

# *Nun's Island Masterplan*

## *Transport Scoping Study*

*August 2017*



Rialtas na  
hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

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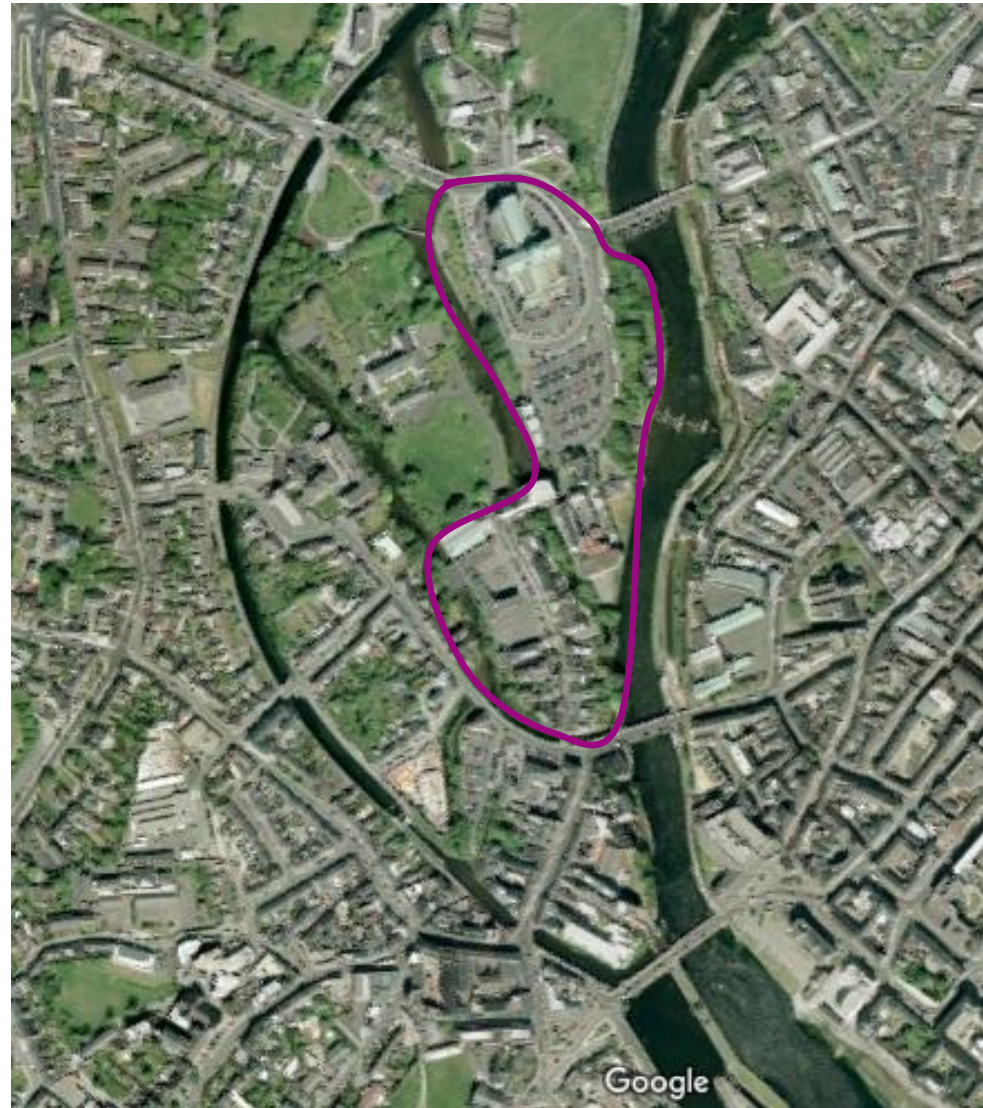
## Study Area & Methodology

The study area for the proposed Nun's Island Masterplan lies between University Road on the north and Mill Street to the south, as shown.

This Scoping Study provides an overview of the current traffic and transport arrangements within the Masterplan area and within the context of the wider city centre.

The following steps were taken to complete the Scoping Study:

- Review of relevant transport and land use plans and studies;
- Site visit; and
- Desktop analysis.





***Nun's Island:  
Existing Transport  
Network***



## Nun's Island: Vehicular movement

The Masterplan area is currently heavily car dominated.

University Road is the main route through Nun's Island and provides direct vehicular access to the Masterplan area.

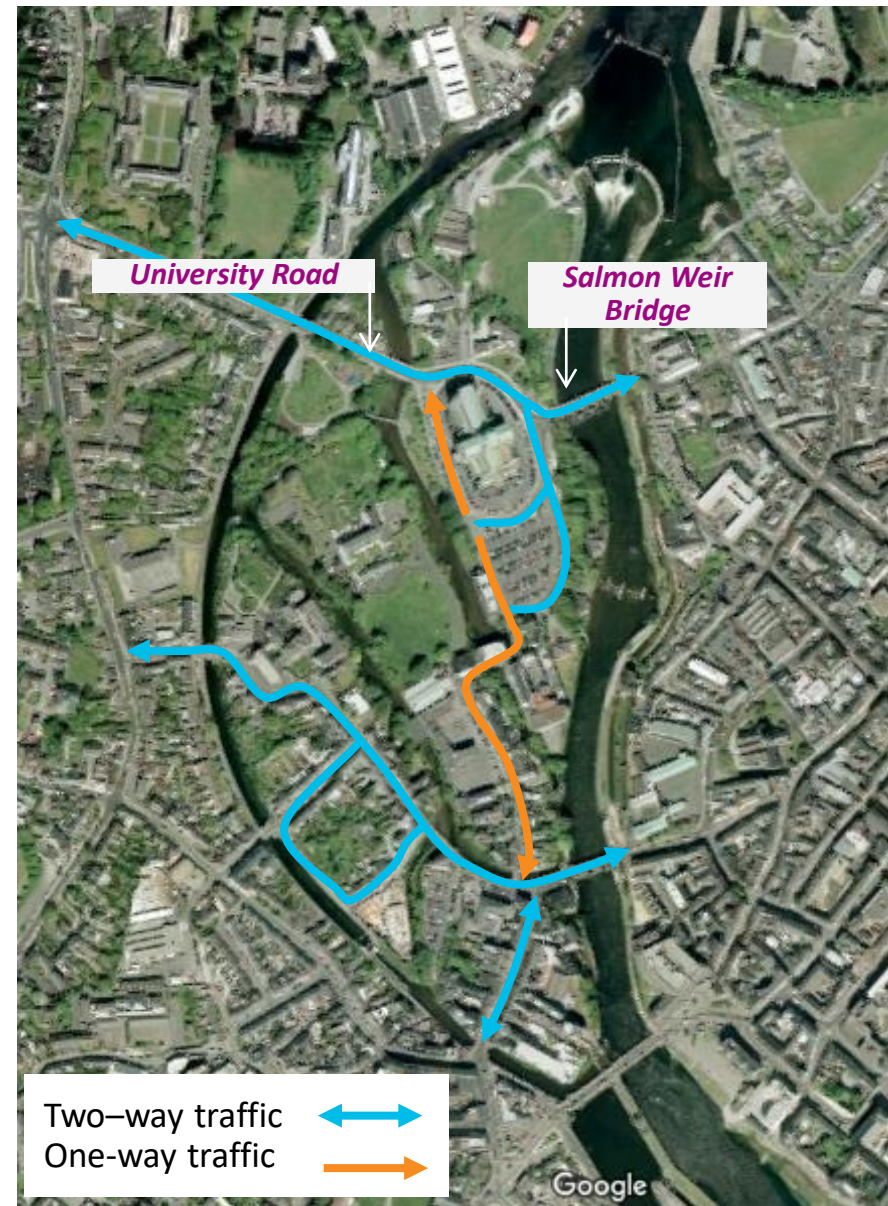
Salmon Weir Bridge, adjacent to the study area, is 1 of 3 vehicular bridges across the River Corrib in the city centre and therefore currently experiences high travel demand.

Directional flows are restricted, as shown, due to road widths and demand for on-street residential parking.

The narrow streets within Nun's Island experience rat-running but traffic speeds and volumes are generally low.

University Road is a key public transport corridor with city bus services, regional services and coaches using this as a key route to access the city.

Local schools generate peaks of travel demand within the area.



# Parking Availability and Demand

Car parking makes up a high proportion of the overall surface area within the masterplan area.

Two surface car parks are available as follows:

- Approximately 140 spaces within the Cathedral grounds. The car park is open from 08:45 – 18:45 and charges are €1.50 per hour or €8 per day. Car park entry is barrier restricted; and
- Approximately 200 spaces within a City Council Pay and Display car park which occupies a large proportion of the study area. All day parking is available for €4 which is relatively low and possibly in conflict with City Council policy on reducing car dependency. Park and Stride spaces are also made available for use by local schools. The layout of the car park is not efficient and could accommodate more spaces within its footprint or be reduced in size.

On-street parking is also available across Nun's Island and operated on a Pay and Display basis along with resident permits.

Parking in the area is generally in high demand from commuters, students and visitors.





# ***Pedestrians, Cyclists and Bus Movement***

There are footpaths around the perimeter of the study area. An off-road path/greenway runs adjacent to the canal on the west of the study area linking to a small park and playground across a pedestrian bridge of the canal.

There are no dedicated cycling facilities within the area. Two Bike Hire Stations are located within the area.

University Road is currently a key corridor for bus movement through the city.

The main coach parking area for the city is located along the eastern perimeter of the study area. Tourist information and toilet facilities are available within the area.

Bus stops for regional services serving the student population are located to the west of the cathedral.





# Summary of Nun's Island Access







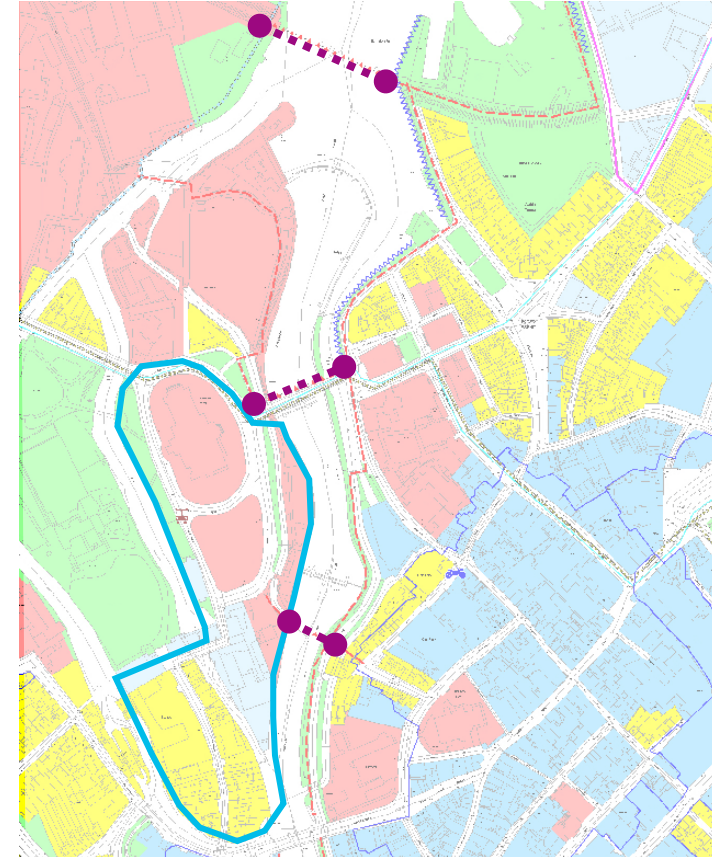
## *Nun's Island: Transport Policy and Proposals*

# Galway City Council Development Plan (2017 – 2023)

The primary transport objective of the Galway City Development Plan (GCCDP) is to ***“Continue to progress a sustainable transport solution for the city through the implementation of measures included in the Galway Transport Strategy and supporting projects”***.

Elements of the Development Plan of particular significance for Nun’s Island include:

- Nun’s Island is one of 5 areas *“ripe for regeneration”*, particularly in the context of catering for the information and communication technology sector.
- Permeable networks for walking and cycling and convenient access to public transport routes is a key requirement for new developments.
- Three new pedestrian bridges are proposed in the area, as shown. A bridge is proposed adjacent to the Salmon Weir Bridge to alleviate demand on the existing structure and improve safety.
- An additional pedestrian bridge is proposed across Kings Gap from Bowling Green to Gaol Road to improve connectivity to Nun’s Island and consolidate walking routes in the city centre. This bridge would significantly improve pedestrian accessibility to the masterplan area. This bridge was also proposed in the previous CDP.
- A further pedestrian crossing of the Corrib is proposed further north and would connect proposed development areas on Dyke Road with NUIG



New Bridges Proposed in  
Development Plan



Masterplan Area





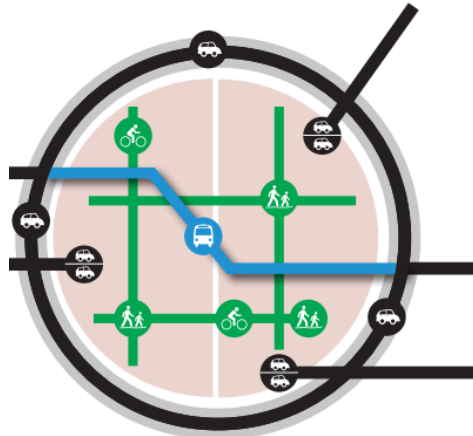
# Galway Transport Strategy (2016)

## *An Integrated Transport Management Programme for Galway City and Environs*

The focus of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) is to facilitate a shift away from private car use by increasing walking, cycling and public transport use.

The Strategy identifies the key issues to be addressed as:

- Reducing reliance on travel by private car.
- Delivering a public transport network that can offer journey time reliability and frequencies to maximise the attractiveness of the service and meet demand.
- Maximising connectivity by walking, cycling and public transport to major employment and education facilities



Five of the seven principles outlined in the Strategy are of particular relevance to the Nun's Island Masterplan, including:

**Principle 1:** To promote and encourage sustainable transport, and in particular to make it convenient and attractive to walk, cycle or use public transport.

**Principle 2:** To improve accessibility and permeability to, and within the city centre for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

**Principle 3:** To maximise the safety and security of pedestrians, cyclists and other transport users, particularly within the core city area.

**Principle 4:** To manage and increase transport capacity for the efficient movement of people and goods into and within the city.

**Principle 5:** To provide opportunities to enhance the city centre public realm through traffic management and transport interventions.

# Galway Transport Strategy (2016)

## City Centre Access Network

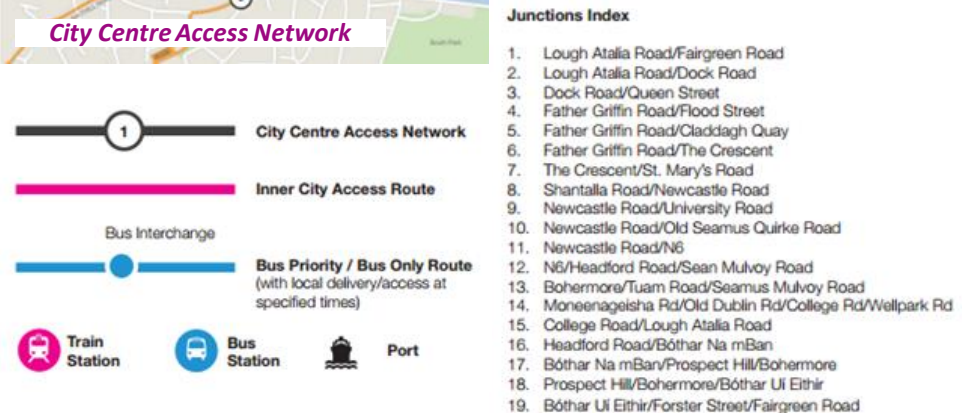
Nun's Island lies within the core city centre area and, as such, the proposed access strategy for the city will have an impact on the road network in the vicinity of the masterplan area.

The Strategy aims to remove non-essential motorised traffic from the core city centre area by designating vehicular routes around the city and prioritising sustainable modes within the core city centre area.

A clearly defined 'city centre access network' is proposed to enable traffic to access and move around the core city centre area.

The access network represents the optimum routes to key destinations in central Galway and will:

- facilitate access to car parks;
- allow traffic to access the city centre at the most appropriate entry points for its ultimate destination; and
- allow for reduced cross-city traffic along specified corridors.





# Galway Transport Strategy (2016)

## The Cross-City Link

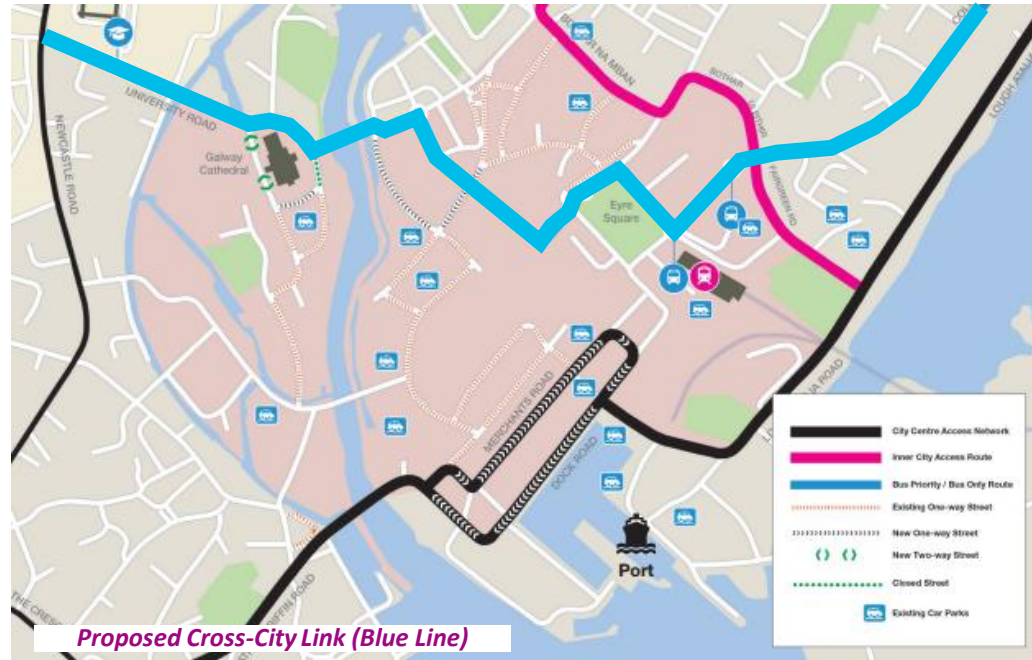
The proposed Cross-City Link runs along University Road, within the study area and will therefore have an impact on Nun's Island.

The Cross-City Link consists of a central corridor traversing the core city centre area, which will be restricted to use by public transport vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and local residential vehicular access only.

This route will provide access to key areas such as University Hospital Galway, NUIG, the retail and recreational centre of the city and public transport services at Eyre Square and Ceannt Station.

Public realm improvements are proposed along the Cross-City Link to provide an enhanced environment for cycling and walking.

Detailed design of the Cross-City Link is currently underway. More information on the implications of access to Nun's Island post implementation of the route needs to be sought from Galway City Council.



# Galway Transport Strategy (2016)

## Public Transport Network

The Strategy outlines a cross-city network proposal, based on linking the residential origins to key destination locations.

All proposed routes will use the Cross-City Link and will therefore travel via Nun's Island, ensuring easy public transport connectivity from the Masterplan area to all areas on the network.

All routes will serve the major trip attractors of the city centre, Galway University Hospital and NUIG. Opportunities for public transport interchange are provided mainly within Eyre Square.





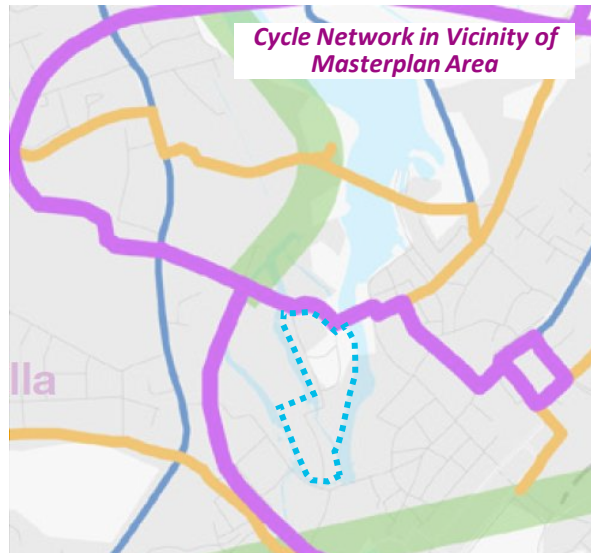
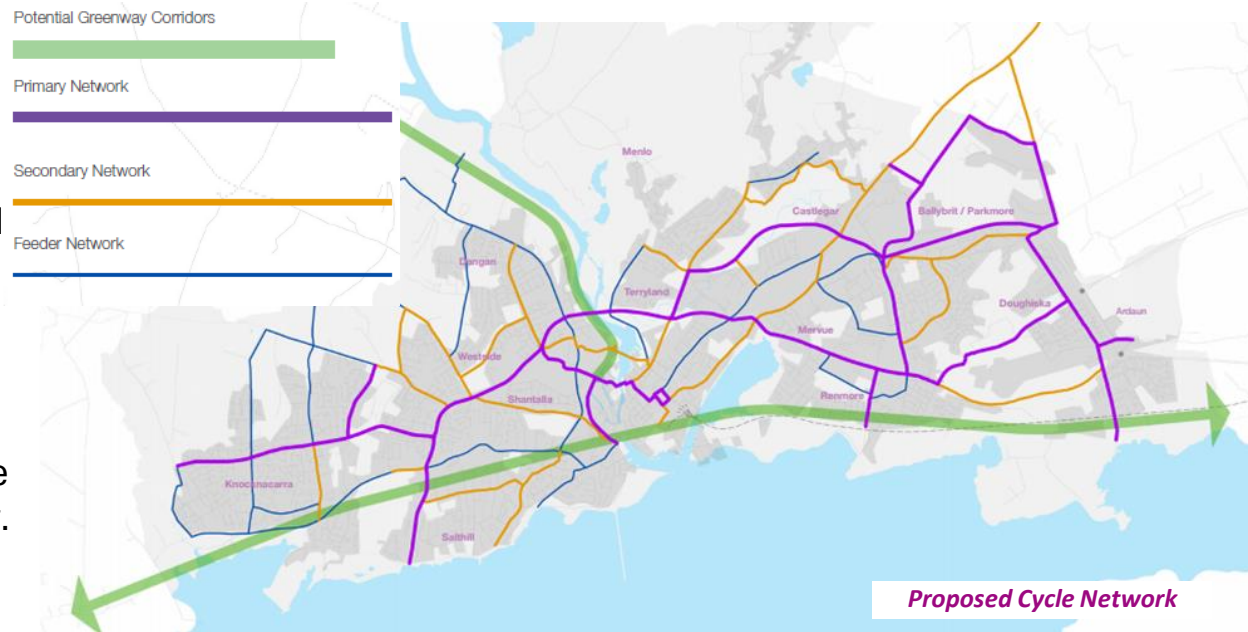
# Galway Transport Strategy (2016)

## Walking and Cycling

A cycle network proposed by the Strategy is intended to maximise the provision of high quality dedicated cycling facilities and give priority to cyclists in the city.

Three levels of network are proposed 'Primary', 'Secondary' and 'Feeder' networks.

Nun's Island is a key location on the proposed network, with interchange between the Primary Network and the potential northern Greenway corridor.



Within the core city centre area, there will be a continued focus on improving and prioritising the pedestrian network to encourage and accommodate pedestrian movement.

The Strategy also puts forward delivery of a new pedestrian crossing at Galway Cathedral, adjacent to Salmon Weir Bridge, providing improved pedestrian connectivity to Nun's Island.



# *Galway Transport Strategy (2016)*

## *Parking Policy*

The parking policies / strategies outlined in both the GCCDP and the GTS are of relevance for any parking proposals included in the Nun's Island Masterplan, including:

- The GTS proposes to reduce the dominance of car parking within the city, and in particular to shift emphasis from on-street to managed off-street parking provision.
- The GCCDP supports the GTS proposals for a reduction of on-street parking and the rationalising of access to off street facilities. This is in order to minimise car circulation within the city centre and to provide more road space for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.
- The GCCDP also states that the City Council will restrict car parking for future developments within the city centre.
- Consideration for new development within the city will also be given to grouped and dual usage car parking.



*Parking at Galway Cathedral*



*On-Street Parking in Masterplan Area*



# ***NUIG Travel Plan 2017 - 2020***

## ***Aims to reduce single occupancy car use and encourage sustainable travel***

The Travel Plan was prepared in 2016 as an update of a previous Travel Plan from 2011.

The Plan aims to cater for the travel needs of University staff and students, and to encourage sustainable modes of transport.

The objectives underpinning the NUIG Travel Plan are also applicable to NUIG facilities on Nun's Island.

There are limited proposals outlined in the plan, with no specific infrastructure or actions identified for Nun's Island.

Despite this, the Plan's focus on promoting sustainable modes, as well as the mode share targets, should be reflected in any infrastructure / proposals included in the Nun's Island Masterplan.

	Objective	Mode Share Target for 2020
Cycling	Increase staff and student cycle use through enhancing on-site facilities and working in partnership with Galway City Council / the NTA to address deficiencies in Galway City's cycle network.	Staff – 16% Students – 20%
Walking	-	Staff – 11% Students – 47%
Public Transport	Increase staff and student public transport use through working in partnership with Galway City Council / the NTA to enhance bus service provision, access to bus services and bus service / timetable information.	Staff – 10% Students – 15%
Car	Facilitate future growth of the university and increased travel demand by reducing staff and student single car occupancy journeys to the university through the promotion of more sustainable staff and student travel choices	Staff – 63% Students – 18%

## *Nun's Island: Summary of Transport Issues and Opportunities*





## *Summary of Nun's Island Access Issues and Opportunities*

Although there is a limited amount of through traffic on Nun's Island, the area is car dominated owing to significant car parking availability and proximity to University Road, a key transport artery of the city.

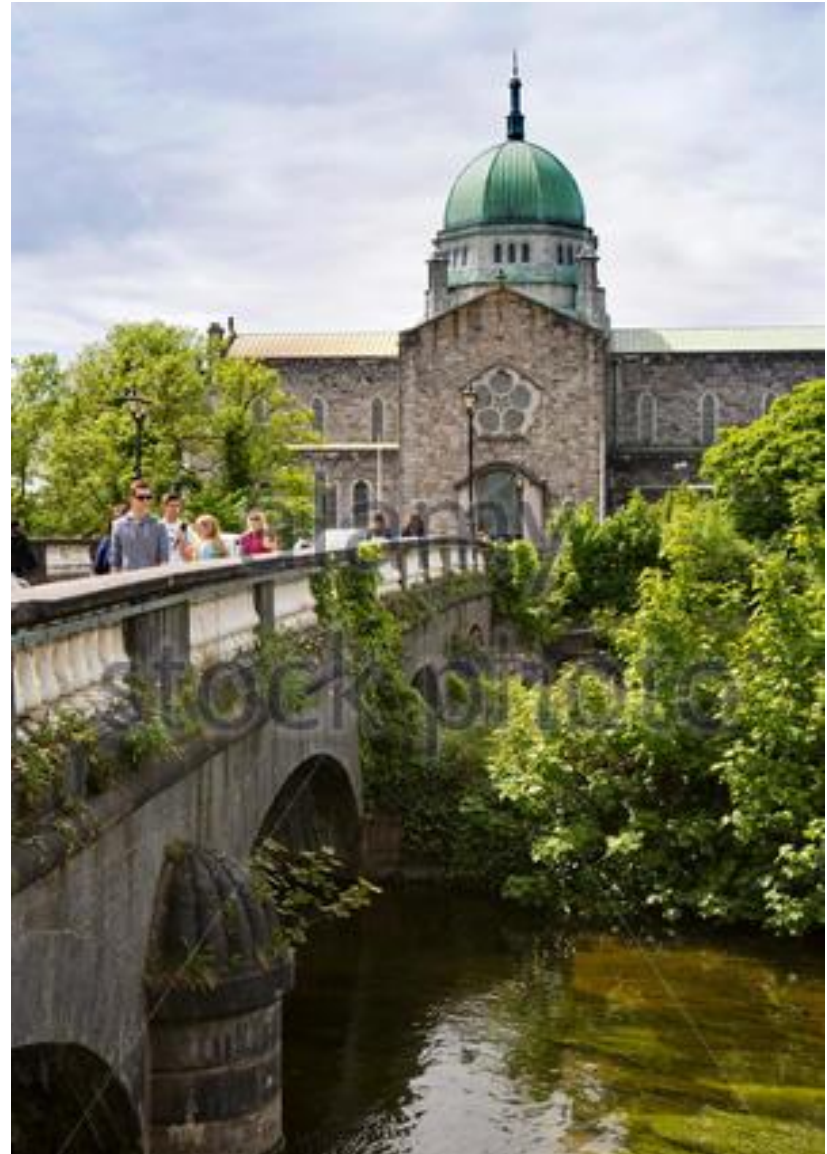
The narrow street network on Nun's Island is not suited to high traffic volumes and therefore development proposed within the study area is likely to be on the basis of minimum parking provision.

Any proposed development will need to adhere to the sustainable transport objectives set out in the City Development Plan and Transport Strategy.

Development of the masterplan site could present opportunities to consolidate greenway access along the Canal, connecting to NUIG, by way of a proposed pedestrian bridge across Kings Gap.

There may be an opportunity to formalise coach parking facilities within the study area and provide improved supporting facilities.

Detailed design of the Cross City Link is currently underway by the City Council, implications for access to the study area need to be determined.



**Contact:**

Elaine Brick

Associate Director, Transportation

[elaine.brick@aeom.com](mailto:elaine.brick@aeom.com)



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