



## Driver of the Year Award 2007 to be All Ireland competition

In 2007 the MiDAS Minibus Driver of the Year Award is being run as an All Ireland competition for the first time with the holding of two heats in the Republic. The competition for the Optare Cup has been run by the Community Transport Association UK in Northern Ireland since 2000 and was won by Roland Livingstone of Rural LIFT for SW Fermanagh in 2006 (see photo).

This year's competition will involve MiDAS drivers from the Republic of Ireland in two heats to be held in Limerick and Cavan during April and May. The winner of each heat will then compete in the National Final on 30 May in Cavan Town, which will also be one of the All Ireland Quarter Finals. One of the All Ireland Semi Finals will also be held in Cavan Town on 20

September with the All Ireland Final and Dinner being held in Belleek on 19 October.

The heats will consist of a driving assessment lasting for about 40-60 minutes per person. Entrants for the two heats in Limerick and Cavan must be MiDAS certified drivers resident or working for organisations in the Republic of Ireland. Entrance forms can be obtained from the CTAI office in Stradone or downloaded from the CTAI website. The Quarter Finals will consist of a theory test and a practical test assisting a person with visual impairment onto a vehicle and to their seat. The Semi Finals will involve a more advanced driving assessment and the Final will consist of advanced on road and off road assessments. ■



## CTAI joins up with ACoRP

THE CTAI has recently become an Associate Member of ACoRP – Association of Community Rail Partnerships. This is part of CTAI's broadening of its scope to include community based sustainable transport activities, such as rail, cycling and carsharing within the overall framework of community transport.

ACoRP is a federation of over 60 community rail partnerships and rail promotion groups in Britain and Ireland. It is focused on practical initiatives which add up to a better more sustainable local railway. Improved

station facilities, better train services and improved integration with other forms of transport are central to the work of ACoRP and its members. It works to improve the effectiveness of local railways in meeting social, environmental and economic objectives.

CTAI is assisting ACoRP member, Nenagh Rail Partnership, in the organisation of a Community Rail workshop to be held in Nenagh on Saturday, 26 May as part of Community Rail Week (19-27 May).

For more information on ACoRP, go to [www.acorp.uk.com](http://www.acorp.uk.com) ■

### Contact details:

CTAIS, Stradone Community Centre,  
Stradone, Co. Cavan.

Tel/fax: (+353) (0)49 432 3849

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

E-mail:

[advice@communitytransport.ie](mailto:advice@communitytransport.ie)

### Events

#### Sustainable Community

Transport 2007 (Part of Convergence)

Friday, 20 April

Dublin City Centre

See back page for details.

#### Community Rail Workshop

Saturday, 26 May

Nenagh

#### CT Regional Training Day

Wednesday, 30 May

Cavan

See back page for details.

#### Sustainable Transport in Ireland

Conference and workshops

Thursday & Friday,

20/21 September

Cavan

# Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

A RECENT EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE 2003/59/EC introduced the requirement for compulsory initial qualification and periodic training for professional drivers of buses, coaches, minibuses and lorries (all sizes). In addition to holding a driving licence all professional drivers will be required to hold a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC), which will be renewable on a 5 yearly basis.

Your individual circumstances will determine how you acquire the Driver CPC.

■ **New drivers** acquiring a PCV vocational entitlement (D1, D1+E, D, D+E licence) after 10 September 2008 and/or an LGV vocational entitlement (C1, C1+E, C or C+E licence) after 10 September 2009 will have to obtain the initial Driver CPC in addition to their licence to drive professionally. In order to obtain the CPC a theory test with case study questions and a 30 minute practical test will have to be taken.

■ **Existing drivers** who already hold a vocational licence on 10 September 2008 (PCV) or 10 September 2009 (LGV) are exempt from the initial Driver CPC. This is known as "acquired rights".

Both new and existing drivers must complete a total of 35 hours Periodic Training within the 5 years following their 'acquired rights' or initial Driver CPC to keep their Driver CPC valid. This is only required if the driver is using their licence professionally. PCV drivers exempt from the Driver CPC via acquired rights will have to complete their periodic training by September 2013 and LGV Drivers exempt from the Driver CPC via acquired rights will have to complete their periodic Driver CPC by September 2014.



The exemptions associated with the Directive are listed below:

- Vehicles with a maximum speed not exceeding 45 Kph
- Vehicles used by the armed forces, civil defence, and emergency services
- Vehicles undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance
- Vehicles used in states of emergency
- Vehicles used in the course of driving lessons or examinations
- Vehicles used for non-commercial carriage of passenger or goods – for personal use
- Vehicles used for carrying material of equipment to be used by the driver in the course of his or her work,

providing that driving the vehicles is not the drivers' principal activity.

Ultimately, it is up the driver and their employer to decide if they are covered by these exemptions, and if necessary, justify it to the competent authority.

It is believed that **volunteer** drivers of buses under Section 10B Permits in Northern Ireland are likely to be outside the scope of Directive 2003/59 /EC or that they are covered by one of its exemptions.

In the Republic of Ireland the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 confers responsibility for relevant elements of implementation of this Directive to the new Road Safety Authority. The Authority will engage with industry stakeholders regarding full implementation of Directive 2003/59/EC. ■

Sources of Information:  
Rol: [www.nsc.ie](http://www.nsc.ie); NI - [www.driverscpc.org](http://www.driverscpc.org)

# New Rural Transport Programme - €9 Million investment for 2007

**MINISTER OF STATE** for Transport, Pat the Cope Gallagher, T.D., launched the new Rural Transport Programme on 19 February in Donegal town. Minister Gallagher said: "This new Programme builds on the success to date of the Rural Transport Initiative (RTI), which was established as a pilot project under the 2000-2006 National Development Plan. The new Programme announced today puts the RTI on a permanent mainstreamed basis, with significantly increased funding".

The Government has made available some €9 million for the Rural Transport Programme, which now replaces the RTI in line with Towards 2106 - the new Social Partnership Agreement; this compares with €4.5 million in 2005. Last year, 34 projects were facilitated

under the RTI while some 30,000 people used the service during the year. Thirteen of the projects provided a daily service. Over 750,000 passenger trips were made during the year.

Referring to the Government's concern with social exclusion related to unmet public transport needs in rural Ireland, Minister Gallagher pointed out that the National Development Plan 2007-2013 - Transforming Ireland, commits some €90 million to the Rural Transport Programme over its full term to support community initiatives.

Minister Gallagher said that the €9 million funding for 2007 will lead to:

- an increase in the frequency of existing services

- extending the areas covered in rural areas
- new groups of customers enjoying the benefits of community-driven rural public transport.

Pobal, the national organisation that promotes social inclusion, will continue to work together with individual community transport groups in relation to the operational aspects of the new Programme, including the specific services to be provided and their method of provision. Under a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Transport, Pobal will work to ensure the Programme meets its objectives and that local groups are sufficiently supported financially and otherwise. ■

## Community Transport Training Network

**Training provided** by the CTAI through the CT Training Network has continued during February and March with the delivery of four MiDAS Driver Assessor/Trainer courses in Limerick, Naas, Mayo and Moate as well as two Passenger Assistant Trainer courses in Naas and Mayo. Due to demand a second MiDAS Driver Assessor/Trainer course will be delivered in Limerick and is already full. A further two Passenger Assistant Trainer courses will be delivered in Moate and Stradone, Co. Cavan.

D1 training for 20 drivers from Community Transport organisations in NI will be taking place over the next few weeks. The course for Social Audit Technicians continues to be delivered with trainees in the process of carrying out social audits within their own organisations. ■

## Seminar on Integrated Transport Solutions

**THIS VERY SUCCESSFUL** seminar, which was organised by CTAI and held at the RDS on 8 February 2007 looked at progress made in taking an integrated approach to the delivery of local passenger transport services. It brought together about 40 delegates from a variety of sectors to examine how working together can deliver the transport services which local communities and individuals need. Presentations reviewed developments and case studies in Ireland, Britain and Sweden as well as details of a workshop on transport co-ordination held over three days in the USA in 2006. The seminar was co-financed by the Department of Transport.

CTAI will be publishing the proceedings of the seminar in the near future. This will be sent to the people who attended the seminar and further copies will be available from CTAI or can be downloaded from [www.communitytransport.ie](http://www.communitytransport.ie) ■

# Community Transport Training

## Sustainable Community Transport Training Day: Living, working and playing without owning a car

20 April 2007

This event is being organised jointly with Cultivate and is part of their annual Convergence Festival. It will take place at Cultivate, 15-19 Essex Street West, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

It will showcase a number of community-based transport and mobility actions, which are guided by the need to plan and implement sustainable services. The workshops in the afternoon will utilise the unique "world café" method, which is structured around a number of discussion tables at which participants focus on dealing with a specific number of questions. The presentations in the morning will provide material to inform the "world café" discussions as well as the knowledge and experience of the participants.

### Fees

- CTTN Members - €50 per delegate
- CTAI Members - €75 per delegate
- Non Members - €100 per delegate

Fees are inclusive of tea/coffee and a light lunch.

For detailed programme and a booking form please visit [www.communitytransport.ie](http://www.communitytransport.ie) or e-mail [advice@communitytransport.ie](mailto:advice@communitytransport.ie)

## Revised dates for Training Programme

MiDAS Passenger Assistant Trainer Course (4 days)  
30 April – 3 May

Stradone Community Centre, Stradone, Co. Cavan.

### Fees

- CTTN Members - €125 per trainee
- CTAI Members - €375 per trainee
- Non Members - €500 per trainee

MiDAS Car & MPV Driver Observer Conversion Course (1 day) 4 May

(Trainee must have completed a Driver Assessor/Trainer Training Course)

Stradone Community Centre, Stradone, Co. Cavan.

### Fees

- CTTN Members - €25 per trainee
- CTAI Members - €75 per trainee
- Non Members - €100 per trainee

## Community transport training day

Cavan Town, 30 May 2007

This regional training day has been organised as part of the CT Training Network's programme. The programme for the day is set out below and includes seminars and practical workshops. It will take place at the Cavan Crystal Hotel on the outskirts of Cavan Town.

### Good governance for charitable organisations

This half day course is a necessity for all those on Management Committees or who are directors of Community Transport organisations. The course will cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, legal issues, management of staff and resources.

### Manual Handling

This half day course will train delegates about safe Manual Handling techniques, health and safety at work and risk assessment procedures.

### Minibus Emergency & Evacuation Procedures

Course for drivers and passenger assistants. Use of a smoke machine will create a simulated experience of fire on a vehicle. Learn all the practical skills and tips required in an emergency situation.

### Risk Management

This course provides an effective tool to develop effective risk procedures and policies. The course will include an outline session on risk assessment procedures and administration, child and vulnerable adult protection policies, health and safety at work.

Times	Programme		
0930 - 1000	Registration		
1000 - 1300	Good governance for charitable organisations	Minibus Emergency & Evacuation Procedures	Risk Management
1300 - 1400	Lunch		
1400 - 1630	Manual Handling	Minibus Emergency & Evacuation Procedures	Risk Management

### Fees

- CTTN Members - €50/£35 per delegate
- CTAI Members - €75/£50 per delegate
- Non Members - €100/£70 per delegate

Fees are inclusive of tea/coffee and a light lunch.

For a booking form please visit [www.communitytransport.ie](http://www.communitytransport.ie) or e-mail [advice@communitytransport.ie](mailto:advice@communitytransport.ie)