

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KERRY

For National Road Safety Conference

Kerry County Council will roll out a national road safety conference on 28 and 29 May, to discuss the latest research, strategies, technologies and policies aimed at reducing road-related collisions, fatalities and injuries, and to share resources and ideas on the best way forward to help improve road safety across Ireland.

The two-day 'Safer Roads' conference, which takes place at Killarney's Gleneagle INEC Arena, will be attended by road safety professionals, speakers and service providers from Ireland, other EU countries and the UK.

These will include transportation experts, government and local authority officials, roads policing and vehicle inspection agencies, road safety advocates, educators and promoters, collision responders, cycling bodies and community safety networks.

The inter-agency conference will focus on improving road safety, reducing traffic-related incidents, and sharing knowledge and best practices for safer road use. It encompasses various strategies and efforts across multiple domains, including road design, engineering, enforcement, forensic collision investigation, technology, education, collision trends, occupational driving, e-mobility, active and sustainable travel, and on-road events.



Kerry County Council officials (l-r): Executive Engineer Vincent Foley, Assistant Staff Officer Deirdre Moynihan, Director Frank Hartnett, Staff Officer Margaret O'Sullivan and Senior Executive Engineer Brian O'Connor.

In addition, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality and Driver Simulation will also play a significant role at the conference, in improving safety by predicting and preventing accidents, optimising traffic, and aiding the development of autonomous vehicles.

According to Frank Hartnett, Director of Services for Roads & Transport at Kerry County Council, this milestone event will be "an opportunity for a world class community that shares a passion, dedication and desire to excel in road safety to learn and share".

He said that the safety of our roads is not the responsibility of one organisation, but that of all stakeholders and road users. "Through working together, sharing our knowledge, expertise, and experience, we aim to develop a safer environment for all road users," he added.



Kerry County Council's Senior Executive Engineer Brian Lennon, Assistant Health & Safety Advisor Katriona Scully and Road Safety Officer Declan Keogh.

According to Declan Keogh, Kerry County Council's Road Safety Officer, road safety has evolved over the years to a much broader scope, in terms of e-mobility, sustainability, technology and engineering for instance.

"It's not just about the road or the vehicle anymore, but also about how technology, human behaviour, enforcement, and education intersect to reduce risks and prevent collisions. The 'Safer Roads' conference will involve and include every branch of the road safety tree, right across the board, and in doing so, we aim to increase road safety awareness, improve road user behaviour and decrease the collisions and carnage we see on our roads every day," Keogh pointed out.

The event will also provide an opportunity for interested state bodies, businesses and service providers to showcase their products and services and engage with delegates and officials at the conference.



For further information visit www.kerrycoco.ie/safer-roads-road-safety-conference