

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ring Road approved, but Galway deserves more than just another road, says Greens' Murphy

Responding to the decision of An Comisiún Pleanála (ACP) to grant permission to the Galway ring road, Niall Murphy, Green Party candidate for Galway West, said:

“Today, the Galway City Ring Road has been granted permission. Clarity has been given on this project, but Galway deserves more than just a ring road.

“The most important thing to do now is to start pushing forward the other transport projects which have been delayed by the Government as the ring road planning process has been ongoing.

Murphy highlighted that the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS) has been awaiting this decision. This strategy will define many key projects for alleviating traffic in the city such as more bus lanes and bike and pedestrian facilities. The ring road plan submitted to ACP made it clear that the ring road alone will not alleviate city centre congestion.

“We need to double down on public transport and active travel options. The new bus timetable for Galway, with 50% more services, has been on hold and is not expected until 2028. Now is the time to push for the funding to make that happen sooner.”

“Finally, Galway deserves a Luas service. The GLUAS Light Rail feasibility study is complete and it needs to move to the preferred route selection phase now. The NTA told us it was on hold until ACP delivered a decision on the ring road. That road block is now removed.”

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

- Several other measures are proposed to reduce traffic in Galway city centre:
 - Double tracking the rail line to Athenry and providing a train stop in Renmore would make commuting by rail from east of the city an attractive option.
 - Adding bus lanes the length of the Western Distributor Road would make park-and-ride from the Cappagh road the quickest way into the city from the west.
 - Delivering the Dangan to Moycullan section of the Connemara Greenway would allow the motorists and students trapped on the N59 to have bike or e-bike options.