

## Progress on Smarter Travel

### Highlights January – March 2009:

- **Smarter Travel policy published:** The Smarter Travel policy was published in February. The Department of Transport restructured to meet the new agenda by establishing the National Sustainable Travel Office. Other changes within the Department, to support implementation of the policy, include the establishment of a Land Use & Transport Integration Division and a Freight Policy & Logistics Division. The formation of these divisions responds to specific gaps highlighted in the development and public consultation process of the Smarter Travel Policy.
- **Smarter Travel brand in place:** A Smarter Travel brand was created, and is being used in the promotion of schemes, projects and events.
- **Publication of guidelines for sustainable residential development in urban areas:** The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government published guidelines for planning authorities on the sustainable residential development in urban areas. These guidelines specifically highlight the importance of integrated transport and land use planning.
- **Cross border relationship:** Strong working relationships with Northern Ireland have been established. For example, the concept of bike week has been agreed on an all-island basis.
- **VFM review of regional air services:** A value for money review of exchequer supports for regional air access commenced.
- **Working group on electric vehicles:** The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources established working groups to progress the preparation of a detailed plan for Government to achieve the target of 10% electric vehicles in the national fleet by 2020.
- **VRT and motor tax changes:** Analysis by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government of recent changes to Vehicle Registration tax, and motor tax, shows the positive impact of the scheme. The weighted average new car registered in the 12 months prior to the scheme was a band D vehicle. Since the introduction of the scheme the average is a band C vehicle, the average Greenhouse Gas emissions per km having fallen by over 15g/km.
- **Hybrid electric Dublin bus:** Dublin Bus are trialling a hybrid bus in their fleet. This trial will help public transport providers assess the benefits and barriers to the implementation of hybrid technology in their fleets.

- **Traffic management grants:** Traffic management grants of €40m will be provided to Local Authorities in the GDA in 2009 to address particular pinch points affecting the bus network. Key measures being implemented include the College Green bus gate and Greenhills Road/Crumlin Road Quality Bus Corridor.
- **Bus priority outside Dublin:** Progress is being made on key 2009 measures to promote greater bus priority and reliability of public transport including the provision of Green routes in Cork, Limerick and Galway.
- **Light rail feasibility studies:** Feasibility studies into light rail systems in Cork, Galway and Waterford have commenced, and a Limerick study is to start in the near future.
- **Automated vehicle location equipment in Bus Éireann fleet:** Bus Éireann has completed the installation of automated vehicle location equipment in its fleet, and are now providing real time information on its website on a limited trial basis. A real times arrival screen has been placed in the main bus depot in Dublin.
- **Louth public transport study:** The Department of Transport has provided funding to Louth County Council to carry out a study of existing public transport in Louth to identify ways of improving access to services through more efficient deployment of resources.