland, and rural areas.
- 🌱 Promoting efficient Light Rail systems on disused Rail Routes in the Cork City Region.
- 🌱 Ensuring residential development includes support measures for public transport.
- 🌱 Parking for residents in residential areas.
- 🌱 Establishing the principal road network to take through-traffic away from residential areas.
- 🌱 Removing street parking from Cork City centre and County town centres.
- 🌱 Ensuring environmental improvements such as traffic calming, pedestrianisation, cycle lanes, nature reserves / corridors, landscape restoration with road schemes.
- 🌱 The reduction and enforcement of maximum speed limits on public roads, villages and towns.

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To foster, promote & implement sustainable development within the Cork region