

BELFAST RAPID TRANSIT

Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust
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Minister for Regional Development



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Department for
**Regional
Development**
www.drdni.gov.uk

Objectives of Belfast Rapid Transit

- To support **sustainable economic growth and regeneration**; providing **high quality access** and connectivity between different parts of the city
- To provide equality through **enhanced accessibility** linking the most **deprived communities to key employment** locations, retail facilities, leisure, health and education services
- To support **social inclusion** and the **integration** of communities across the city
- To provide a **modern, safe, efficient and high quality** public transport service which promotes modal shift to public transport

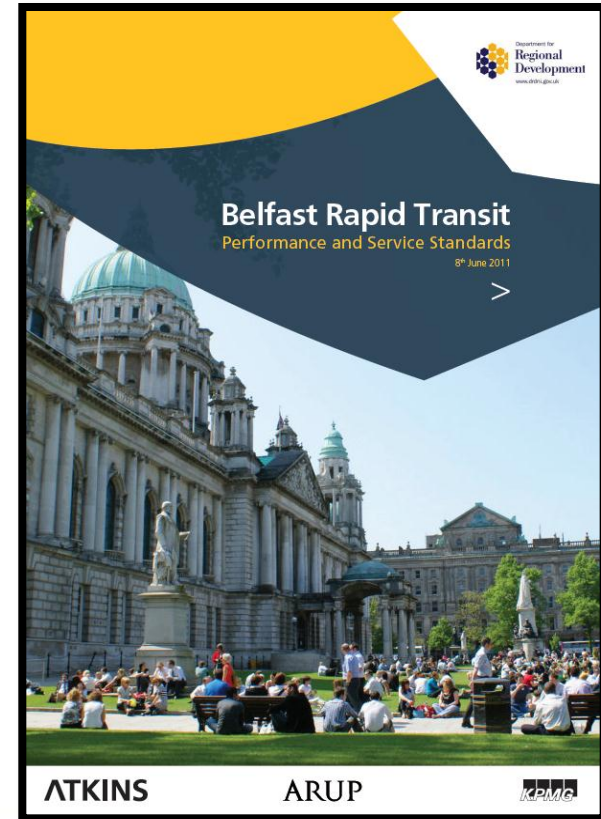


Belfast Rapid Transit



What are the key themes?

- Quality
- Reliability
- Complete System
- Integration
- Strong Belfast Branded Image

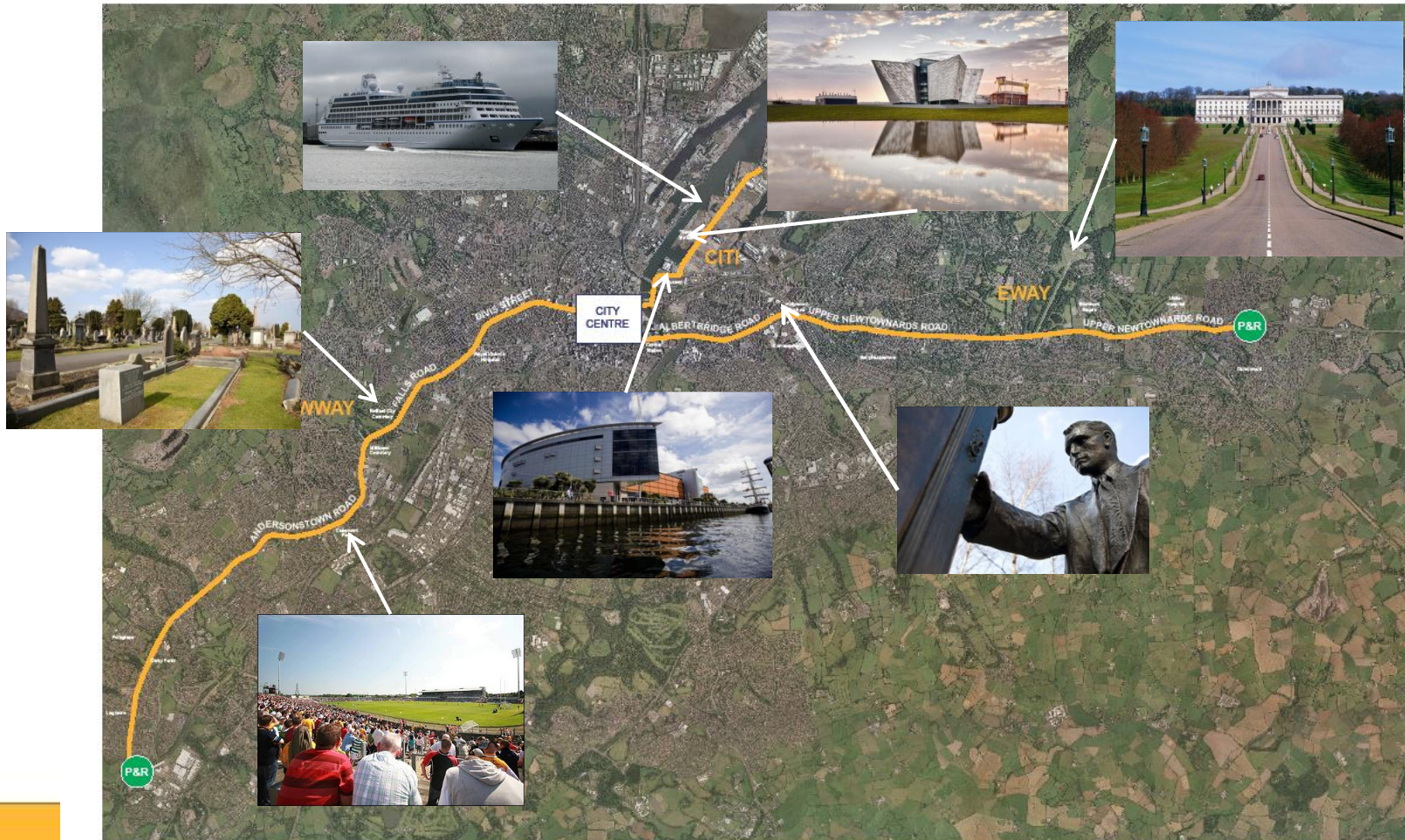


A Strong Belfast Branded Image

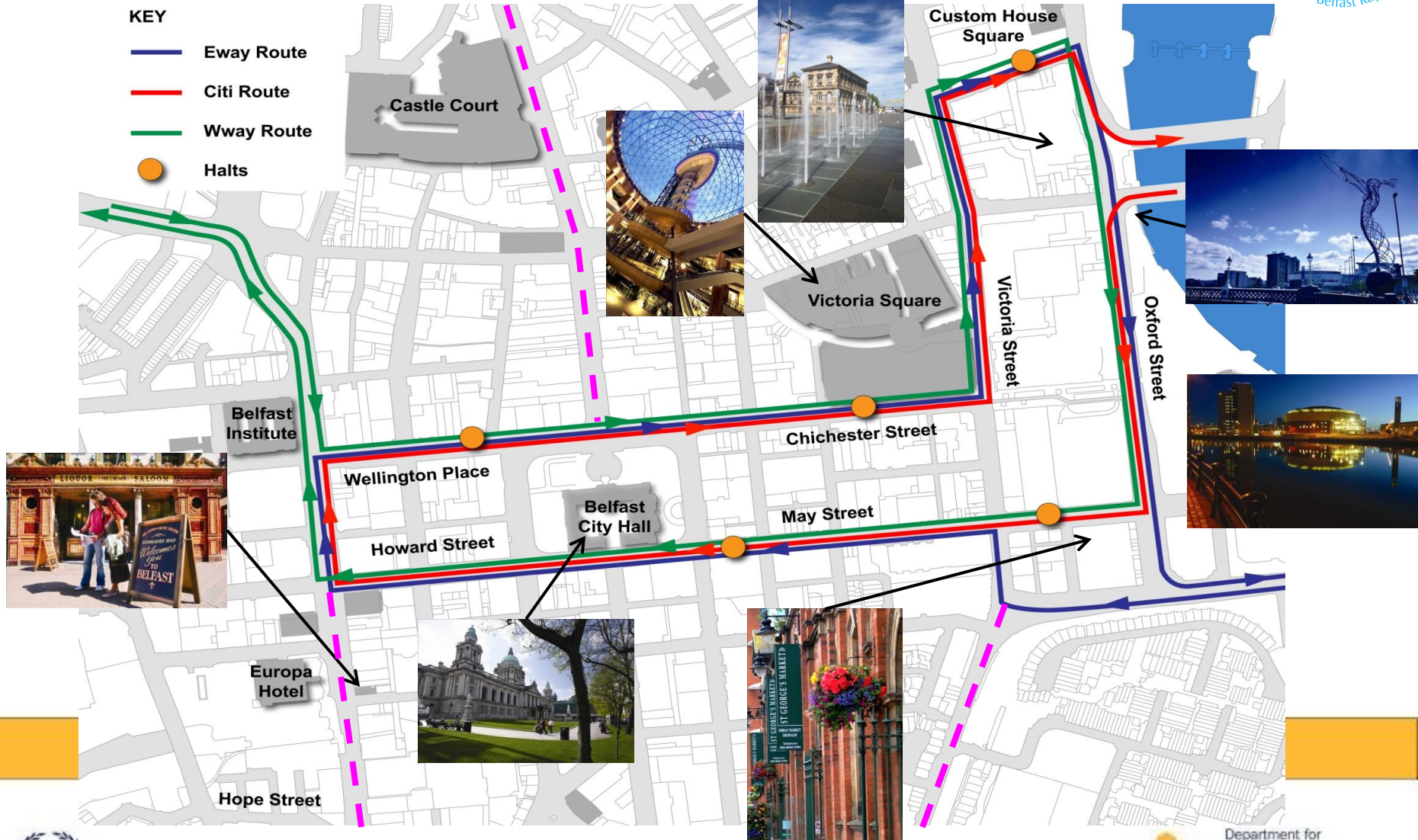


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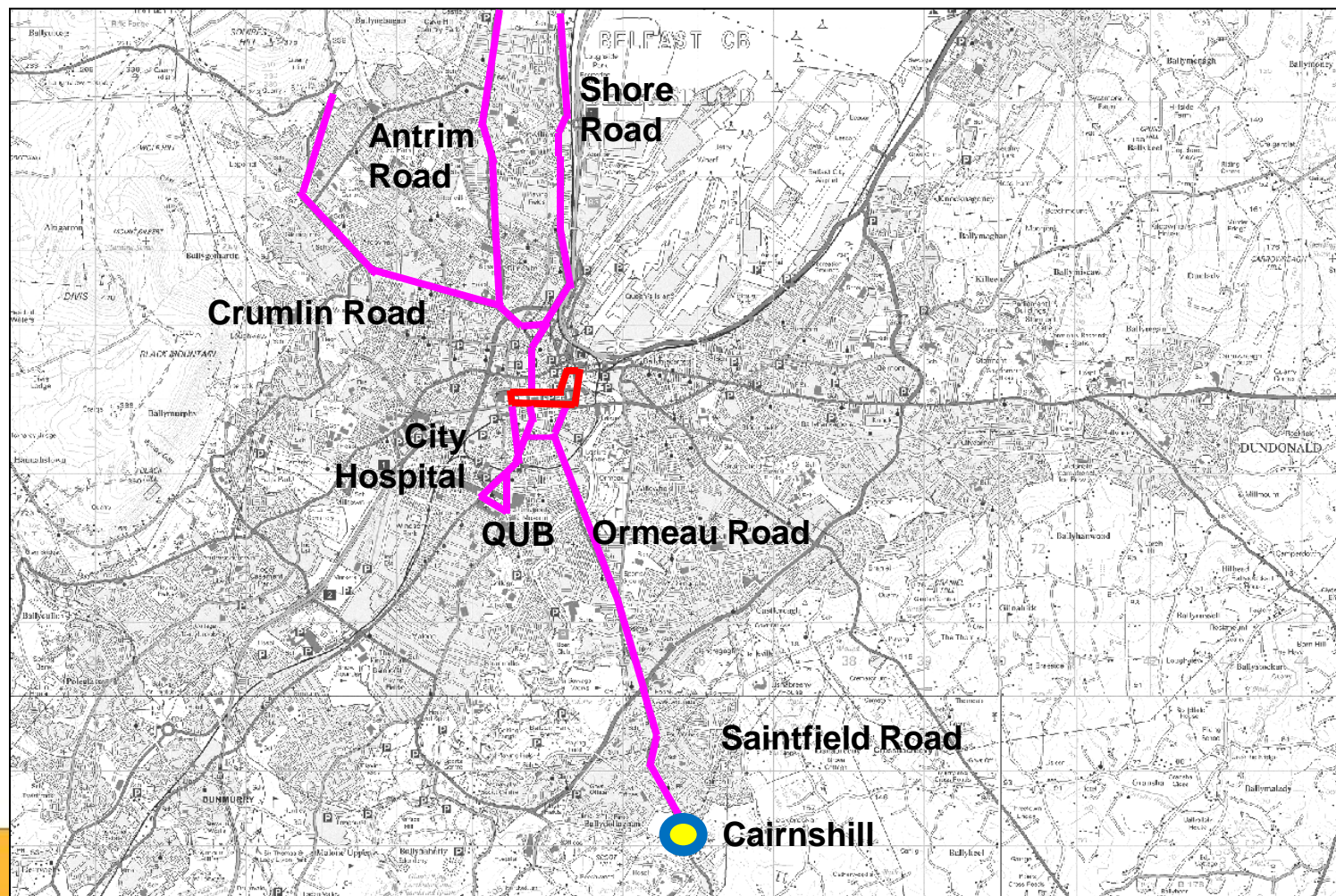
Recommended Routes



City Centre Loop



Potential Network Extensions



- To link Universities & City Hospital
- To Cairnshill Park & Ride via Ormeau Road & Saintfield Road
- To serve North Belfast via Shore Road, Antrim Road or Crumlin Road



Key Implementation Challenges

Project Management – Co-ordination of approximately 20 major sub-projects

- 15 Infrastructure projects (roadworks, halts and Park & Ride)
- Procurement of the Rapid Transit Vehicles
- Development of vehicle depot and maintenance facilities
- Co-ordination with Translink's Next Generation Ticketing Project
- Co-ordination with other major public and private projects including DSD/BCC Environmental Improvement Schemes
- BRT operational plan – reconfiguration of existing public transport services



Key Implementation Opportunities

- Address other needs whilst implementing BRT
 - replace aging buses
 - reconstruct and resurface roads and footways
 - upgrade traffic signalling equipment and enhance pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- Improve road safety
- Introduce early benefits through Park & Ride and enhanced priority for existing public transport services
- Make more efficient use of road space - 1 full BRT vehicle with around 100 people = the number of people in about 0.5km of cars
- Improve air quality along the routes
- Promote Belfast as a modern city with the ability to regenerate, encourage economic development and support the wider objectives of the Programme for Government



Recent Progress



- **Public Information Events**
 - 28 & 29 November 2013. Ballyhackamore Library
 - 9 & 10 January 2014. An Chultúrlann, Falls Road
 - 30 & 31 January 2014. Colin Glen Centre, Stewartstown Road
 - 25 & 26 September 2014. Holywood Arches Library
- **New Dundonald Park & Ride facility** – Construction of a new 520 space Park & Ride facility commenced in May 2014. It is anticipated that this will be operational later this year and will be served by Translink services prior to BRT becoming operational in 2017.
- **Upper Newtownards Road, between Sandown Rd and Knock Rd** – work commenced on this section of the BRT route in June 2014 and is scheduled to be completed later this year.
- **Falls Road between Grosvenor Road and Whiterock Road** – work commenced on this section of the BRT route in September 2014 and is scheduled to be completed in mid 2015.
- **Vehicle Procurement** – I announced funding of £20m for the BRT vehicles and the procurement process has started.



Ongoing works





BRT Project Timeline

2013 - 2014

Detailed Design

Start work on routes and Park & Ride facilities

[This will include road widening and resurfacing along sections of the routes]

2015-2017

Finish work on routes and Park & Ride facilities

Introduce bus lanes

[Bus lanes will generally operate during morning and evening rush hours until 2017 when they will convert to 12 hour operation]

Finalise operations plan

Purchase BRT vehicles

Install halts

2017

BRT operational



Thank you

www.drdni.gov.uk/index/rapid-transit.htm

