



# The Rural Transport Programme Ireland 20 June 2024

Rural Pact

Good Practice Webinar

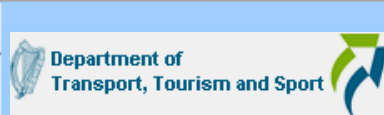
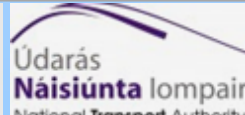


Title:

Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow, South Tipperary & North Fingal Rural Area:  
The Management Platform for the DRT & RRS Services.

Presented by:

Jackie Meally, Local Link, Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow, Ireland



# Ring a Link Background

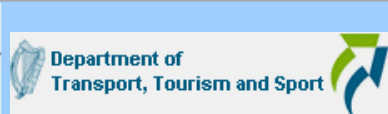
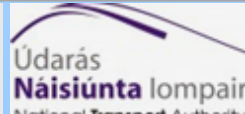
Company name

**Carlow, Kilkenny & South Tipperary,  
Rural Transport Ltd.**

Founded in August 2001

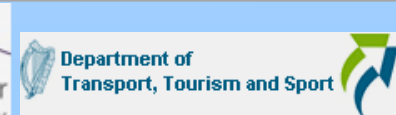
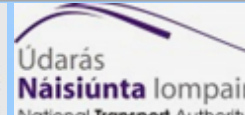
Voluntary “Not for Profit” Company  
with Charitable status

Office / TCU based in Kilkenny and North Fingal



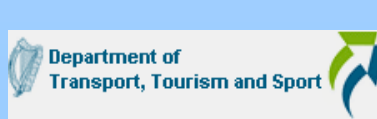
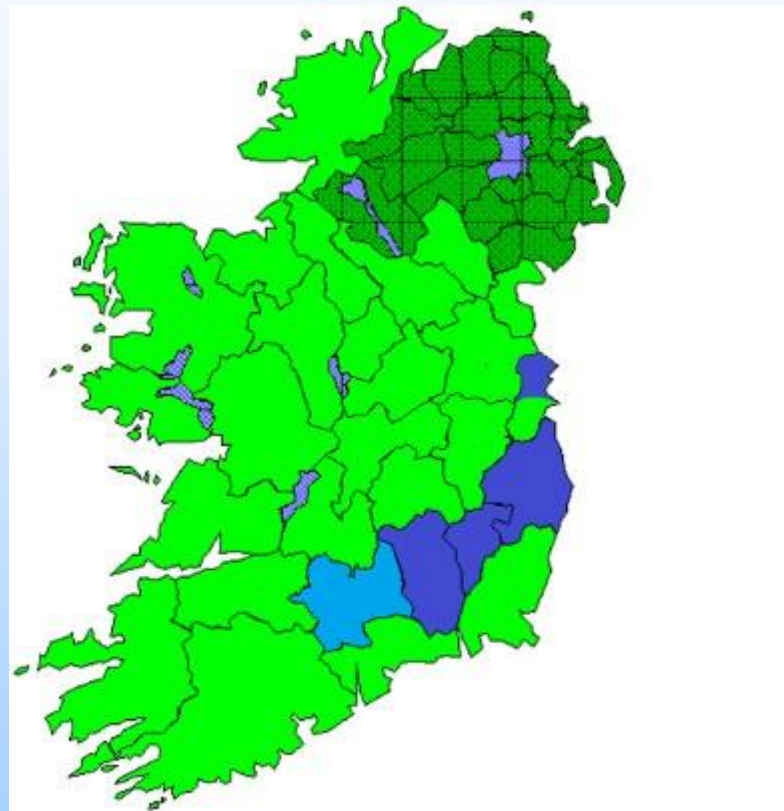
# Mission

*“To ensure a real transport option for rural residents across County Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow, South Tipperary and North Fingal, Dublin”.*

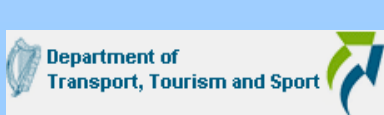
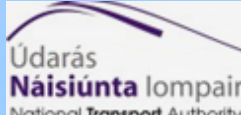
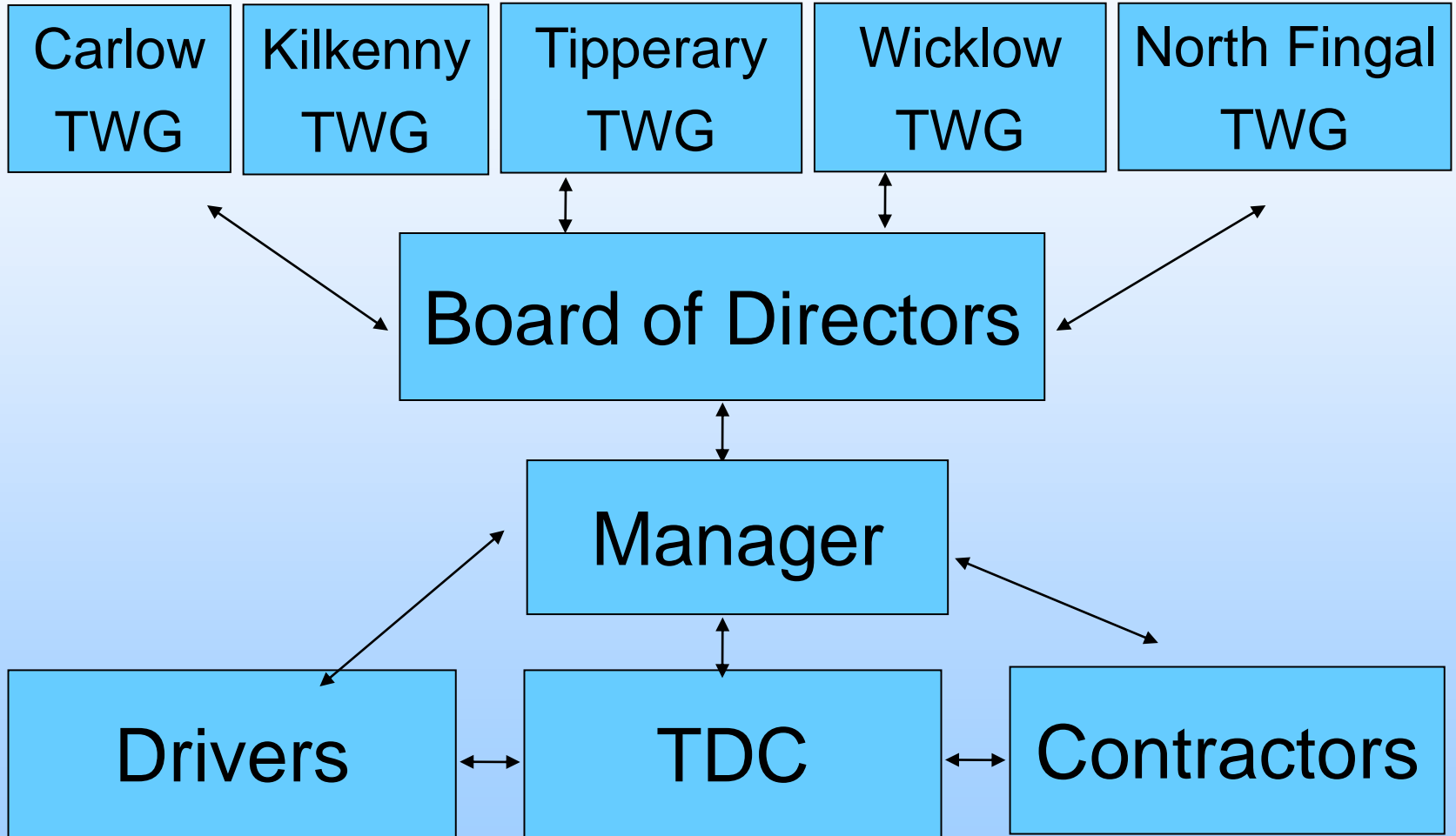


# Area of Operations from 01.01.16

- Area 7,300 Km<sup>2</sup>
- 200 km east to west approx.
- Population 400,000
- Average 55 / Km<sup>2</sup>
- Rural areas 8 – 9 / Km<sup>2</sup>
- Covering Counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Wicklow, South Tipperary and North Fingal

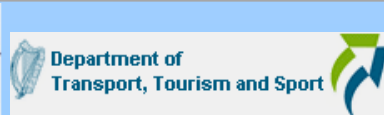
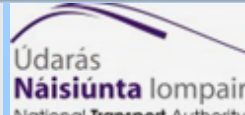


# Company Organisation



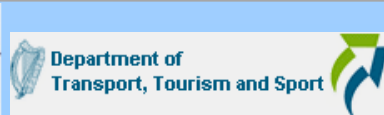
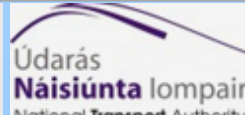
# Passenger Transport Operations

- 600 + travel options each week.
- Number of passenger trips carried out each week in excess of 6,000.
- Services range from 1 to 2 and 5 days DRT and 7 days with 3 to 4 returns for RRS.
- Most services can integrate with other transport services (national/ independently owned).
- 23 Company owned 14 to 23 seat minibuses. (18 Drivers)
- 11 Contractors. (20 Drivers).
- Lo-Call number 0818 42 41 41.
- Fares per trip: Adults € 2.00, Children € 1.00 and under 5's are free.  
Primary Schools € 8.00 per week.  
Secondary Schools € 10.00 per week



# Ring a Link Staff 28

- 2 Manager
- 8 Dispatcher/Administrator
- 18 Drivers (mix full-time and part-time).
- Office: Kilkenny and North Dublin.



# Fleet Vehicles

## Direct Award Company

- There are 23 vehicles in the fleet.
- Vehicles are assigned to particular areas.
- Usually shared by 2 or more fulltime or part time drivers.
- Flexibility to move/swap vehicles to other areas for servicing requirements etc.
- Distinctive logos & contact number.



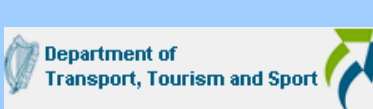
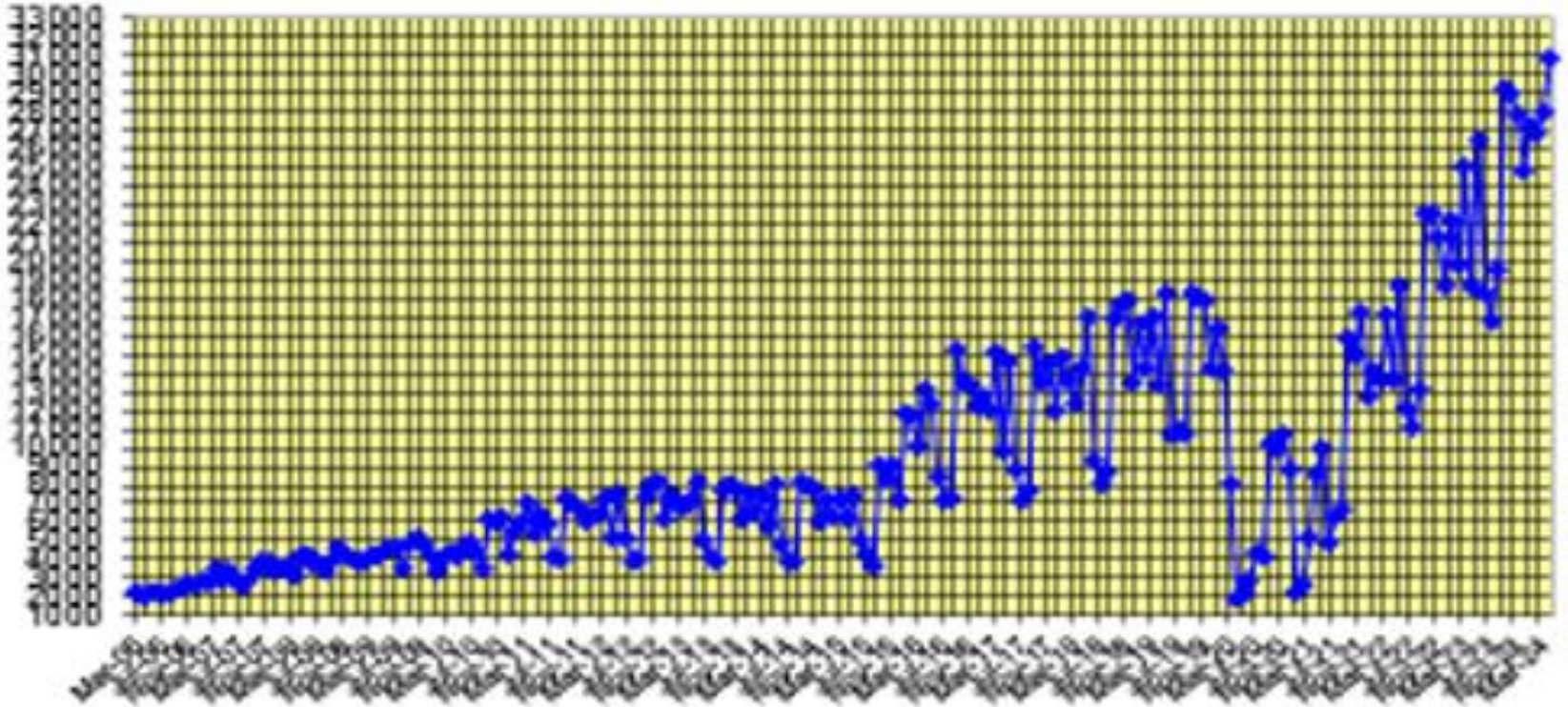
Ring a Link Flexible Demand Responsive in urban and rural areas





# Passenger Statistics Graph

Ring a Link Monthly Passenger Figures  
January 2006 to April 2024  
112,919 Year to date



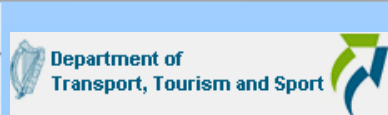
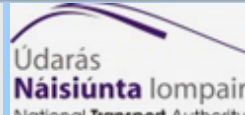
# Services Types Operated

## RRS – Regular Rural Services [Connecting Ireland]

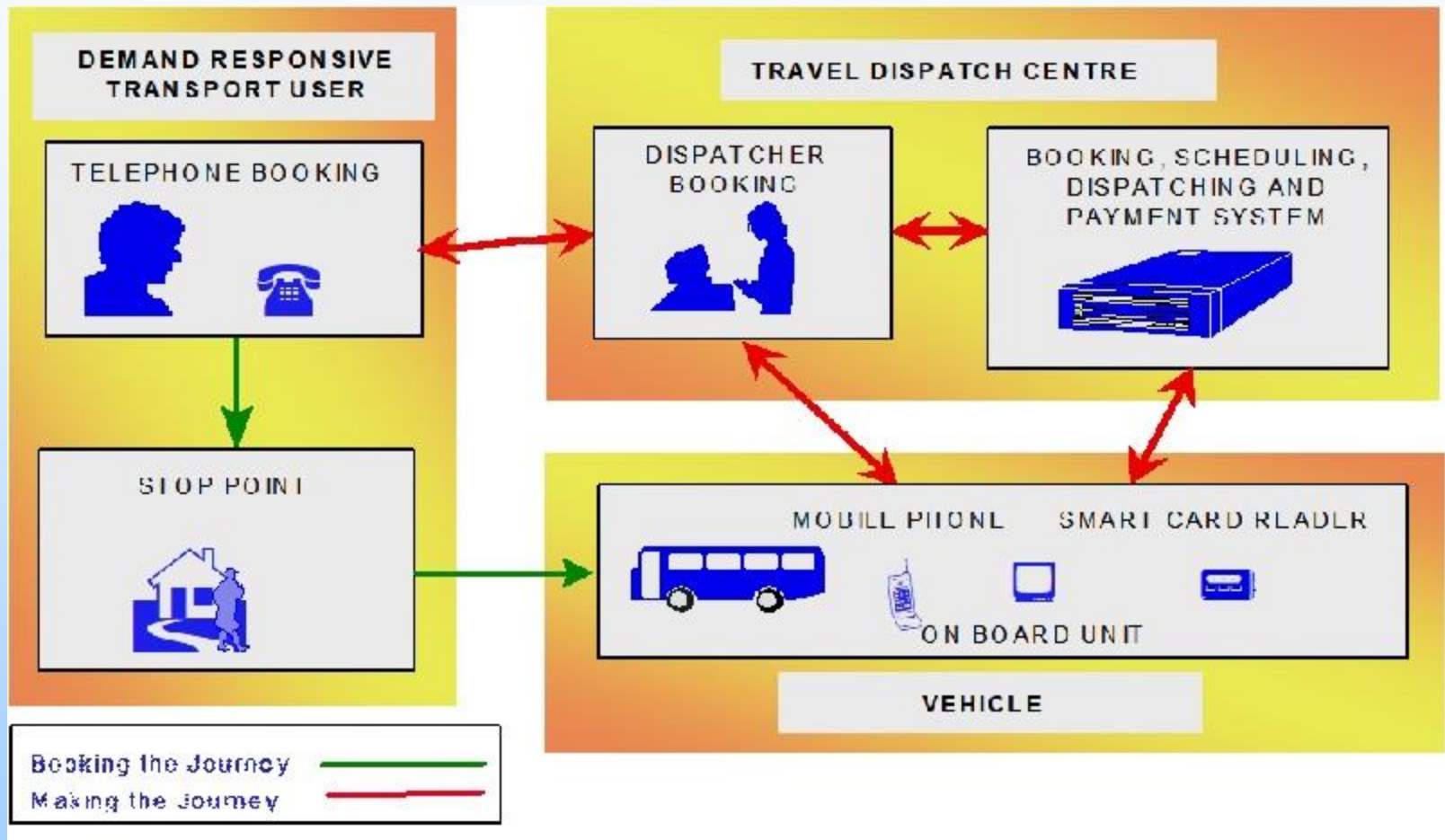
Standard fixed line services operated by contracted bus operators with larger buses. E.g. 38 seats.

## DRT – Demand Responsive Transport

“In essence, Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) provides a mechanism whereby passengers can be picked up and dropped off at their chosen locations, like using a Taxi but at a price more usually associated with fixed route bus services” E.g. 16 seats.



# Schematic Representation of Telematics-based DRT



# Transport Coordination Unit [TCU]

## The TCU consists of:

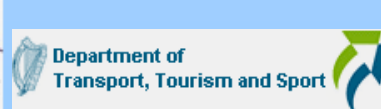
- Manager x 2
- Dispatchers
- All staff trained in Oxford by Mobisoft UK
- Dispatchers carry out additional work: statistics, admin, Fares recs, Fleet supervision

## Booking hours:

- 0900 – 1630 (Mon-Fri)
- The company utilises a low cost 'Lo-call' number 1890 42 41 41.
- There are **5** incoming Phone lines to deal with the volume of calls.
- All bookings DRT are taken through the TCU.

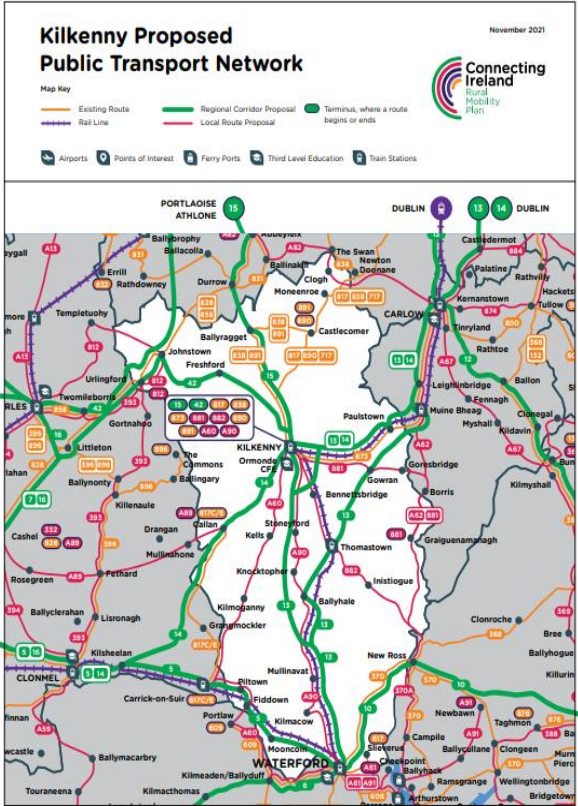


*Online booking  
currently available*



# Connecting Ireland

Browser window showing a PDF document titled "Kilkenny Proposed Public Transport Network" dated November 2021. The map displays various transport routes (Existing Route, Rail Line, Regional Corridor Proposal, Local Route Proposal) and key locations (Limerick, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Dublin, Portlaoise, Athlone). The map includes a map key and icons for Airports, Points of Interest, Ferry Ports, Third Level Education, and Train Stations.



Map Key:

- Existing Route
- Rail Line
- Regional Corridor Proposal
- Local Route Proposal
- Terminus, where a route begins or ends

Icons: Airports, Points of Interest, Ferry Ports, Third Level Education, Train Stations

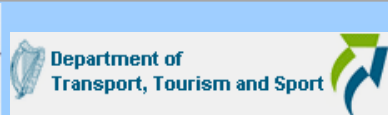
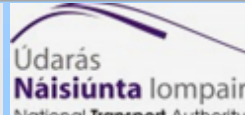
# Connecting Ireland Plan Co Kilkenny

CI -5 Year Plan 2022 – 2026 - €65m

Rural Transport Budget 2022: €20m – 2026 €85m

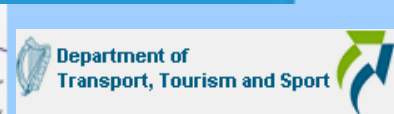
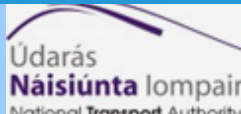
New Services E.g. County Kilkenny:

- LL897 Athy Carlow Castlecomer Kilkenny – 1 Jan 2023
- A60 – Carrick on Suir to Kilkenny –Min 3 Returns / Day
- A90 – Waterford to Kilkenny – Min 3 Returns / Day
- 882 New Ross to Kilkenny – Extra Schedule
- 881 Graiguenamanagh to Kilkenny – Extra Schedule



# Rural Transport Structure Ireland

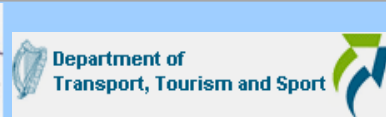
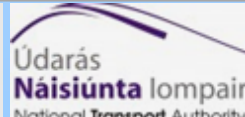
Department of Transport  
The National Transport Authority  
15 Transport Coordination Units



# DRT Software System

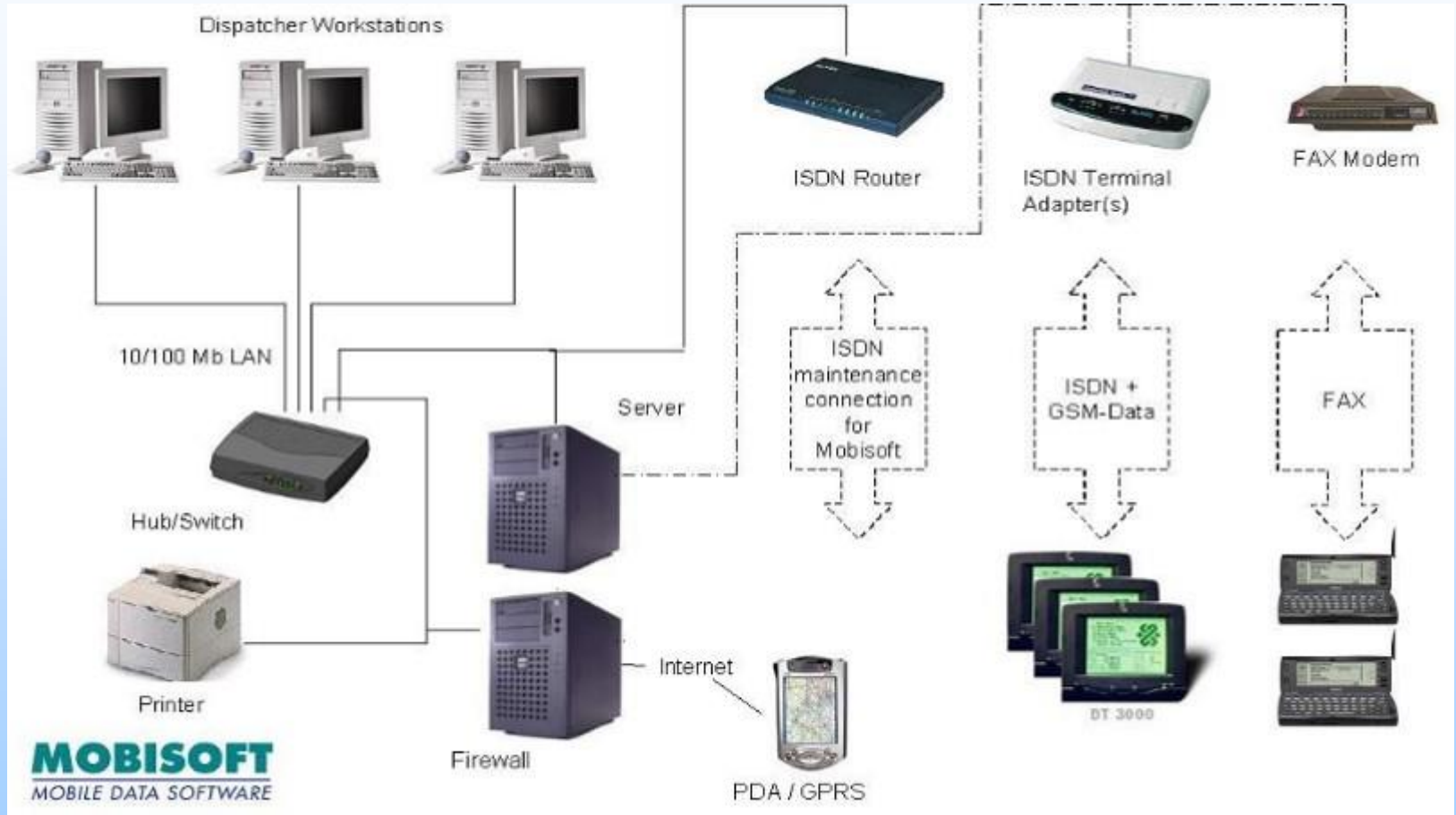
## OVERVIEW

## MOBIROUTER

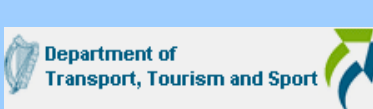
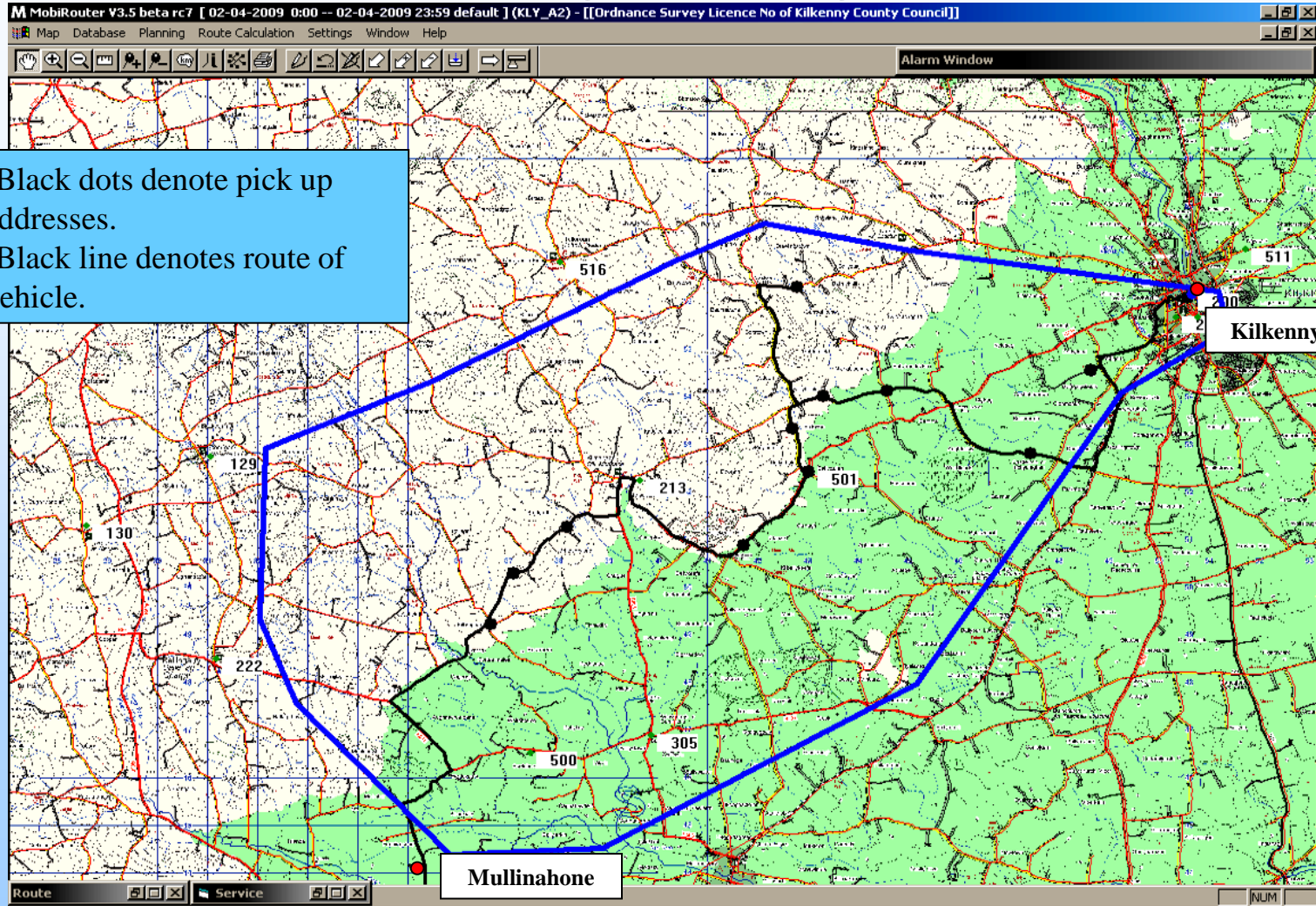




# Technical Overview



# Route Passing Through the Area





# EU Sunrise Project (7)

ATAF – Metropolitan Bus Company, Florence, Italy

DRT Feasibility study and application for workers, patients and visitors at Carreggi Hospital Florence – Lead Partner

Terrassa City Council, Terrassa, Barcelona Spain

Feasibility study and application for car pooling scheme for Municipal Authority workers

DPB – Bratislava Bus Company, Bratislava, Slovakia

DRT Feasibility study for introduction of DRT services within the city

AUTh – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece

DRT Feasibility study and application for people with disabilities

CAT – Carrara Avenza Transport Company, Italy

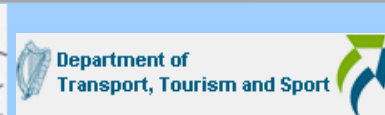
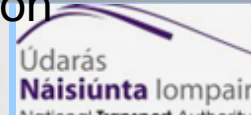
DRT Feasibility study and application in a mountain area near the city

RAL – Ring a Link, Kilkenny, Ireland

DRT Feasibility study and application of a six day week rural service in the area north of Carrick on Suir

UNEW – University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Project evaluation and support for partners in data collection and analysis – Cross site evaluation





# EU Flipper Project (11)

- SRM – Networks and Mobility – Public Transport Authority, Bologna, Italy  
DRT Feasibility study and pilot application – Lead Partner
- CIF – Insular Council of Formentera, Illes Balears, Spain  
Feasibility study and pilot application for tourist related service
- ATL – Public Transport Company of Livorno, Italy  
DRT Feasibility Study.
- AUTh – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece  
DRT Feasibility study and pilot application for people with disabilities
- ATAF – Metropolitan Bus Company, Florence, Italy  
DRT Feasibility study of Scandicci Hills area, Florence.
- RAL – Ring a Link, Kilkenny, Ireland  
DRT Feasibility study and pilot application of a five day week service from the rural area of Slieveardagh to Clonmel hospital
- UNIDBAN – University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK  
Project evaluation and support for partners in data collection and analysis – Cross site evaluation
- BOKU – University of Vienna, Austria  
DRT Feasibility study in Defereggental (Mountain valley area) Tyrol
- Municipality of Almada, Portugal.- Feasibility study and pilot application for flexible an urban transport service using 2 electric minibuses
- Municipality of Purbach, Burgenland, Austria  
Feasibility study and pilot application for extending existing service
- DOYK – Municipal Organisation for Health and Social Affairs, Volos, Greece  
FTS Feasibility study and pilot application for disadvantaged social groups

# Other Activities

## KITE Project

### Kilkenny Integrated Transport Evolution

### 6 Bus Shelters with RTPI in rural areas

#### Partners:

1. **Ring a Link**- the Local Link service covering Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow and Fingal.
2. **JJ Kavanagh & Sons**- largest private bus services in Ireland, based in Kilkenny.
3. **Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP)**- the local development company that operates the LEADER Rural Development Programme in Kilkenny.
4. **Kilkenny County Council**- the local authority for the county which is taking an increased role in public transport in the county.



# Challenges

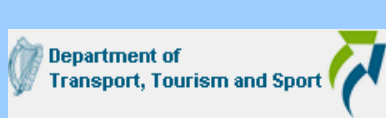
Continued Funding

Staff / Driver Recruitment and Retention

Bus Procurement

TCU Contract Tender

Direct Award Tenders



# The End

Thank you for your time.

Jackie Meally  
Manager

Local Link CKW

00353 56 7715912

[www.ringalink.ie](http://www.ringalink.ie)

[jackie.meally@locallink.ie](mailto:jackie.meally@locallink.ie)

