
Consultation on the Department of Transport Statement of Strategy 2025- 2028

**Response from the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
(AmCham) to the Department of Transport Consultation on the
Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2028.**

March 2025

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland

The Voice of US-Ireland Business

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland (AmCham) is the collective voice of US companies in Ireland and the leading international business organisation supporting the Transatlantic business relationship. Our members are the Irish operations of all the major US companies in every sector present here, Irish companies with operations in the United States and organisations with close linkages to US-Ireland trade and investment.

The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland (AmCham) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the consultation on the review of the Department of Transport's Statement of Strategy for the period 2025 – 2028.

Transport infrastructure and connectivity is a key driver to economic growth. Ensuring the necessary transport capacity exists to support businesses operating in Ireland in expanding their operations, to provide for future investment, and to support talent is of the utmost importance. The delivery of this essential infrastructure has a direct impact on Ireland's ability to attract and retain skilled workers and talent. Supporting advancements in public transportation, airport connectivity, road infrastructure, and rail development are key measures that will enhance Ireland's competitiveness and strengthen its position as a destination of choice for inward investment into the future.

Strategic Goal 1:

In line with the Department's current Strategic Goal 1, which states its aim as, *"maintaining and developing our transport system, linking households, communities and businesses, both rural and urban, on the island of Ireland, while also ensuring Ireland's international connectivity which is key to maintaining our global economic competitiveness"*, AmCham is of the view that enhancing connectivity is a vital step in maintaining Ireland's position as a destination for investment and talent.

In a recent AmCham member survey, 24% of respondents said that ensuring adequate capacity at all airports and ports in Ireland should be the number one priority for Government in the context of transport policy. Supporting Ireland's regional airports, including Cork, Donegal, Kerry, Knock, and Shannon, with a view to delivering balanced air connectivity, will be key to driving continued investment in the regions through opening new access to global markets; and play a pivotal role in supporting the Irish supply chain network. The development of a new Regional Airports Programme 2026 – 2030 will further support the shared goals of enhancing Ireland's connectivity.

Furthermore, the development of Dublin Airport's capacity for growth, including the accommodation of increasing passenger numbers, would be beneficial in terms of Ireland's competitiveness.

A continued focus on the development of Ireland's ports will further enhance Ireland's supply chain networks and create new opportunities for continued investment. The

publication of a new National Ports Strategy that will foster investment in commercial and passenger-focused port infrastructure will provide a positive impact on the economy.

With regard to developing road networks that facilitate connectivity across the island and provide for private and commercial use, a recent AmCham survey showed that 37% of respondents highlighted investment in road infrastructure as being the most important priority for the Department of Transport, the highest percentage in this field of the survey. Commitments made through the Department and the Programme for Government are positive, particularly those to provide multi-annual funding clarity for roads budgets; to invest in new roads under the National Development Plan (NDP) review; and to establish distinct budgets for road maintenance and new road construction starting in 2025 to ensure sustained investment in the network.

Projects such as the Cork Northern Distributor Road, the M20 between Cork and Limerick, The Limerick Northern Distributor Road, the M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy project, and the A5 road upgrade and related developments to this route, provide direct measures that can improve regional connectivity, increase the supply chain network across the island, and enhance Ireland's competitiveness for investment.

With the upcoming review of the National Development Plan, due to take place in 2025, it is important that the NDP provides for operational certainty through mechanisms that enable long-term funding with regard to priority and fast-track projects under the NDP. This would enhance clarity in relation to the delivery of these projects and provide more certainty to companies in the context of investment decisions.

Strategic Goal 2:

AmCham supports the aims and commitments made under the Department's current Strategic Goal 2, which focuses on, "*Ensuring that our transport system is integrated, resilient and decarbonised in a manner that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable*". Enhancing Ireland's public transport network is of utmost importance in our continued ability to attract and retain talent and maintain our position as an investment location.

In a recent AmCham survey, members were asked whether current public transport services allow their employees to get public transport to their operations in Ireland. 31% responded yes, 35% responded no, while a further 33% responded that public transport connected some but not all locations. 100% of respondents stated that further enhancement of Ireland's public transport infrastructure was an important factor in supporting their business operations in Ireland.

This underscores the importance of delivering and completing critical public transport projects including MetroLink, BusConnects, DART+, and the Cork Light Rail project.

The delivery of expanded public transport services, along with improvements to frequency and efficiency will enhance the passenger experience, increase overall passenger numbers, and reduce the impacts of disruption to individual services. This will create greater mobility within regions and across the country, driving connectivity and strengthening supply chains.

The continued focus on modernising payment methods across public transport services, as well as the development and implementation of next generation ticketing across the public transport network would prove beneficial to encouraging the use of public transport.

Furthermore, continued efforts towards enhancing supports for Electric Vehicles (EVs), through the roll out of increased charging facilities, including ‘super-charging’ stations at strategic locations across the country, would support both commercial and private engagement with the EV market, increasing Ireland’s ability to meet current EV and emissions targets.

Strategic Goal 6

With regard to the Department’s current Strategic Goal 6 and its aim of, “*working to best serve the public and their elected representatives, through a resilient organisation with the right people, leadership, structures and systems, always innovating and improving*”, efforts to develop data and digital technology capacities with a view to improving service delivery are positive.

Increased digitalisation and the effective use of data can drive innovation across the transport ecosystem and provide greater resources for future policy development, and reviews of existing policies.

A greater digital framework within the Department, connecting with other relevant Departments and agencies, has the potential to boost overall efficiency, deliver improved project management and risk mitigation.