

A group of children are participating in an outdoor activity on a school street. They are standing on a large, colorful rainbow mat laid out on the pavement. Several children are using hula hoops, with one girl in the foreground prominently using a blue one. The children are dressed in winter clothing, including jackets and scarves. In the background, there are trees, a building, and a person holding an umbrella, suggesting a rainy or overcast day. A person in a high-visibility vest is also visible on the right side of the image.

LIMERICK SCHOOL STREETS

Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

15 December 2020

INTRODUCTION

WHO are we?

A group of **PARENTS** of children in Limerick City West primary schools

Anne Cronin – Project School
Áine Farrell – Model School
Eoin Buckley – Model School
Aidan Hogan - St. Pauls NS

WHAT are our objectives?

SAFETY - safer school gate environment

HEALTH - cleaner air at school gates, more active kids walking / scooting / cycling to school

TRAFFIC - reduce traffic in immediate area - knock-on effect in wider area

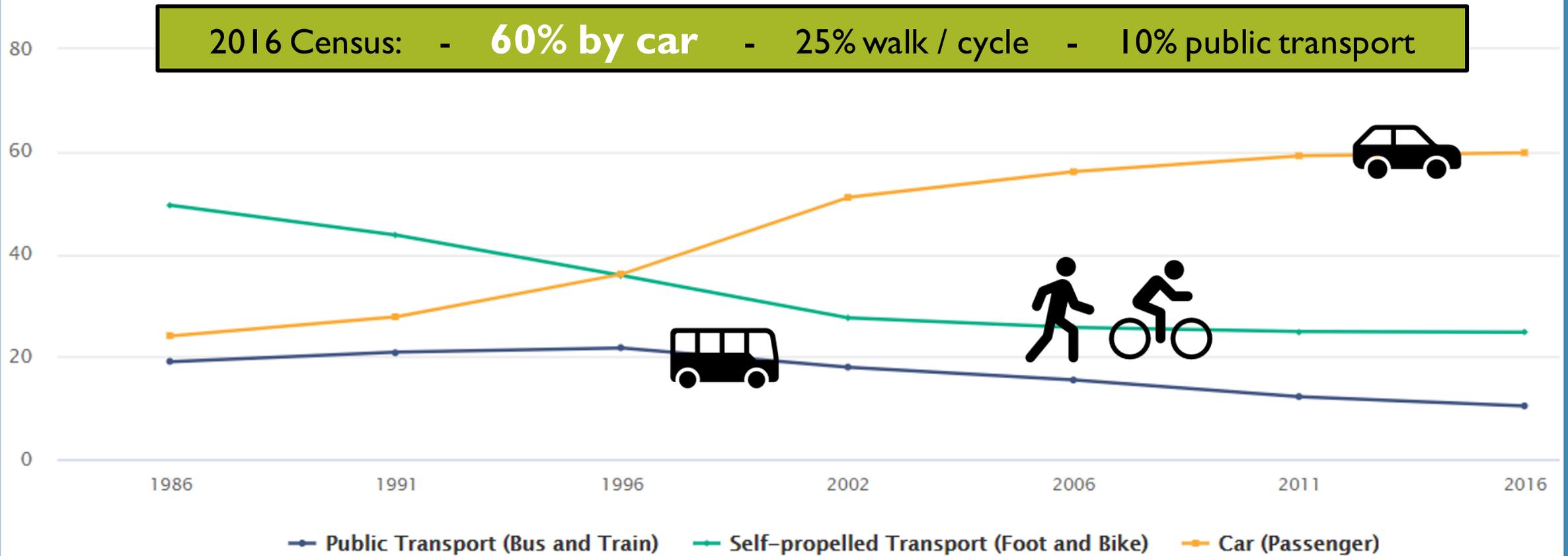
HOW?

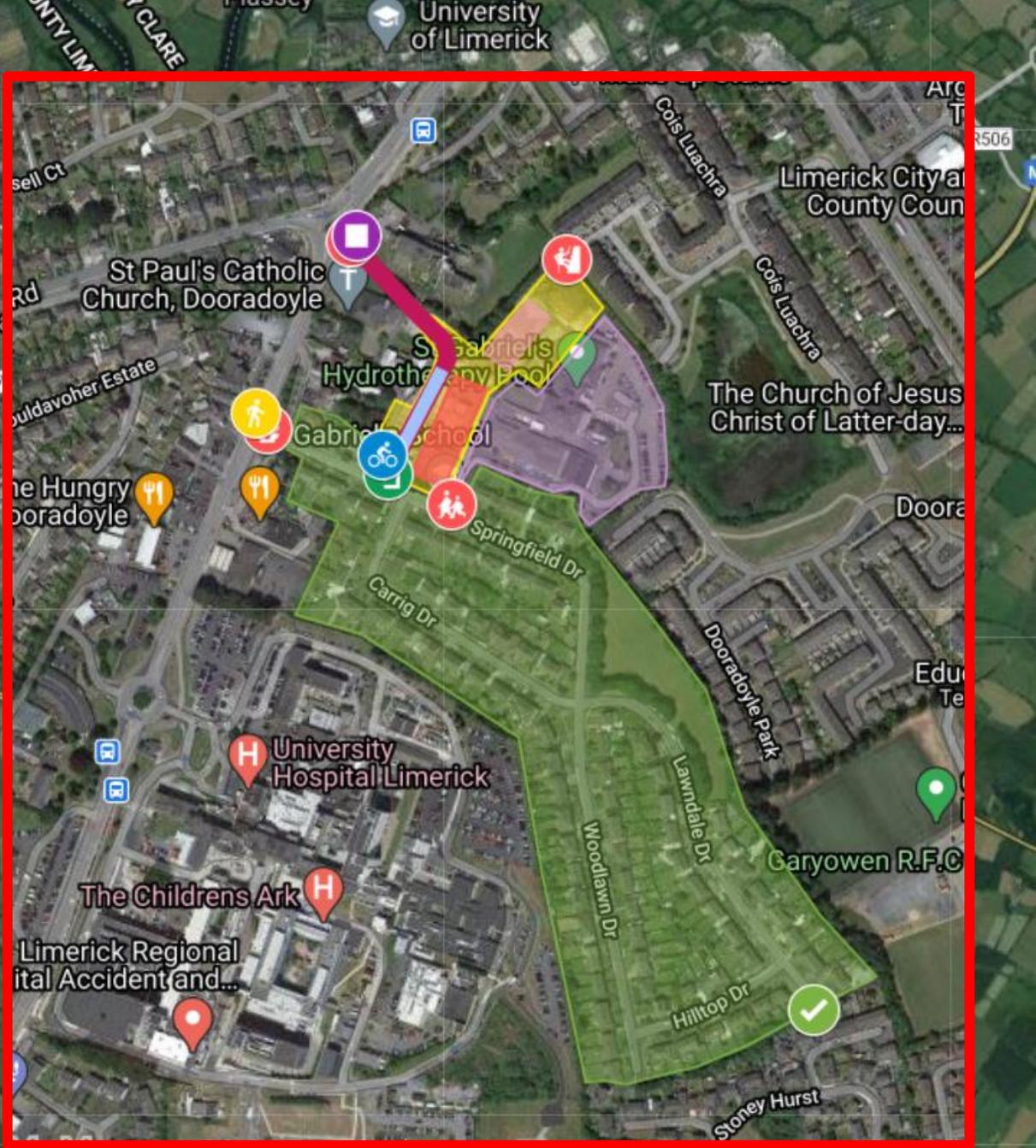
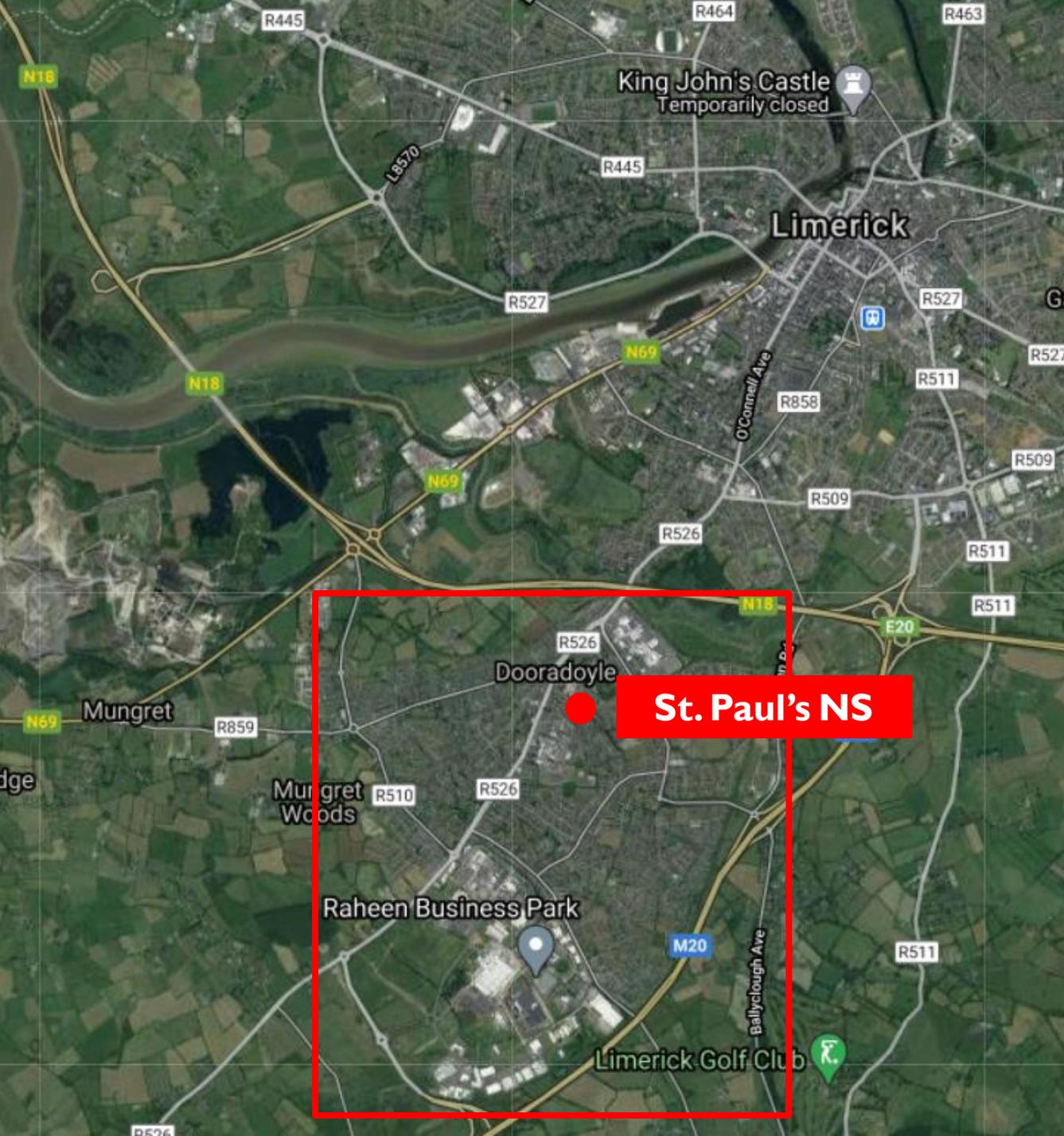
Use St. Paul's NS, Dooradoyle as a **PILOT** project for introduction of Limerick's first school street / zone for a primary school

Apply **LEARNINGS** from pilot to roll out more solutions to schools across Limerick City & County

NATIONAL STATISTICS

Figure 5.1 Modes of travel for primary students, 1986 - 2016





SAFETY



ACCESS FOR NEIGHBOURS

- **Dooradoyle Estate** - 150 houses in a cul de sac
- **St. Gabriel's School** - 20 buses a day bringing students from as far away as 1.5 hours



ACCESS FOR
ALL



CLEAN AIR



HEALTH & WELLBEING



VIDEO

IN A
NUTSHELL



BIGGER PICTURE

Within 2km: 4 x primary, 3 x secondary, 1 x third level

1.5km radius

Gaelscoil Raithín
(333 students)

Educate Together NS
(375 students)

Mungret Community College
(360 students)

St. Paul's NS
(635 students)

St. Nessian's NS
(708 students)

Crescent Comp
(882 students)





SO WHAT?

LOCAL IMPACT
&
WIDER IMPACT

- 635 Students
- Parents & teachers
- Residents of Dooradoyle Estate
- St. Gabriel's School
- Other Commuters in Raheen / Dooradoyle and across the city

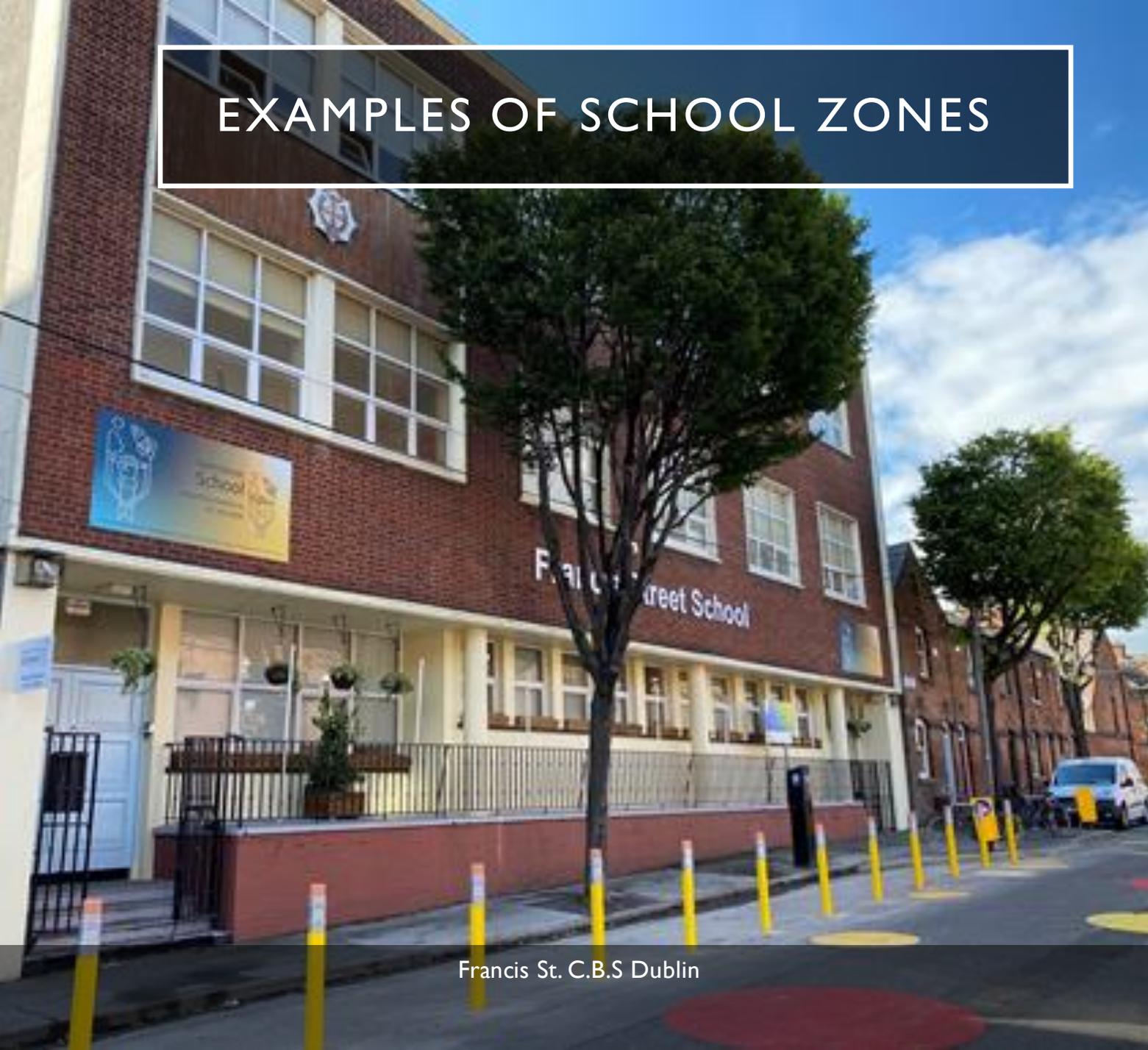
SCHOOL ZONES



What is a school zone?

- a set of design features which creates a safer, calmer and more attractive environment outside the school gates
- discourage drop off and pick up at the school gate
- reallocate space at the school gate

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOL ZONES



Francis St. C.B.S Dublin

What does a school zone look like?

- colourful signage
- paint (eg. coloured circles on the road surface)
- double yellow lines and / or 'School Keep Clear' markings
- Pencil shaped bollards



BENEFITS OF SCHOOL ZONES

- Encourages drivers to slow down
- Discourages vehicle drop off/ pick up at school gates
- Improved air quality
- Increases safety at the front of the school by preventing parked or stopped cars from blocking visibility of PEDESTRIAN crossings
- Encourages more children to walk and cycle
- Is less challenging to implement than a 'school street'

SCHOOL STREETS



- Traffic restrictions in place during school drop-off and collection.
- Restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic.
- Fingal CoCo introduced Ireland's first school street in November 2019 in Malahide.
- Resulted in 20% TRAP reduction by April 20.
- Use of car to get to school reduced from 37% to 18%.



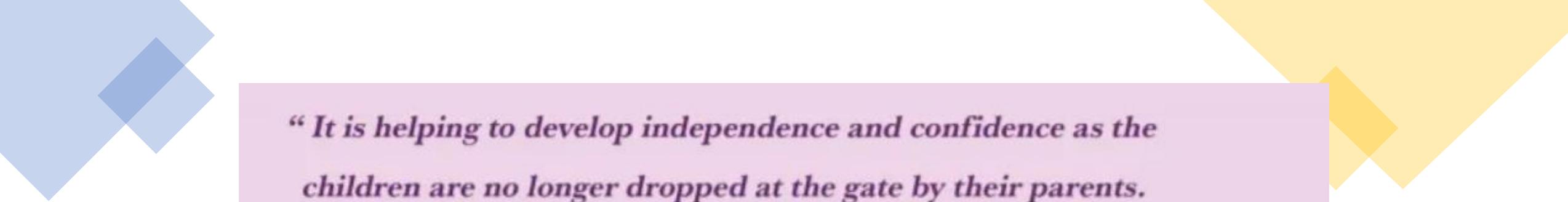
How do school zones/streets have a positive impact on climate?

The implementation of a school street

- encourages a switch from driving to active modes of transport such as cycling or walking
- reduces noise pollution, vehicle idling and transport emissions.

What evidence is there to show school streets has a positive benefit on climate change?

- St. Oliver Plunkett primary school in Dublin implemented a school street in the past year and found
- 20% reduction in traffic pollution outside the school.
- Increase of 43% in active modes of travel to school (ie, walking and cycling).
- The usage of a car to travel to school dropped significantly from 37% to 18%.



“ It is helping to develop independence and confidence as the children are no longer dropped at the gate by their parents. They are more alert and ready to learn, having had fresh air and exercise ”

- CLARE O'CONNOR, ST. OLIVER'S PRINCIPAL

“ The School Streets initiative is bringing us closer together with our friends through the walking buses as pupils are given the chance to enjoy the commute to school whilst spending time with their fellow students ”

- MIA DEUTROM, SCHOOL GREEN TEAM



“ The children are particularly happy to have their safety ensured as they walk on Grove Road. They like the space to chat and play in complete safety. ”

- CLAIRE O'CONNOR, ST. OLIVER'S PRINCIPAL

“ School Streets is the best thing that has happened Malahide. Before it started I had to walk out blindly onto the road to cross children as cars were parked all along the footpath ”

- BRED A CRAWFORD, ST. ANDREW'S WARDEN

SUPPORTING
MEASURES

Safe routes
to school

Park and
stride

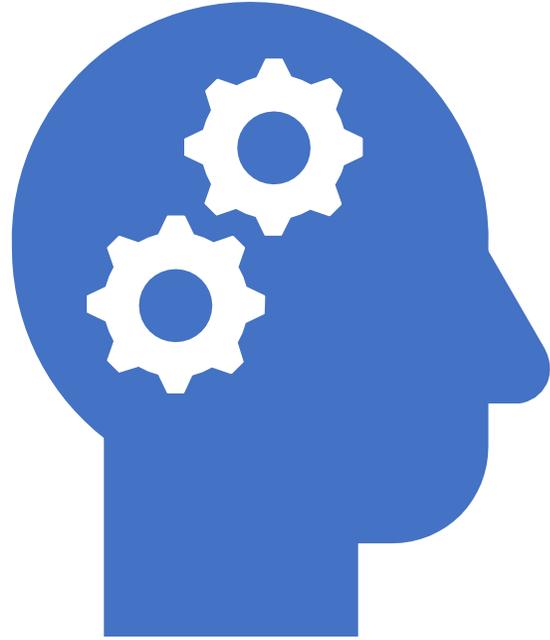
Walking
Bus

Drop-off
zones

Parking
Permits

Cycle Bus

Behaviour Change



- How does that happen and what does it look like?
- Limerick example – Limerick Cycle Bus
- 40-60 people travel on the cycle bus to school and work each weekday morning in Limerick, regardless of weather conditions.
- 50%+ increase in numbers using the bus since Covid.

CYCLE BUS



CYCLE BUS





RECAP & CONCLUSION

RECAP

SCHOOL ZONE

Deters traffic from school gate



SCHOOL STREET

Removes traffic from school gate



IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE

Dublin (multiple), Galway (Scoil Iognaid), Limerick (Laurel Hill)



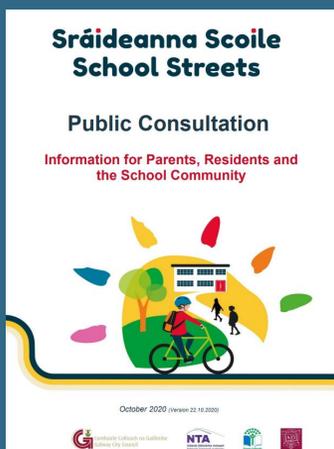
PROPOSAL FOR ST. PAUL'S NS

PLAN, INFORM, CONSULT

PLAN & DESIGN the trial measures, set out rationale for project (Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)

CONSULT with all parties:

- kids
- parents
- neighbours
- school
- Green Schools
- Council



TRIAL / PILOT

4 month **TRIAL**

(Mar – June 2021)

SCHOOL STREET / ZONE

- appropriate design to be implemented to reduce traffic movements at school gate and within Dooradoyle Estate

**access maintained for residents & St. Gabriel's*

PARK & STRIDE as support

MEASURE & MONITOR

Gather **BASELINE DATA** such as modal share, traffic counts, walkability audit, air quality

Continue to **MONITOR** during trial period

MEASURE against success criteria

KEY ELEMENT: INFORM & CONSULT

Sráideanna Scoile School Streets

Public Consultation

Information for Parents, Residents and
the School Community



October 2020 (Version 22.10.2020)



Inform & Consult

- All voices must be heard
- Explain WHAT a school street / zone is
- Explain WHY it is being trialled
- Explain HOW it will be trialled, including supporting measures
- Ensure all voices are heard
 - Kids
 - School
 - Parents
 - Residents & Neighbours
 - Local Businesses

BIGGER PICTURE

Within 2km: 4 x primary, 3 x secondary, 1 x third level

1.5km radius

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VISION & OBJECTIVE



SAFE

HEALTHY

FUN

Road Safety



Healthy &
Sustainable
Travel

Climate
Action

MAKE THIS
NORMAL
IN
LIMERICK
SCHOOLS