

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

City transport plan needed for run-up to Christmas - Dep John Connolly

Galway City's chronic traffic issues and congestion risk of worsening and becoming more severe unless a City Transport Plan for the remainder of the Festive period is put into operation.

The plan is being proposed by Fianna Fáil Galway West TD, Dep John Connolly, who is calling on stakeholders, including Galway City Council, An Garda Síochána, and Bus Éireann, to come together to formulate a plan that would run up to and on Christmas Eve.

"While the City's traffic congestion is a persistent problem throughout the year," said Dep Connolly, "as we've hit the Christmas period, those problems have become noticeably worse. It can now take an hour and a half to travel a distance of between two to five miles - essentially half the length of time it takes to get from Galway to Dublin - just to get from one area of the city to another."

Dep Connolly is calling for a special traffic and transport plan for Galway City for the weekend running into and including Christmas from Thursday 18th December and running to Wednesday 24 December.

Dep Connolly has reached out to Bus Éireann, proposing it extends the Monday to Friday timetables to include Saturdays and Sundays, thereby increasing the Sunday services on the 402, 405, 407, 409 routes.

"During the run-up to Christmas, Sunday's are as busy as any other day now," said Dep Connolly. "Placing extra buses on each route will counter to an extent the increased congestion over these coming weeks."

Among his proposals are for the local authority and Gardaí to engage with each other to allow Gardaí manage traffic flow, during peak evening congestion times, at those junctions not connected to the city's Urban Traffic Management Centre system.

Dep Connolly has also welcomed the return of Council's Christmas Park and Ride Service begins Saturday 13th December and runs until Wednesday 24th December. "The park and ride service is always an essential element in combatting the Christmas traffic congestion, and it is good to see it back," he said.

For commuters in Connemara, Dep Connolly is calling for additional capacity on the 424 between An Cheathrú Rua and Galway City.

“I think with the correct will from the appropriate authorities that a plan can be formulated rapidly,” said Dep Connolly. “We have the opportunity to counteract the worst of the City’s traffic congestion at one of the busiest times of the year, and a plan in 2025 will serve as an important testing ground for how we can deal with Christmas traffic in the years ahead. This is worth pursuing for stakeholders and especially commuters.”

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Dep John Connolly on this issue, contact: 087 - 9032345