



An Open Letter to Galway City Council

Let's Change Our Streets and make walking and cycling safer for all ages and abilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive of Galway City Council
City Hall, Galway

Wednesday, 6 May 2020

Dear Mr McGrath,

We are a broad city-wide alliance of residents, employers and community groups, led by Galway Cycling Campaign / Feachtas Rothaíochta na Gaillimhe. We live, work, trade and shop in Galway City. We would like to begin a conversation with our Council to *Change Our Streets* to reallocate space to people on foot and on bikes during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all working to re-open our society. Protecting public health for people of all ages and abilities is our shared concern, especially for vulnerable people, cocooners, and those with disabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most significant public health threat many of us will experience. We would like to express sympathy with those who have died of COVID-19, their families, friends, and colleagues. To all who are ill, we wish them a full and speedy recovery.

This global health emergency has required us to change our behaviour in many new ways.

People's environments need to enable them to change their behaviours to adhere to social distancing in the months ahead. Urban design is critical to this. Choices that the City Council makes can encourage these new behaviours we need to adapt in order to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

As advocates for people on bikes, we would like to offer our insights on road safety and urban design. We have many examples for temporary measures and pilot projects.

We are inspired by Milan's Open Streets scheme and actions taken by Dublin, Fingal County and Cork City local authorities. These cities are creating more public spaces for people to enjoy community and commerce, reduce feelings of social anxiety, and allow physical distancing.

We all want safer streets for all ages and all abilities in our 'new normal'. We have two suggestions to reduce preventable deaths and injuries, and keep people in good physical and mental health:

1. Reallocate road space to people walking and cycling.
2. Temporarily lower the speed limit to 30 km/h in urban areas.

Between the European Green Deal and the COVID-19 crisis, we have a unique opportunity to pilot new street arrangements, widen footpaths, and install temporary cycle lanes.

We are supported by a cross-city and cross-sector alliance of healthcare workers, residents, local businesses, community groups, and representatives from across the political spectrum.

We have 190+ co-signatories including consultants, nurses and paramedics from Galway University Hospital and Galway Clinic, Galway Chamber (400+ members), Westend Traders (50+ members), Engineers Ireland west, Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland west, Galway City Community Network (125+ members), sports clubs, and resident associations.

Our suggestions are also supported by the Irish Heart Foundation, Irish Cancer Society, Association for Health Promotion Ireland, Irish Pedestrian Network, and Cyclist.ie - the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says that 'whenever feasible, consider riding a bicycle or walking to provide physical distancing and daily physical activity' during the COVID-19 emergency. A global bike boom is underway as people switch to a 19th century transport mode.

Please read this letter in full at the upcoming Transport SPC meeting on 11 May 2020 so that our suggestions can be discussed at that meeting.

How COVID-19 impacts the use of public space

We have some existing challenges in Galway city that are exacerbated by COVID-19 and the social distancing measures that we must take to protect our health.

- A significant proportion of Galway City's approximately 80,000 residents **do not have access to a private garden or a car**. More than 20,000 Galway City residents live in apartments. 20% of households in Galway City do not have access to a car. Nearly 5,000 people use buses daily. Children need 60 minutes of daily exercise. Access to **green and blue spaces** has detectable mental and physical health benefits.
- There is an increase in **teenagers, adults, older people, and families** walking and cycling in their local areas, whether for exercise or essential journeys.
- Healthcare workers and other essential workers have reported incidents of **feeling unsafe** while walking or cycling to work.
- There is a **lack of space for social distancing** across the city for people walking and cycling. Narrow footpaths (1.5m or less) and painted cycle lanes do not provide the space to adhere with HSE social distancing guidelines.
- There are **road safety issues** with the reduced vehicle traffic. The most significant is unintended speeding, due to road design, but also red light breaking and phone use by people driving cars, vans, trucks and other motor vehicles.
- **People queuing outside shops** that have in-store limits are lining up on narrow footpaths next to wide roads with multiple parking and driving lanes.
- **Public transport** numbers are down as people stay home. There is a risk that levels of private car traffic may increase sharply in the intervening period before a vaccine is found and widely distributed. People may feel too anxious to use buses.

- With an increase in unemployment, and good summer weather ahead, the bicycle offers an **affordable transport option** to many who may not have considered cycling to date.
- The demand for **parking** has drastically reduced.
- Galway City Council has closed or restricted access to amenities, playgrounds and public parks, even to people living within 2 km. **Residents of places with natural beauty** are concerned that people in groups are travelling by car to these pleasant places for exercise.

Reallocate space to people walking and cycling; make safer streets for all

Expedient, wide-ranging action will reconfigure Galway City's public spaces to decrease public health risk, decrease social anxiety, and mitigate the risk of increased road traffic collisions as the restrictions begin to be lifted over the coming months.

We welcome the actions of Dublin City and Fingal County local authorities in reallocating road space from cars to footpaths and cycle lanes, and the pedestrianisation of Cork's Marina.

We ask Galway City Council to consider temporary measures, such as the following examples:

- **Install temporary cycle lanes** along all the routes identified in the Galway Transport Strategy (2016)
 - Examples: routes to Parkmore, Ballybane Road, Salthill's Prom, Threadneedle Road, Lower Salthill Road, Siobhán McKenna Road, Shangort Road.
- **Widen or introduce footpaths** using cones, bollards or planters on busy streets, outside shops or areas with queues, or thoroughfares to shops and essential businesses.
 - Examples: Dyke Road (from Galway United to waterworks and bridge), Sea Road, Dominick Street, Newcastle Road, Clybaun Road, Shangort Road.
- Temporary use of **cones, bollards and planters** to filter through-traffic in residential areas, and so make roads safe for children playing and people exercising.
 - Examples: Renmore Avenue, Renmore Park, Murrough Avenue, Rosshill Road, Upper Cappagh Road, Ballybane More Road, Dyke Road.
- Temporary **pedestrianisation** of roads and creating '**quiet streets**' to connect residences and essential destinations.
 - Examples: Woodquay, Palmyra Avenue, Raleigh Row, Ravens Terrace.
- Temporary **repurposing of full vehicle lanes** to cycle lanes. Narrowing of roads will also act as a traffic calming measure to reduce motor vehicle speeds.
 - Examples: Merchants Road, Sean Mulvoy Road, Quincentennial Bridge, Bóthar na dTreabh, Headford Road, Dock Road, Spanish Parade, Dublin Road, Seamus Quirke Road, Bishop O'Donnell Road
- Automate **pedestrian signal crossings** during daylight hours and increase **pedestrian crossing times** across the city. Add signage to prevent people pressing the buttons. Greystones Municipal District and other councils have done this.

Lower the speed limits

We suggest the introduction of a temporary blanket 30 km/h speed limit on all local and regional roads during the pandemic. In addition, drop the speed limit on roads with 60 km/h sections to 50 km/h and 80 km/h to 60 km/h. This will make walking and cycling more pleasant, reduce the risk of collisions, and reduce the severity of injury on impact, should any collisions occur.

Professor John Crown of St Vincent's University Hospital suggested same in March 2020. The Road Safety Authority says that half of all pedestrians hit by a car travelling at 50 km /h will die.

The Isle of Man introduced a temporary speed limit island-wide to 40 mph at the end of March, following NHS doctors stating that lowering the speed limits is the number one action to 'lower the baseline' of critical care admissions.

Brussels will introduce a city centre speed limit of 20 km/h from May 1 until the end of August. Milan's ambitious Strade Aperte (Open Streets) plan has 20 km/h speed limits at its heart.

Change Our Streets - make safer streets for all ages and abilities

The Minister for Health says that physical distancing measures will be with us until a vaccine or effective treatment is available. We know that this will, at the least, be months from now.

In general, please:

- Keep stable or expand the resources budgeted for footpath and cycling schemes.
- Bring forward the timelines for National Transport Authority cycling schemes.
- Include footpath widening as part of footpath repair schemes.
- Include reallocation of space as part of road maintenance schemes.

The COVID-19 crisis offers a unique opportunity to and trial low-cost solutions for a more pleasant and accessible public realm in Galway city. There is a low of low hanging fruit.

'Never waste a good crisis': together, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to *Change Our Streets*. We can create a liveable city whose streetscape and residential areas are designed with empathy and flexibility for the mental and physical wellbeing of all who live here.

We have had a glimpse of a future with more kids on bikes. Let's protect that.

We, the undersigned, look forward to beginning a city-wide conversation about how we consider, plan and implement public space measures in the interests of public health and safety, all while supporting local businesses and helping people enjoy our beautiful city on Galway Bay.

Yours sincerely

Martina Callanan and Kevin Jennings
Galway Cycling Campaign / Feachtas Rothaíochta na Gaillimhe

cc Director of Services, Ruth McNally
 cc Chair of the Transport Strategic Policy Committee, Cllr Eddie Hoare
 cc All Galway City councillors, TDs for Galway West, and Senators of Galway
 cc An Garda Síochána - Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Divisional Officer; Acting Superintendent Peter Conlon, Salthill; Sergeant Vincent Jennings, Salthill; Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Mill Street; Sergeant Darragh Browne, Mill Street
 cc National Transport Authority, Head of Transport Development Division, Michael Aherne

Co-Signatories

<p>Galway cycling communities</p> <p>Michelle Smith and Tiarnan McCusker Galway Urban Greenway Alliance</p> <p>Paul O' Donnell and Cathy Coote An Mheitheal Rothar, Galway</p> <p>Neasa Bheilbigh and Alan Curran Galway Cycle Bus</p> <p>Michael Scott and Máire Greaney Daly The Wheels of Athenry</p>	<p>Mick Ruane and Sara Duffy Galway Bay Cycling Club</p> <p>Francis Yates Galway Triathlon Club, Salthill, Galway</p> <p>Claire Lillis Connemara Greenway Alliance</p> <p>Eoin Wynne and Ruth Baguskas Curragh Line N84 Cycleway, Headford, Galway</p>
<p>AND national organisations</p> <p>Irish Heart Foundation</p> <p>Irish Cancer Society</p> <p>Association for Health Promotion Ireland</p> <p>Irish Doctors for the Environment</p> <p>Psychologists for Social Change</p>	<p>Cyclist.ie - Irish Cycling Advocacy Network</p> <p>Irish Pedestrian Network</p> <p>Love 30: campaign for lower speed limits</p> <p>Faculty of Sports & Exercise Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI)</p>
<p>AND healthcare workers</p> <p>Professor Paul Donnellan Consultant Medical Oncologist, GUH, Galway Clinic and NUI Galway</p> <p>Professor Francis Finucane Consultant Endocrinologist, GUH and NUI Galway</p> <p>Professor John William (Bill) McEvoy Consultant Cardiologist, GUH and NUI Galway</p>	<p>Maria Molloy Laboratory Manager, GUH</p> <p>Reg Turner Emergency medical technician, National Ambulance Service, GUH</p> <p>Mick Walsh Emergency medical technician, National Ambulance Service, GUH</p>

<p>AND healthcare workers [continued]</p> <p>Dr Brian McNicholl Consultant in Emergency Medicine, GUH</p> <p>Caroline Brodie Consultant Pathologist, GUH</p> <p>Dr Lynn Spooner Emergency Medicine, GUH</p> <p>Dr Esther O'Sullivan Consultant Endocrinologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer GUH, Galway Clinic and NUI Galway</p> <p>Esther O'Flaherty Senior Respiratory Physiotherapist, GUH</p> <p>Neil Johnson Croí, the West of Ireland Cardiac & Stroke Foundation</p> <p>Irene Gibson National Institute of Prevention & Cardiovascular Health (NIPC), NUI Galway</p>	<p>Paul Curley Paramedic, National Ambulance Service, GUH</p> <p>Mike Heron Paramedic, National Ambulance Service, GUH</p> <p>Tommie Monahan Paramedic, National Ambulance Service GUH</p> <p>Alex McMahon Student Paramedic, National Ambulance Service, GUH</p> <p>Aine Carroll Nurse, Bon Secours Hospital, Galway</p> <p>Deirdre Carroll Registered Children's Nurse, GUH</p> <p>Ashling Jennings Coordinator, Healthy Galway City</p>
<p>AND local businesses</p> <p>Kenny Deery CEO, Galway Chamber</p> <p>Westend Traders Association</p> <p>Paddy McDonald Director of Tribeton, Director of Edward Capital</p> <p>Malachy Duggan Massimo Bar and The Blue Note, Galway Westend</p> <p>Karen Healy Massimo Bar, Galway Westend</p> <p>JP McMahon ANIAR Restaurant, Tartare Café and Wine Bar, Dominick Street</p>	<p>John Power CEO, Aerogen, Dangan Business Park</p> <p>Michael O'Connor O'Connor's Centra, Salthill</p> <p>Paddy O'Farrell Corrib English School, Merchants Road</p> <p>Finn Delaney Director of Geomara, The Portershed</p> <p>Cathal Dullea Kearney's Cycles, Headford Road</p> <p>Colin Barry Founder Brite Mobility Limited, Eyre Street</p> <p>Naomi Ellis The Beauty Mint</p>

<p>AND urban environment</p> <p>Engineers Ireland, West Region</p> <p>Siobhán Kennedy, Chartered Civil Engineer Westside, Galway</p> <p>Kate Corcoran, Chartered Engineer Woodquay, Galway</p> <p>Barry Mugan, Environmental Engineer Woodquay, Galway</p> <p>James McHale, Chartered Civil Engineer Knocknacarra, Galway</p> <p>Roselyn Carroll, PhD, Senior Engineer, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, and Coolough Road, Galway</p> <p>Richard Browne, Chartered Civil Engineer Castlelawn Heights, Galway</p>	<p>Lester Naughton Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, West</p> <p>Paul Mannion, Architect</p> <p>Ciarán Ferrie, Architect</p> <p>Frank Monahan, Architect Founder and Director Architecture at the Edge</p> <p>Ulf Strohmayer Professor of Geography, NUI Galway</p> <p>Kevin Leyden Professor of Political Science, NUI Galway</p> <p>Eoghan Clifford Senior Lecturer, Civil Engineering, NUI Galway, Paralympic racing cyclist & World Champion medallist</p>
<p>AND political representatives</p> <p>Cllr Eddie Hoare Galway City Central, Fine Gael</p> <p>Cllr Níall McNelis Galway City West, Labour Party</p> <p>Cllr Owen Hanley Galway City East, Social Democrats</p> <p>Cllr Martina O'Connor Galway City Central, Green Party</p> <p>Eamon Ó Cuív, TD Galway West, Fianna Fáil</p> <p>Hildegarde Naughton, TD Galway West, Fine Gael</p> <p>Catherine Connolly, TD Galway West, Independent</p> <p>Mairéad Farrell, TD Galway West, Sinn Féin</p> <p>Noel Grealish, TD Galway West, Independent</p>	<p>Ciarán Cannon, TD Galway East, Fine Gael Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with special responsibility for the Diaspora and International Development</p> <p>Senator Alice-Mary Higgins NUI Panel</p> <p>Senator Pauline O'Reilly Labour Panel, Green Party</p> <p>Senator Rónán Mullen NUI Panel, Independent</p> <p>Senator Gerard Craughwell Labour Panel, Independent</p> <p>Senator Seán Kyne Cultural and Education Panel, Fine Gael Government Chief Whip and Minister of State for the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands</p>

<p>AND NUI Galway community</p> <p>Molly Byrne Professor of Psychology, NUI Galway</p> <p>Saoirse Nic Gabhainn Professor of Health Promotion, NUI Galway</p> <p>Brian Hughes Professor of Psychology, NUI Galway</p> <p>Rachel Hilliard School of Business & Economics, NUI Galway</p> <p>Shivaun Quinlivan School of Law, NUI Galway</p> <p>Eoin Daly School of Law, NUI Galway</p> <p>Rónán Kennedy School of Law, NUI Galway</p> <p>John Cunningham School of History and Philosophy, NUI Galway Jen Cunningham Development Officer, Rowing, NUI Galway</p> <p>Richard Silke PhD candidate, School of Political Science and Sociology & School of Geography, NUI Galway</p>	<p>Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh President Emeritus, NUI Galway</p> <p>Brian Ward Professor of Physics, NUI Galway</p> <p>Louise Allcock Professor of Zoology, NUI Galway</p> <p>Mark Johnson Professor of Earth and Ocean Science, NUI Galway</p> <p>Gilles Dupouy Plant and AgriBioscience Centre, NUI Galway</p> <p>Neil O'Leary Clinical Research Facility, NUI Galway</p> <p>Sadhbh Baxter Earth and Ocean Science, NUI Galway</p> <p>Serena Lawless Administrator, Civil Engineering, NUI Galway</p> <p>Olive McGrath Administrator, College of Science and Engineering, NUI Galway</p> <p>Elaine Feeney Creative Writing, NUI Galway</p>
<p>AND residents' associations</p> <p>Monica Farrell and Karen McGuire Menlo Residents Association</p> <p>Bettie Delaney Lower Salthill Residents Association</p> <p>Westend Residents Association</p>	<p>Mary Ryan Sandyvale Residents' Action Group</p> <p>Siobhán McEvoy Riverside Residents Association</p> <p>Andrew Chapple and Basil Fenton Clifton Park Residents Association</p>

<p>AND community and sports groups</p> <p>Ann Irwin and Professor Terrence McDonough Galway City Community Network</p> <p>Vernice Murray Galway City Partnership</p> <p>TJ Forde Ballinfolle Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre</p> <p>Loretta Needham Croí na Gaillimhe Resource Centre</p> <p>Niall O’Brolchain Member, Local Community Development Committee</p> <p>Shane Foran Community Representative, Transport Strategic Policy Committee, Galway City Council</p> <p>Simon Comer Community Road Safety Action & Information Network (Cosáin)</p> <p>Conor Burke Solidarity Local Area Organiser</p> <p>Michael Crowley People Before Profit Local Area Organiser</p>	<p>Brendan ‘Speedie’ Smith Terryland Forest Park Alliance</p> <p>Paula Healy Flirt FM 101.3</p> <p>Paul Kelly Knocknacarra FC</p> <p>John Hendley Galway City Sailing Club</p> <p>Justine Delaney North Galway City Community Choir</p> <p>Joe Mahony 13th Galway Scout Group - Renmore</p> <p>Brendan O’Gorman 14th Galway Scout Group - St. Patrick’s</p> <p>Liam Ferrie 32nd Galway Scout Group - Menlo</p> <p>Paula O’Connor Port of Galway Sea Scouts</p> <p>Maria Molloy Amách! LGBT Teach Solais</p>
<p>AND residents of Galway City East</p> <p>Liam Boyle Mervue, Galway</p> <p>Kerry E’lyn Larkin Murrough, Renmore, Galway</p> <p>Claire Hillery Renmore, Galway</p> <p>Maja Grings Tuam Road, Galway</p> <p>Dan Clabby Rosshill Road, Roscam, Galway</p> <p>Carmel Hannon Cregmore, Co Galway</p>	<p>Anna-Marie Craughwell Renmore, Galway</p> <p>Norahella Flaherty-Casey Ballybane, Galway</p> <p>Declan Conway Renmore, Galway</p> <p>Suzanne McDonnell Doughiska, Galway</p> <p>Vera Kenny Doughiska, Galway</p>

<p>AND residents of Galway City Central</p> <p>Eric Heneghan, age 7, says, "I'd like to have a safe cycle path from the Coolough Road, Menlo, so my sisters and I can cycle to school in the city."</p> <p>Dean Heneghan Commercial Manager, John Sisk and Son AB</p> <p>Seán Ó Flatharta Raleigh Row, Gaillimh</p> <p>Sharon Nolan Westend, Galway</p> <p>Loretta Needham Headford Road, Galway</p> <p>Cathal Seoighe Menlo, Galway</p> <p>John Newell Menlo, Galway</p>	<p>Marian Barrett Principal, St. Patrick's Primary School Lombard Street, Galway</p> <p>Martina Finn & Noreen Moore Third Space Galway, Dominick Street</p> <p>Colm Lohan Staff Software Engineer Bóthar Éinde, Shantalla, Galway</p> <p>Rory Carroll Software Developer, Storm Technology, Galway</p> <p>Eoghan O'Leary Fitzpatrick Castlegar, Galway</p> <p>Michelle Chiperi Presentation Road, Galway</p> <p>Eleanor Lardner Biochemistry GUH & Headford Road, Galway</p>
<p>AND residents of Galway City West</p> <p>Aoibheann McCann Knocknacarra, Galway</p> <p>Sinead McPhillips Arts Communications Consultant, Salthill and Moycullen, Galway</p> <p>Elaine Dobbyn Western Distributor Road, Knocknacarra</p> <p>Nuala Ní Liatháin Salthill, Galway</p> <p>Janet Kehelly Salthill-Knocknacarra, Galway</p> <p>Catherine & Desmond Moran Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, Galway</p> <p>Johnny Murphy & Blaithead Murtagh Seangort, Knocknacarra, Galway</p>	<p>Andrew Ó Baoill Rahoon, Galway</p> <p>Máire de Báicéir, Príomhoide / Principal, on behalf of the Board of Management, Scoil Shéamais Naofa, Bearna, Galway</p> <p>Liam Caffrey Newcastle, Galway</p> <p>Mars Duignan Newcastle, Galway</p> <p>Tara Durkin and Noel Murphy Shantalla, Galway</p> <p>Abel Garcia Cortina Highfield Park, Galway</p> <p>Alma Collins Bearna, Galway</p>

**AND residents of Galway City West
[continued]**

Marguerite Hughes
Rahoon, Galway

Oisín Ó Nidh
Rockfield Park, Rahoon, Galway

Eugene McKeown
Truskey East, Barna, Galway

Johanne Webb
Rockfield Park, Rahoon, Galway

Chris Marshall
Knocknacarra, Galway

Geoff Irwin
Highfield Park, Galway

Dave Mathieson
Salthill, Galway

Daniel Naughton
Knocknacarra Park, Galway

Maggie Hall
Knocknacarra, Galway
Eric Mortimer
Knocknacarra, Galway

Claude Warren
Salthill, Galway

Valerie Parker
Whitestrans Road, Galway

Aisling McCluskey
Rahoon, Galway

Roisin Tummon,
Primary Teacher, Knocknacarra, Galway

Stephen Hurley, Software Engineer
Highfield Park, Galway

Cindy Hill
Salthill, Galway

Michel Destrade
Salthill, Galway

Netta Forde
Westbrook, Galway

Sarah Deignan
Solicitor, Salthill
Lenny Antonelli
Whitestrans Park, Galway

Addendum: suggestions for improvements to specific areas of Galway City

All co-signatories made direct contact with Galway Cycling Campaign. We chose to directly contact organisations and individuals. In emailing us to confirm their support, many had specific suggestions to improve road safety and for enjoying their residential area and the city.

Names and contact details can be provided upon request.

Area	Suggestion for specific improvements
Knocknacarra Galway City West	<p>In particular, I'd love to see a reduction in the speed limit on the section of the Ragoon Road between Bóthar Stiofáin and the Clybaun Road and beyond towards Boleybeg.</p> <p>There is no footpath on this section of the road and it is being used by individuals and family groups out walking, cycling and running within their 2km allowed radius.</p>
Coolough Road Galway City Central	<p>Eric Heneghan, age 7, a pupil of St Patrick's Primary School, said, "I'd like to have a safe cycle path from the Coolough Road, Menlo, so my sisters and I can cycle to school in the city."</p>
Dyke Road Galway City Central	<p>The Dyke Road is an old Famine road, built by forced labour as part of a relief works scheme. It was a road to nowhere. It is now a rat run for commuters. Why not make this lovely country road local access only? Galway United will not be hosting crowds for matches (and even when they do again, buses and disability access could easily be facilitated.). With massively reduced traffic, there's no congestion on the Headford Road, so no need to avoid it.</p> <p>I've never seen so many families cycling, children on scooters or older people walking it at the frequency we have now. Let's not make another tragic missed opportunity of this road on a height with beautiful views over the River Corrib and lots of hedgerows and wildlife.</p>
Knocknacarra Galway City West	<p>I'm in Knocknacarra and cycle in from near caravan park to work in Mill St so am a regular prom cyclist.</p> <p>My manager used to cycle in from from rural part of Headford Road but gave it up as it's too dangerous.</p>
Bushypark Galway City Central	<p>Healthcare worker in GUH here. Cyclist to work from Bushypark.</p>
Knocknacarra Galway City West	<p>Galway could be such a much better city if we made it bike and pedestrian friendly.</p>

Salthill Galway City West	The cones/bollards on the Prom should be widened to full width of parking spaces, giving much more passing room.
People with disabilities	In [named European city] where I lived recently I cannot remember a single time I made decisions based on poor facilities. Good pedestrian and cycling facilities open up a city for people with disabilities also (not to mind elderly people).
Headford Road Galway City Central	Hazardous areas I notice and try to avoid are 1. The Dyke road especially from Deacy Park to the back of Dún na Coirbe, where there is also no footpath on part of this, and continuing on to the city for cyclists. 2. Newcastle road from the University to Scoil Fhúrsa (my kids would cycle to school but this road is too dangerous for them due to drivers overtaking at speed and far too close). 3. The other option for the kids to school is through town but from the Galway shopping centre to the Cathedral is also too hazardous for the same reasons and again along St Mary's Road.
Coolough Road Galway City Central	As a family we are struggling with the junction from Crestwood estate onto the Coolough Road. We have a 4yr old fully cycling approx 2km a day), and two older kids. I am very stressed with this junction either on a bike with the kids or on walking on the footpath with the kids. It is highly dangerous. I'm sure my children will use the Dyke road for the 20 years cycling to school and hopefully college. I grew up on the Coolough Road but left Galway for 20 years. Now I'm back with three kids and still the Dyke Road is nearly unchanged in 30 years.
Doctor, GUH (1)	I understand that you have asked for the support of members of the medical board of GUH to make our roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists, by re-allocating road space to cyclists and by lowering the urban speed limit to 30 km/hour – In my opinion, these are excellent ideas both to increase public health through exercise and to reduce pollution due to road traffic and I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal, I hope that it will be progressed.
Doctor, GUH (2)	In addition to your points, cycling reduces the risk of interpersonal transmission of COVID-19 in cars and public transport. Long term, it reduces risk of heart attack, cancer and stroke. We have seen a significant drop in car crash attendances at the ED at UHG, as there are fewer cars on the road.
Doctor, GUH (3)	I would be delighted to endorse your campaign for safer roads for cyclists and pedestrians - very important for so many reasons and close to my heart as an [named specialty].

References

[Galway Cycling Campaign](#) is a member of [Cyclist.ie](#) - the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network of everyday cycling groups, greenways and bike festivals. Together with the [Irish Pedestrian Network](#) we are asking local authorities nationwide to *Change Our Streets*. We want safer and more pleasant streets for essential workers to commute, for people to go to the shop, pharmacy and medical appointments, and for families to exercise within 2 km of their homes.

Change Our Streets campaign, selected media coverage:

- [The Irish Pedestrian Network and Cyclist.ie press release](#) call for Change Our Streets, Apr 20, 2020
- [Social distancing: Pressure on local authorities to designate more space for pedestrians](#), Irish Examiner, Apr 24, 2020
- [Coronavirus Ireland: Road safety campaigners call for reduced speed limits during Covid-19 crisis](#), Irish Mirror, Mar 30, 2020
- [Cyclist.ie supports Prof John Crown's call for lower speed limits nationwide](#)
- [Cutting speed limit 'would ease pressure on hospitals](#), The Times Ireland, Mar 28, 2020
- [Coronavirus: Motorists must slow down](#), The Irish Times, Mar 28, 2020

Galway campaign

- Healthcare workers need to focus on COVID-19, not broken bones from speeding, Letter to the Editor, Galway Advertiser, Apr 16, 2020
- [Galway Cycling Campaign calls for drivers to slow down](#), Galway Bay FM, Apr 6, 2020
- [Galway Cycling Campaign calls for drivers to slow down](#), Connacht Tribune, Apr 6, 2020

Nationwide campaign:

- [Dublin road space being taken for pedestrians over virus](#), RTÉ, Apr 20, 2020
- [Liffey Cycle Route: Dublin Chamber of Commerce backs project](#), The Times Ireland, Apr 22, 2020
- [Pedestrians and cyclists need more space on roads](#), Wheels for Women, Apr 22, 2020
- [#andshecycles campaign aims to encourage more girls to cycle](#), Irish Examiner, Apr 14, 2020
- [Kerry cyclists 'should get more road space'](#), Kerry's Eye, Apr 23, 2020
- [Covid-19: Change Our Streets Campaign](#), Kerry Cycling Campaign Apr 18, 2020
- [Kerry Cycling Campaign ask for motorists to slow down](#), Apr 1, 2020
- [Limerick Cycling Campaign call to reallocate road space to pedestrians and cyclists](#), Live95 FM, Apr 23, 2020

Irish local authorities' actions

- [Greystones Municipal District](#) automate pedestrian crossings and add signage at signals, Apr 4, 2020.
- [Dublin City Council](#) has made additional protected space for pedestrians by removing loading bays and parking spaces, and safer cycling with the provision of a contra-flow cycle lane in the city centre, Apr 17, 2020.

- [Fingal County Council](#) will close bus lanes to make them cycle only, removing on street parking and loading bays, restricting access to residents only or deliveries only, Apr 23, 2020.

Health information

- [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) says, 'whenever feasible, consider riding a bicycle or walking to provide physical distancing and daily physical activity' during the COVID-19 emergency.
- [Green and Blue Spaces and Health: A Health-led Approach](#), EPA Research, 2016
- [Link between coronavirus risk and air pollution](#)

Cities worldwide implementing temporary measures to make safer streets for people walking and cycling. A summary of some international efforts to make safer streets:

- [Guardian article on Berlin, Bogota, Budapest et al](#)
- France: [Paris](#) will spend €300 million to create 650km of protected 'corona cycleways', starting immediately with temporary infrastructure that will be designed for permanency post-Covid-19. Another [116 French towns and cities](#) - including [Avignon and La Rochelle](#), which have similar population sizes to Galway city - also plan to build temporary cycleways.
- Italy: [Milan](#)'s Open Streets plan will reallocate 35km of street space from cars to walking and cycling.
- Lithuania: [Vilnius](#) is reallocating street space to turn the city into an open-air café
- [New Zealand](#): The NZ government will provide 90% funding for new footpaths, to widen existing ones, and to create pop-up bike lanes.
- Germany: [Berlin](#) has added temporary marked bike lanes, directly replacing car lanes. [Berlin has also permanently reallocated space](#) for cars driving and parking to cycle lanes.
- Hungary: [Budapest](#) is rolling out a network of temporary bike lanes in the city centre.
- Canada: [Vancouver](#) has turned well-trafficked roads into one way streets, setting aside a temporary extra lane for walking and cycling. [Calgary](#) has taken a similar approach. [Winnipeg](#) has fully closed several central and suburban streets to through traffic to temporarily create spaces for exercise.
- Mexico: [Mexico City](#) started an "emergency bike lane" network.
- Colombia: [Bogotá](#) opened up 117 km temporary space for bikes and pedestrians by reallocating car lanes.
- USA: Washington DC has seen unofficial "pandemic pavement" widenings, with cities such as [New York](#) using cones to make lanes for walking. [San Francisco](#) has followed [Oakland's 'Slow Streets'](#), which closed 74 miles of their streets to cars.
- [Keep parks open article from Canada](#)
- UK: The Department of Transport has given [English councils greater powers to create car-free streets](#) so that streets will be safer for key workers to walk or cycle. [Brighton](#) has closed off a major road to support social distancing. London's [Hackney Council](#) has rolled out filtering measures to slow and reduce traffic in residential areas.

Lower speed limits

- [Call for lower speed limits during COVID-19 emergency](#), a letter to Minister Shane Ross, Love 30, Ireland's campaign for lower speed limits, Apr 22, 2020.
- UK doctors write in [The BMJ](#) that lowering speed limits is the number one public health intervention to 'lower the baseline' of critical care admissions.
 - This policy is supported by the [Road Safety Management Capacity review](#), the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#), and the [Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents](#).
- In February, Ireland signed the Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety. One of its [resolutions](#) to reduce road deaths and injuries is a general urban speed limit of 30 km/h 'in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix in a frequent and planned manner'.
- [Coronavirus: Temporary 40mph national speed limit introduced on Isle of Man](#), Mar 27, 2020.
- [20 km/h speed limits in central Brussels](#), Apr 21, 2020.