

# **RED MEETS GREEN AS NEW LUAS LINE GETS OFF TO A KICK START**

---

**MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

Last Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, saw the opening of the new Luas Cross City route through the heart of Dublin.

At 2pm Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe and Minister for Transport Shane Ross were seen pulling away the red and green bow from the front of the new Luas stop near the GPO. Bringing about an end to construction and a beginning to extended transportation, the project that had commenced in June 2013 had now come to an end.



Scheduled to have been completed by the end of this year, it is just on time for those Christmas shoppers and expected to increase passenger journeys by 10 million each year.

The new route, running all the way to Cabra, interlinks with the current red and green line. An additional 13 stops have been added, 8 of which are in the core of the city. Overall the 5.6 kilometres of track is expected to take about 21 minutes to travel from St Stephens Green to Cabra.

Costing a whopping €368 million, not only was it one of the biggest capital investments being undertaken at the time, but it has resulted in house prices to increase by 15%.

Although busier than expected with many curious to see the new route, it also has many positives. With the new stops creating a handier means of transport for many, public transportation is increasing therefore helping the battle against global warming.

One commuter who wishes to remain anonymous claimed that, “I have noticed it seemed busier but I use a Leap Card so don’t notice any changes in the price really.”

When I asked about the new stops and how relevant they were to him he said, “Well I only use it once or twice a day four days a week for college. I usually just get off around Harcourt Street so, they’re of no relevance to me. However, I did take it once to have a look and my friends use it so from what I hear it is quite good.”

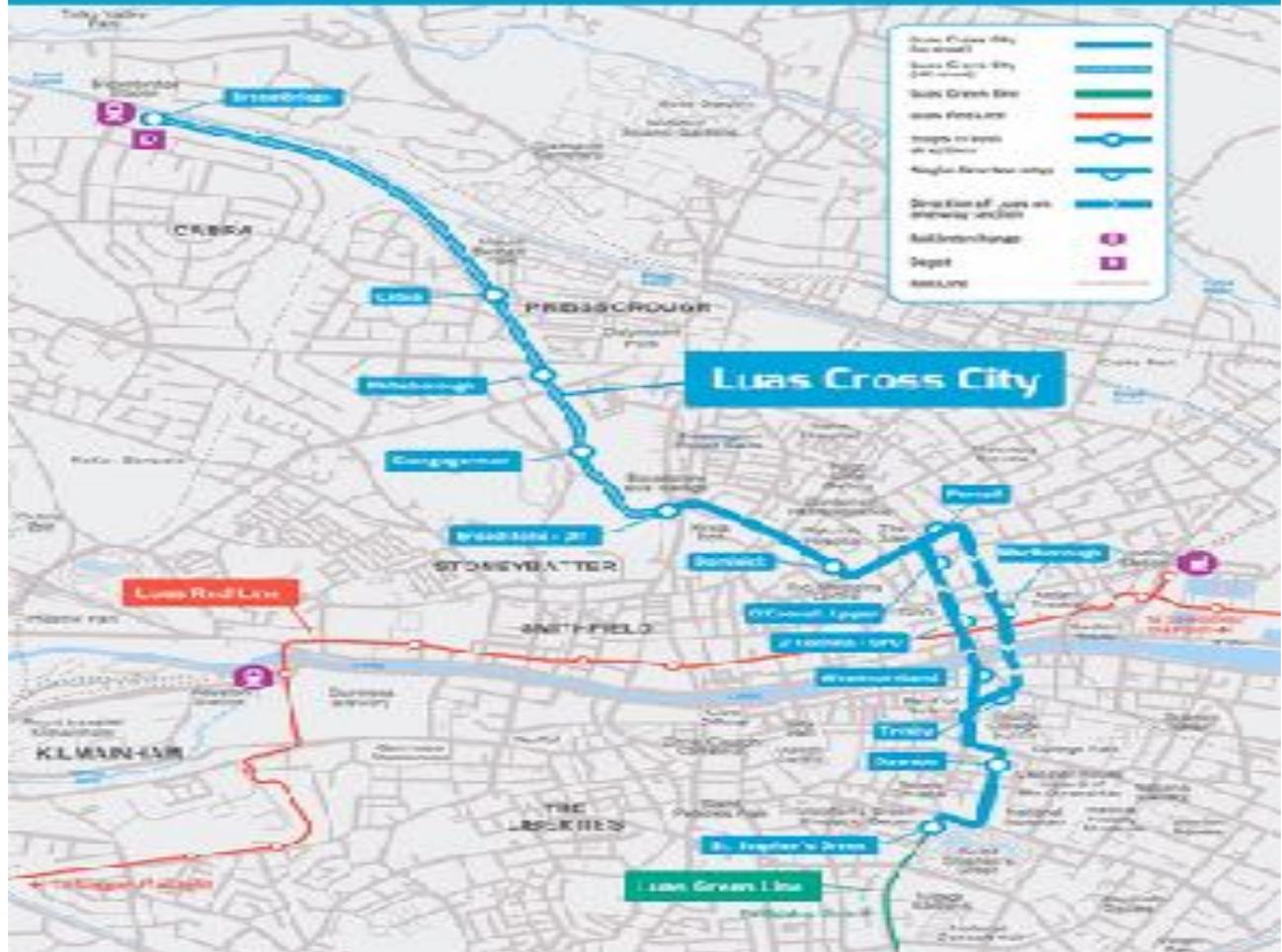
However, having only been opened for two days, it still needs some getting used to. The New Year may bring new changes to both the public and its means of transportation but only time shall tell. After the first lines opening back in 2004 the new 5.6km of track stretching all the way to Cabra is finally here for many more years to come.

Commuters have already voiced their complaints over various Social Media platforms about major delays to traffic and huge queues. Cyclists have grown concerned about the dangers of wheels getting caught in the tracks due to being asked to dismount their bicycles rather than divert their way through traffic across the tracks. Rubber inserts were to be placed in the tracks to prevent the wheels getting caught however it never happened. One cyclist voicing their complaints said “I am finding myself having to slow down and stop each time I reach the tracks. Now thanks to the new route there are tracks everywhere and my journeys are longer from continually having to get off the bike. Something has to be done to make it easier”.

Structurally different to the green and red line, it is a double track at the southern end. Then splitting into two single tracks it will loop around the city at College Green. Here, it will return to double tracks from O’Connell Street to Broombridge. As you can see from the map below, the original green Luas line which ends at St. Stephens Green links in with the new route. Continuing down past Trinity and onwards through O’Connell Street, the Luas Cross City heads further west to its Iarnród Éireann Broombridge Station in Cabra. The red line also interlinks across the new route down near O’Connell Street.

# LUAS CROSS CITY ROUTE MAP

St. Stephen's Green - Broombridge



Caoimhe Mc Tighe