



YOUNG FINE GAE

One Island Committee Transport Document



YFG
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YFG

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Transport Document

Foreword

*As President of Young Fine Gael it is my great pleasure to present our Transport Policy Document: **Creating a transportation system fit for connecting communities**, setting out proposals on how the government can better improve the transportation network across the entire island of Ireland and connect its citizens more than ever before. Fine Gael, has remained committed to working for the betterment and improvement of the lives of the citizens who live on the island of Ireland, recognizing the new opportunities which have become evident in recent years. The party once again believes it is time to reiterate, reinforce and reinvigorate its values and history. We believe it is crucial we work with all communities to continue to preserve the peace and prosperity on the island in whatever form the island may look like.*

In recent times we have witnessed an unprecedented amount of change and challenges both politically and in everyday life on both sides of the border. This document is filled with practical proposals and strives to encourage innovation both government-led and market-driven to help come up with the solutions to improve the transportation network on the island of Ireland, bringing people closer together than ever before and making transportation greener than ever before. We look forward to discussing these with you in more detail as we meet with you and always welcome your reflections and feedback.

This document is the result of months of hard work by the One Island Committee. From the formation of this committee, we wanted to work on detailed policy on what we all saw as some of the most important challenges in policy terms for the future of our Island – no matter what form the Island is in Politically.

We began our work by meeting various experts on transportation policy from academia and journalism. To avoid compromising their impartiality we will not name those from outside politics who met with us, but we thank them very gratefully for giving us their time and providing fascinating insights. In the process of the creation of this document, we also attempted to engage with members of all political parties from across the entire island of Ireland. We would like to thank TD's Fergus O'Dowd and Alan Dillon, Senators Regina Docherty, John McGahon, Joe O'Reilly, Emer Currie and Jerry Buttimer for meeting with us and being very generous with their time. We would also like to thank Conor Heuston policy director of the SDLP and MLA Andrew Muir of the Alliance party.

Eoghan Gallagher
President of Young Fine Gael

Committee

We also like to give special thanks to all the members of the One Island committee who worked to make this transport document a reality. The committee is led by its executive liaison John Healy who served on its previous iteration along with the two chairs of the committee Jude O’Kane representing the Northern chair and Pierce Dargan representing the Southern chair, with both having served on its previous iteration as well. Pierce, Jude and John have worked tirelessly attending meetings, working long hours and consulting with stakeholders across the island to make this document a reality. They were aided by a fantastic team from across the island of Matthew Talbot, Tiernan Fitzlarkin, Fintan Lalor, Emily O’Shea, Fergal Flood, and Garreth Foynes. These make up some of the best and brightest minds in Young Fine Gael whose invaluable input and ideas were crucial in making the document what it is today. As the committee continues to move forward to work on other important policy documents in order to bring this island closer together and improve Ireland for all, we feel hopeful that whatever the outcome in the future the work of this committee will have us prepared for all realities. The goal of this committee is to work with all groups who inhabit the island in order to understand and address the needs of all and to develop solutions on a whole community basis. This is represented in those who we spoke with during our meetings having reached out to all parties North and South as well as academics experts North and South and we will continue to attempt to reach out to all stakeholders in the future.

1.0 Missions

1- All public transport to be carbon neutral in 2035.

Making all public transport carbon neutral by 2035 is an ambitious but necessary goal to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This would require a significant shift towards the use of electric and renewable energy sources, as well as the implementation of other low-carbon transportation technologies. Achieving this goal would have significant benefits for the environment, improving air quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, it would create jobs in the renewable energy and transportation sectors, contributing to economic growth and sustainability. However, achieving this goal would require significant investment in infrastructure and policy support, as well as broad public engagement and participation.

2- Reduce vehicle emissions in city centres by half.

Reducing vehicle emissions in city centres by half is an important step towards improving air quality, public health, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This can be achieved through the promotion of low-emission vehicles, such as electric and hybrid cars, and the adoption of cleaner fuels such as biofuels and hydrogen. Additionally, it can be achieved through the promotion of alternative modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, and public transport, reducing the number of cars on the road. By reducing vehicle emissions, the city can create a healthier and more pleasant environment for its residents and visitors, while also contributing to the global transition to a low-carbon economy.

3 - Implement a comprehensive transportation strategy to reduce dependence on individual transportation by 40%, aiming for an average of one and a half cars per household.

Through measures such as promoting alternative modes of transportation, improving public transportation infrastructure, expanding cycling and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, implementing car-sharing programs, providing incentives for carpooling, and raising public awareness about the benefits of sustainable transportation.

4 - Aim to have bus or tram stops within an average of 1 km away from households in urban areas.

Aiming to have bus or tram stops within an average 1km distance from households in urban areas seeks to improve accessibility to public transport, promote sustainable mobility, and enhance quality of life. By bringing transportation options closer to residents, this initiative encourages the use of public transport, reduces reliance on private vehicles, and contributes to lower carbon emissions and less traffic congestion. Ultimately, this goal fosters more connected, greener, and more livable urban environments.

5- Aim to improve intermodal connectivity

Intermodal connectivity is a vital mission that aims to seamlessly integrate different modes of transportation, creating efficient and convenient travel experiences.

By connecting various transportation networks, including roads, railways, airports, and sea-ports, this mission facilitates smooth and hassle-free transfers for both passengers and cargo. It involves developing integrated transportation hubs, improving infrastructure, and implementing intelligent systems to optimize the flow of transportation. Additionally, the mission could focus on enhancing last-mile connectivity through initiatives like bike-sharing programs, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and improved public transportation networks.

2.0 Policies

2.1 Infrastructure

1 - YFG calls for the development of express rail connecting Belfast, Dublin Limerick Cork Galway and Waterford.

The development of an express rail network connecting Belfast, Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Galway, and Waterford aims to enhance regional connectivity, promote economic growth, and reduce travel times. This modern and efficient transportation system will encourage the use of public transport, reducing traffic congestion and lowering carbon emissions. By linking major cities, the express rail will foster greater collaboration, tourism, and regional development throughout Ireland.

2 - YFG calls for the redevelopment of the A1 and A5 national roads.

The redevelopment of the A1 and A5 national roads in Northern Ireland aims to enhance connectivity, improve road safety, and support economic growth in the region. By upgrading these key transport corridors, travel times will be reduced, and accessibility to vital services and business opportunities will be improved. This infrastructure investment not only promotes regional development but also contributes to a more efficient and sustainable transportation network for the entire island

3 - YFG calls for the redevelopment of the M50.

The redevelopment of the M50 motorway in Ireland aims to improve traffic flow, enhance safety, and reduce congestion on this critical transport artery. By upgrading infrastructure, expanding capacity, and implementing intelligent transport systems, the project promotes more efficient and sustainable travel around Dublin. This investment in the M50 supports economic growth, better connects surrounding communities, and contributes to a comprehensive transportation network for the entire country.

4 - YFG calls for the development of a rail line connecting Letterkenny and Derry to Dublin.

The development of a rail line connecting Letterkenny and Derry to Dublin aims to enhance regional connectivity, reduce travel times, and promote economic growth. By linking these cities to the capital, this new transportation infrastructure encourages investment in previously underserved areas, fosters tourism, and facilitates greater collaboration between regions. The rail line also supports sustainable transportation by providing an alternative to private vehicles, reducing traffic congestion, and lowering carbon emissions.

5 - YFG calls for the development of a rail line connecting all major airports (Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Shannon) on the island to the nearest hub.

The development of a rail line connecting all major airports on the island aims to improve accessibility, streamline travel, and support economic growth. By offering seamless connections between airports and city centres, this rail network promotes sustainable transportation, reduces traffic congestion, and encourages tourism. This investment in transportation infrastructure enhances regional cooperation, facilitates business and leisure travel, and contributes to a comprehensive, efficient transport system across the island.

6 - YFG calls for the introduction of Glider into areas that are less economically viable for light rail such as Galway, Waterford and Limerick.

The introduction of glider systems (trolley bus) in areas like Galway, Waterford, and Limerick, where light rail may be less economically viable, provides an efficient and sustainable transportation alternative. These high-capacity, rapid transit buses improve connectivity, reduce travel times, and promote public transport usage. By investing in glider systems, these cities can enhance their transportation infrastructure, support economic growth, and contribute to a greener future without incurring the costs of developing light rail networks.

7 - YFG calls for the coordination of electric charging point locations in the border communities.

The coordination of electric charging point locations in border communities aims to facilitate seamless electric vehicle (EV) usage across the island, promoting sustainable transportation and reducing emissions. By strategically placing charging points in these areas, drivers can conveniently recharge their EVs and travel between jurisdictions without range anxiety. This coordinated effort encourages EV adoption, supports local economic growth, and fosters cross-border cooperation in the pursuit of a cleaner, greener future.

8 - YFG calls for the introduction of a subscription-based service on public transport in cities.

The introduction of subscription-based services on public transport in cities aims to simplify fare structures and encourage increased ridership. By offering unlimited access to various modes of transport for a fixed monthly fee, this approach makes commuting more convenient, predictable, and cost-effective. The subscription model supports sustainable transportation habits, reduces traffic congestion and carbon emissions, and enhances the overall quality of urban life by promoting efficient, accessible, and integrated public transport systems.

9 - YFG calls for the introduction of a park-and-ride scheme in all major towns and cities with public transport on the island, service to be carried out with free parking.

The introduction of park-and-ride schemes in all major towns and cities with public transport on the island aims to reduce traffic congestion and promote sustainable commuting. By offering free parking at strategically located facilities, commuters can easily switch from private vehicles to public transport for their daily journeys. This initiative encourages the use of public transport, decreases carbon emissions, and improves overall quality of life by alleviating traffic-related stress and reducing the demand for inner-city parking.

10 -YFG calls for the introduction of a scheme to encourage the expansion of e-bikes.

Introducing a scheme to encourage the expansion of e-bikes can have significant benefits for both the environment and the community. The scheme would offer financial incentives such as subsidies, tax credits, or grants to encourage individuals, businesses, and organizations to adopt e-bikes for transportation purposes. The scheme could also include the development of infrastructure such as e-bike charging stations, parking facilities, and bike lanes, making it easier and safer for people to use e-bikes. By promoting the use of e-bikes, the scheme would reduce congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions, while also promoting healthier and more active lifestyles. Overall, the scheme would help to create a more sustainable and equitable transportation system for the future

11 - YFG calls for the implementation of a comprehensive expansion of night bus services, including the establishment of a late-night bus service between Dublin and Belfast, as well as the expansion of night buses along all busy routes in the island's cities.

This initiative aims to enhance connectivity, cater to diverse travel needs, promote economic growth, and provide a safe and convenient transportation option during off-peak hours, supporting sustainable mobility and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors.

12 - YFG calls for the implementation of a bike share scheme to be introduced in towns with a population of 25,000 or greater.

The implementation of a bike share scheme in towns with a population of 25,000 or greater aims to promote sustainable transportation, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality. By providing easily accessible bikes for short-term rentals, this initiative encourages active mobility, supports healthier lifestyles, and fosters a sense of community. Implementing bike share schemes in these towns contributes to greener urban environments and enhances the overall quality of life for residents.

2.2 Reform

1 - YFG calls for the creation of an all-island leap card/ contactless payment on all public transport throughout the island by 2025.

The introduction of an all-island leap card/contactless payment system for public transport streamlines travel across the island, enhancing convenience and accessibility for commuters. This unified payment method simplifies fare payments, encouraging the use of public transport and promoting sustainability. By integrating payment systems across various transport modes and regions, this initiative fosters seamless connectivity, reduces barriers to travel, and supports a greener, more efficient transportation network.

2 - YFG calls for the creation of an all-island transport authority as suggested in the Good Friday agreement strand 2.

The creation of an all-island transport authority, as suggested in the Good Friday Agreement's Strand 2, aims to improve coordination and cooperation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This unified body will oversee the planning, management, and development of

cross-border transport infrastructure and services, facilitating seamless connectivity and fostering economic growth. By working together, both jurisdictions can address shared challenges, promote sustainable transportation solutions, and enhance the quality of life for their citizens.

3 - YFG calls for the government to investigate the introduction of city loops into Cork, Belfast and Dublin.

The investigation of city loops for Cork, Belfast, and Dublin aims to enhance urban transportation and reduce congestion. By introducing circular transit routes that connect key destinations within these cities, city loops promote efficient travel, reduce transfer times, and increase public transport usage. This initiative supports sustainable mobility, fosters economic growth, and improves the overall quality of life for urban residents while contributing to the development of integrated and comprehensive transportation networks in each city.

4 - YFG calls for the government to investigate the feasibility of improving connectivity between Belfast and areas located on the west coast such as Enniskillen, Sligo, Galway and Bundoran.

Investigating the feasibility of improving connectivity between Belfast and west coast areas like Enniskillen, Sligo, Galway, and Bundoran aims to enhance regional collaboration, boost economic growth, and promote tourism. By evaluating potential infrastructure improvements, such as new rail or road links, policymakers can identify the most effective solutions for connecting these regions. Improved connectivity fosters the exchange of goods, services, and ideas, supports sustainable development, and contributes to an integrated transportation network across the island.

5 - YFG calls for the government to launch an advertising awareness campaign on government-funded public transport in rural communities.

The launch of an advertising awareness campaign for government-funded public transport in rural communities aims to increase ridership and promote sustainable mobility. By informing residents about available services, schedules, and benefits, the campaign encourages the use of public transport, reducing dependence on private vehicles. This initiative supports the economic vitality of rural areas, fosters social connectivity, and contributes to a greener environment by lowering carbon emissions and traffic congestion.

6 - YFG calls for the government to investigate the development of a hub and spoke transport system in our cities.

Investigating the development of a hub and spoke transport system in cities aims to optimize urban mobility, reduce travel times, and promote sustainable transportation. By creating central hubs that connect various transport modes with radial routes, this system facilitates efficient transfers and convenient access to key destinations. The evaluation of this model will help identify the most effective solutions for improving connectivity, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the overall quality of life in urban areas.

7 - YFG calls for the government to conduct a study on e-scooter regulations. Conducting a study on e-scooter regulations is important to ensure the safety of riders, pedestrians, and other road users.

The study would analyze the potential risks and benefits of e-scooter use, including issues such as speed, helmet use, and designated areas for use. The study would also consider the legal and practical aspects of implementing e-scooter regulations, such as licensing requirements, insurance, and enforcement. Ultimately, a well-informed and evidence-based approach to e-scooter regulations would help to promote the safe and responsible use of e-scooters, while minimizing the risk of accidents and injuries.

8 - YFG calls for the government to investigate the use of excess capacity in our rail network for freight.

Investigating the use of excess capacity in our rail network for freight is an important step towards a more sustainable and efficient transportation system. Rail freight has the potential to reduce congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions, while also offering cost-effective and reliable transportation. The investigation would consider the feasibility and practicality of utilizing unused capacity in the rail network, including the potential benefits and challenges. The results of the investigation would inform the development of a strategy to promote and support the use of rail freight, providing economic and environmental benefits for the community.

9 - YFG calls for a cross-party agreement on key transportation infrastructure over a 10-year period.

A cross-party agreement on key transportation infrastructure over a 10-year period would provide much-needed stability and direction for the transportation sector. This agreement would ensure that projects are planned and executed with a long-term view, reducing the risk of changes in priorities due to political changes or short-term economic considerations. Additionally, a cross-party agreement would encourage collaboration and compromise, leading to more comprehensive and effective solutions that benefit the community as a whole. By establishing a roadmap for transportation infrastructure development over a decade, the government could provide certainty for investors and contractors, encouraging long-term investment and stimulating economic growth. Overall, a cross-party agreement on key transportation infrastructure would create a more sustainable, efficient, and resilient transportation system for the future.

10 - YFG calls for the government to enforce the hiring of an environmental expert to advise during the feasibility study process.

Hiring an environmental expert to advise during the feasibility study process is a crucial step in ensuring that environmental factors are taken into account in any proposed project. The expert can provide insight into the potential environmental impacts of the project, identify any sensitive areas that may need to be protected, and recommend measures to minimize the project's negative effects. This proactive approach can help to avoid costly delays and potential legal challenges that may arise from non-compliance with environmental regulations. Overall, investing in an environmental expert can help to ensure that the project is designed and implemented in a sustainable and responsible manner.

11 - YFG calls for the establishment of new clean air zones in the centre of major cities throughout the island.

The establishment of new clean air zones in the centre of major cities across the island aims to improve air quality and public health by reducing pollution from vehicle emissions. By implementing restrictions on the most polluting vehicles (diesel) and encouraging the use of cleaner transportation alternatives, these zones promote sustainable urban mobility. This initiative supports environmental protection, enhances the quality of life for urban residents, and contributes to the overall goal of creating greener, more livable cities.

12 - YFG calls for the pedestrianization of high-footfall areas in the city after a community consultation process.

Pedestrianization of high footfall areas in the city after a community consultation process can have significant benefits for both the environment and the community. By reducing traffic, air pollution levels can be decreased, making the city a healthier and more pleasant place to live. Additionally, pedestrianization can create safer and more attractive public spaces, encouraging people to walk, shop, and socialize in the area. The community consultation process would ensure that the needs and concerns of local residents and businesses are taken into account, leading to a more successful and widely supported project. Overall, pedestrianization can help to transform the city into a more vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place.

3.0 Young Fine Gael

Young Fine Gael (YFG) is the youth wing of the Fine Gael party and always welcomes new members aged between 15 and 35. YFG is the only vehicle for young people to seek political change in this country. As an autonomous youth organization, it has the advantage of embodying the values of the Fine Gael Party, while maintaining the independence to express the views of young people.

Members of YFG can also be members of Fine Gael and take part fully in the party at all levels. YFG has its own President and National Executive.

YFG believes strongly in the ideal of the European Union and is a member of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP), an organization of one and a half million members. YFG has been influenced by the ideas of Christian Democracy and Compassionate Centrism. This means that YFG, like Fine Gael, evaluates everything and tries to move on what it sees as the right thing to do in each given situation. Over the years, we have developed wide-ranging policies at this level and in recent years we have been at the forefront of YEPP, devising successful and important policy resolutions on topics like improving EU banking regulations or introducing an EU-wide vetting scheme for youth and children workers.



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