



**WESTERN
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

Developing a Rural Town Mobility Index for the Western Region

Dr Helen McHenry, Policy Analyst, WDC

**Transport Infrastructure Ireland
National Roads and Greenways Conference
22nd September 2022**

- 7 county Western Region
- Under aegis of Department of Rural & Community Development
- WDC Act 1998
‘.....foster and promote the economic and social development of the Western Region’

Our work is built on 3 key pillars:

- Regional promotion
- Regional leadership
- Sustainable enterprise





What is a Mobility Index?

- Composite Index made up of 30 different indicators
- Allows different types of data to be combined
- All indicators are converted to scores (0-10)
- Makes comparison easy
- Scores are relative

- Town Profiles based on 20 more indicators to help understanding

A Rural Town Mobility Index for the Western Region-- Why?

- Sets a baseline of current mobility in rural towns
- Easy comparison between places
- Helps understand mobility in different types of towns
- Measures improvements over time
- Highlights best positioned and places that need attention

- Many examples of city or urban Mobility Indexes but no rural ones

Acknowledgements

Transport Infrastructure Ireland provided insights and access to data

Mobility Index Working Group

Mr Michael Nolan

Chair of Working Group (former CEO TII)

Dr Martina Moloney

Chair of the Heritage Council (former CEO Louth, Galway)

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CEO, Western Development Commission

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Developing the WDC Rural Town Mobility Index

Indicators need to be:

- ✓ Measurable
- ✓ Comparable
- ✓ Available
- ✓ Repeatable
- ✓ Reflect variation

Data sources include:

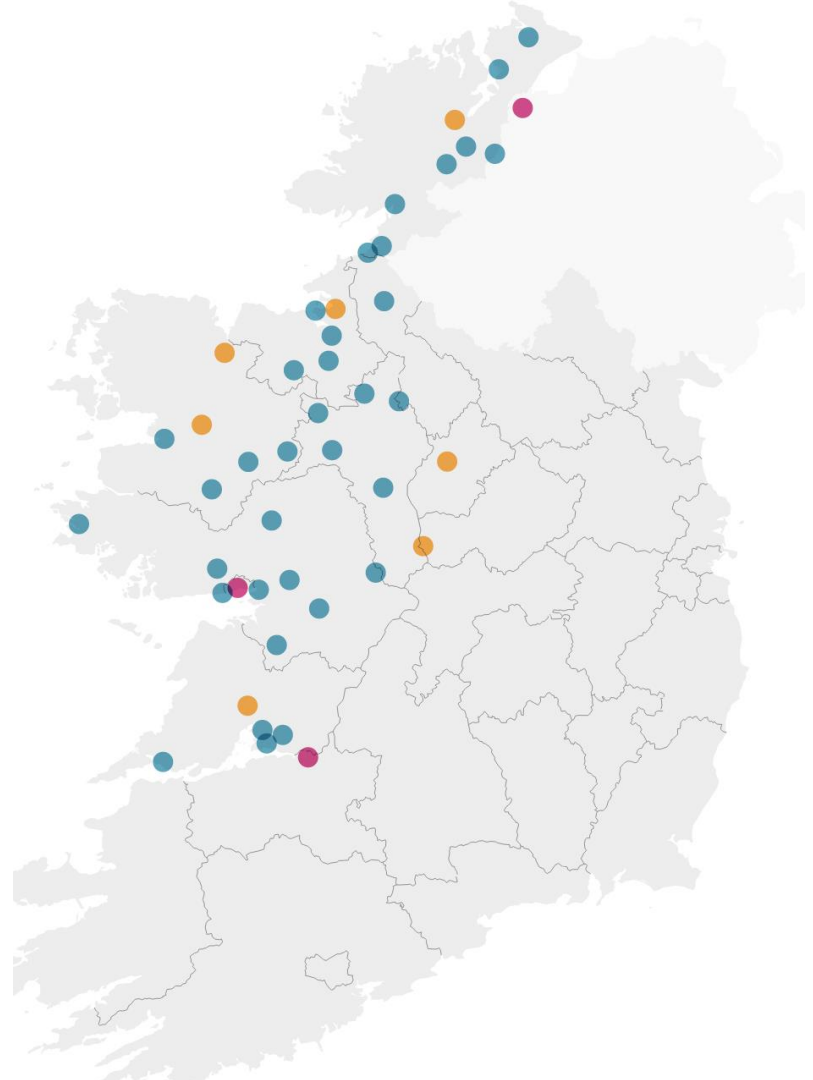
- TII National Transport Model
- CSO
- Local Authorities
- Town Survey

The Rural Town Mobility Index is a composite index made up of 30 different indicators giving an overall score and rank for each town



Which Places?

- 35 towns in Western Region (1,500-9,999) are included in the Index
- 7 Towns 10,000+ are key service centres
- 3 cities (50,000+) are important





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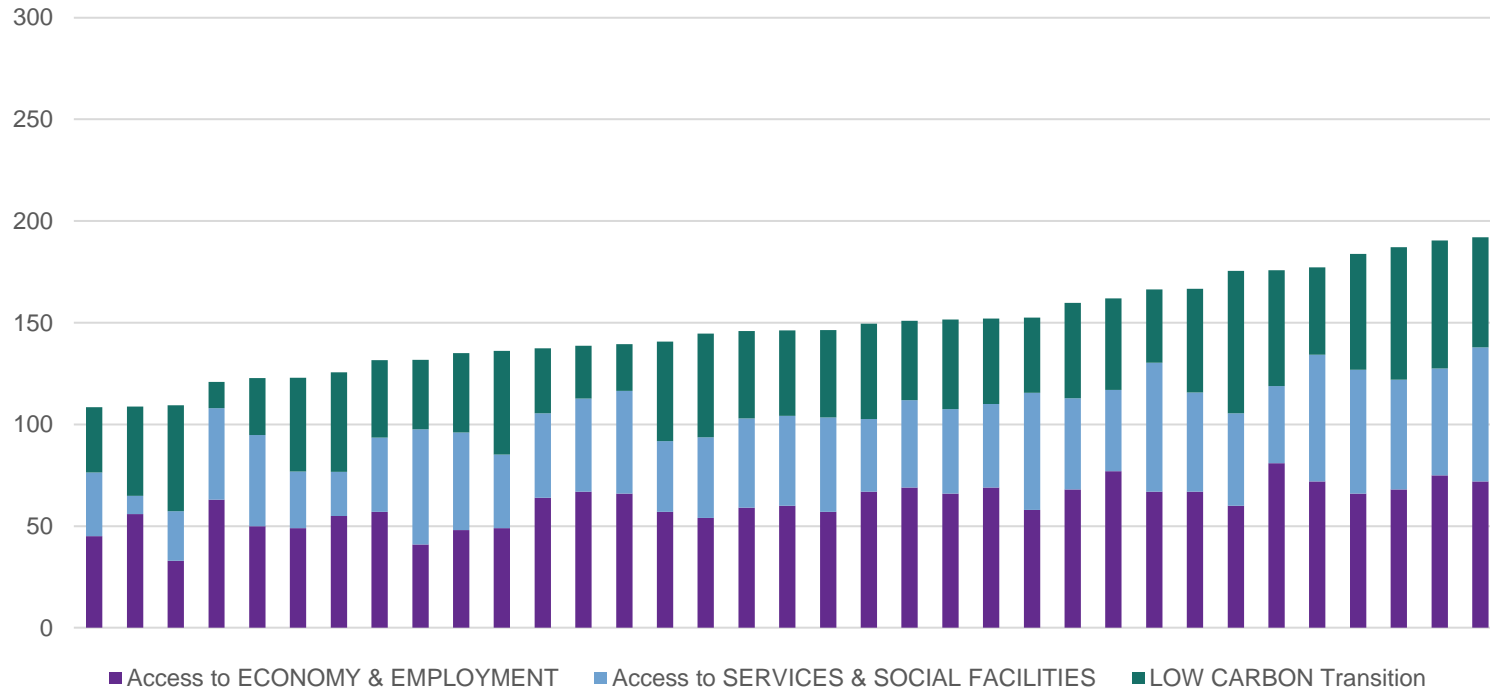
Rural Town Mobility Index

Index is built on 3 themes:

1. **Access to Employment and Economic Opportunities**
2. **Access to Services and Social Facilities**
3. **Readiness for the Low Carbon Transition**

This Mobility Index emphasises public transport and active travel

The Mobility Index- an overview



- 1 Public transport to 10k town arriving by 9:00
- 2 Public transport to 50k city to arrive by 9:00
- 3 Level of service in the morning to any town
- 4 % Settlements (1,500+) in 30k radius reachable by public transport
- 5 Level of Service All Day to 10k town
- 6 10k town public transport /car time ratio
- 7 50k town public transport /car time ratio
- 8 Car time to nearest third level education, main campus
- 9 Public transport time to nearest third level, main campus
- 10 % Using active travel and public transport modes to work

Access to Employment and Economic Opportunities (E&E)

	PT to 10,000 Town	LOS All Day (to 10,000 town)	LOS morning (services to any town)	PT to 50,000 Town by 9am	% Pop Centres within 30k radius reachable by PT	10,000 Town PT/Car time ratio	50,000 Town PT/Car time ratio	Car Time Third Level	PT Time Third Level	Public Transport and Active Travel modes to Work	TOTAL FOR E&E THEME
Top 5 Towns for E&E	10	10	10	10	4	9	8	6	8	6	81
	10	5	8	10	4	10	9	8	8	5	77
	10	5	5	10	7	8	8	8	8	6	75
	10	10	10	10	6	5	0	10	9	2	72
	10	4	8	10	7	5	3	9	7	9	72
Bottom 5 Towns for E&E	10	1	4	10	3	4	8	3	2	4	49
	10	1	1	0	2	8	7	8	9	2	48
	10	2	2	10	0	6	6	1	0	8	45
	10	3	0	0	2	1	7	10	8	0	41
	10	0	1	0	2	8	0	4	4	4	33

Access to Services & Social Facilities (S&S)

1. Car time to nearest hospital outpatient services
2. Car time to nearest airport
3. Car time to nearest cinema and theatre
4. Public transport time to nearest hospital outpatient services
5. Public transport time to nearest airport
6. Public transport service after 19:00 to and from 10k town
7. % Using active travel and public transport modes to primary school
8. No. of disabled parking spaces publicly provided.
9. Highest Universal Design score for bus stop in town
10. Standard public transport fare to 10k town

Access to Services & Social Facilities (S&S)

	Car Time Hospital	Car Time Airport	Car Time Arts	PT Time Hospital	Single Fare to 10,000 Town	PT LOS Evening and from 10k town	Public Transport time to airport	Public Transport and Active Travel modes to Primary School	Disabled Parking Spaces Publicly Provided	Universal Design Score Bus Stops	TOTAL FOR S&S THEME
Top 5 Towns for S&S	7	10	8	0	6	5	10	10	0	10	66
	7	10	7	0	8	5	9	10	2	6	63
	8	5	8	7	10	10	5	3	0	6	62
	10	4	10	10	7	2	5	1	2	10	61
	7	9	7	4	7	2	9	8	2	3	58
Bottom 5 Towns for S&S	3	5	2	0	2	2	5	6	7	0	31
	0	6	4	0	7	1	6	2	2	0	28
	3	8	2	2	8	0	0	0	1	0	24
	2	2	5	0	1	2	4	1	4	0	22
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	9

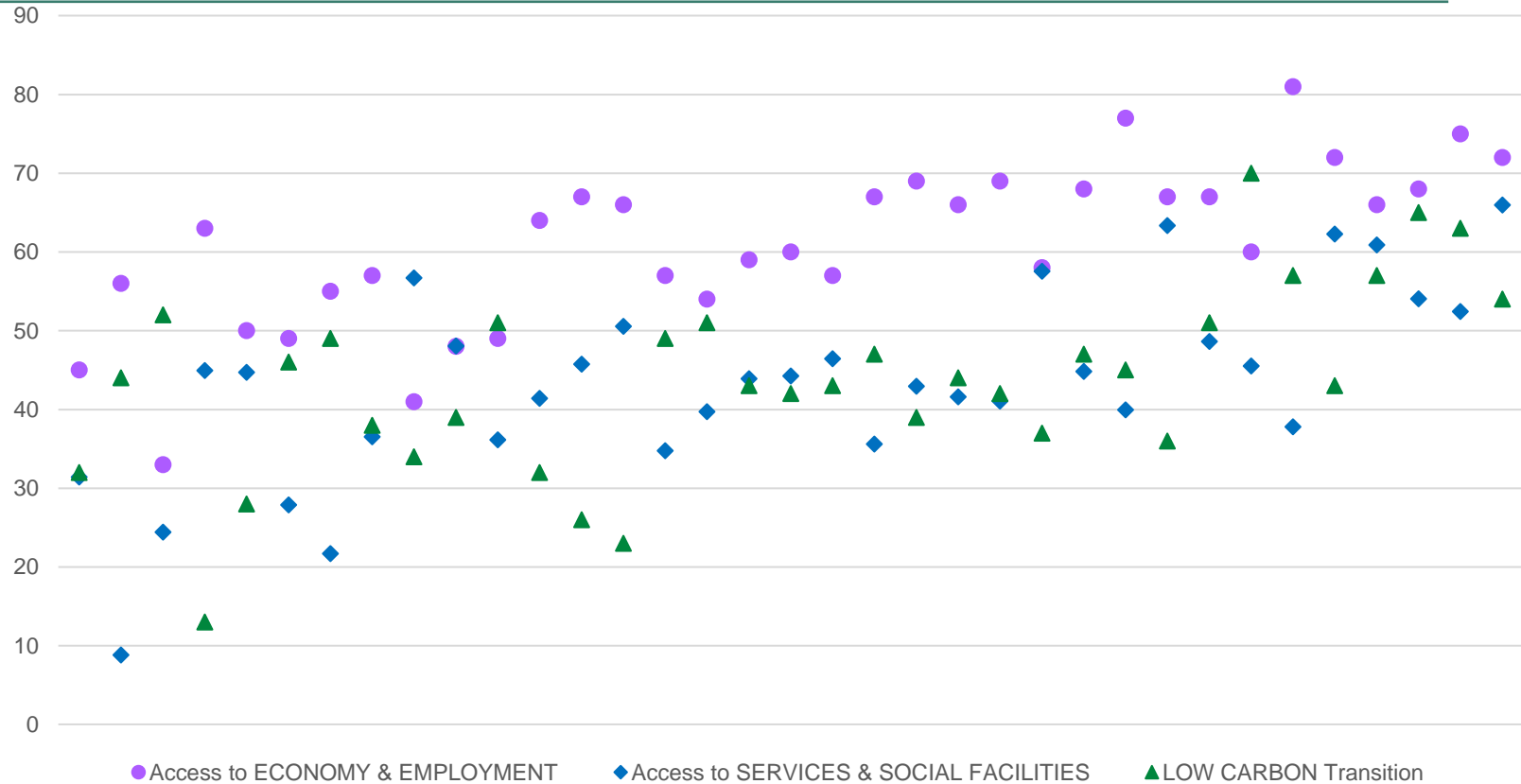
Readiness for the Low Carbon Transition

1. % Using active travel and public transport modes to secondary school
2. % Using active travel and public transport modes to third level education
3. Car ownership (number of cars per adult)
4. % Commuting to work by car who were car passengers
5. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging facilities (type and number)
6. Town has a Transport Plan and Active Town Strategy
7. Cycle parking at rail stations or bus stop and across towns
8. Presence of cycle paths/marked cycle lanes
9. Public realm investment and pedestrianized zone
10. Walkability

Readiness for the Low Carbon Transition (LCT)

	Public Transport & Active Travel modes to Secondary School	Public Transport & Active Travel modes to Third Level	Low Car Ownership	Car Share to work	EV Charging	Transport plan and active town strategy	Cycle parking	Cycle lane in the town	Walkability	Public realm investment & pedestrian area	Total
Top 5 Towns for LCT	6	6	6	3	8	6	10	10	10	5	70
	7	8	7	2	5	1	10	7	8	10	65
	4	8	7	5	10	5	10	0	9	5	63
	3	10	5	6	6	6	4	0	7	10	57
	6	8	6	3	10	4	7	0	8	5	57
Bottom 6 Towns for LCT	10	3	6	4	0	0	0	0	4	5	32
	6	5	8	3	1	0	0	0	9	0	32
	4	3	5	3	0	0	0	0	8	5	28
	8	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	4	10	26
	3	2	3	3	1	1	0	0	5	5	23
	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	5	13

Variation in Town Scores by theme





Benefits of the WDC Mobility Index

- Measurement mechanism for mobility
- Focus on smaller towns
- Gives good understanding of each town's mobility situation
- Allows detailed comparisons among towns
- Highlights good mobility characteristics
- Provides evidence of need for investment

- Measures and highlights benefits of policy developments such as Connecting Ireland



The future of the WDC Mobility Index

This Mobility Index- timelines

- Final checks on data
- Stakeholder liaison
- Seminar in November
- Launch to follow

WDC Mobility Indexes- the future

- Next in 2024 and update every 5 years
- Same themes but some indicator development
- Other towns may be included
- Forthcoming MIs will allow more comparison and measure changes over time



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WDC Mobility Index Seminar

Wednesday 9th November, Carrick on Shannon

- Detail on the Mobility Index construction
- Results including Town Ranks and Scores
- Understanding results and ways ahead

Invitations will be circulated shortly but please get in touch if you would like to attend or if you have more questions

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