

Commuting, People and Place: Emerging Perspectives from the InPLACE Project

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Research Partners



Research Funders



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development.

Research Context

- Pre-COVID: Commuting an increasingly prominent feature of life across the island of Ireland and USA – in terms of volumes, distances and travel times
- Major phenomenon during 1990s to mid-2000s; and again post-2015
- Outcome of economic growth as well as spatial planning and policy over many decades
- COVID-19: Advent of home / remote working and disruption to commuting patterns– both public and private transport modes...
- ...Leading to changing spatial relationship between home and workplace
- Temporary? Or longer-term shifts?
- Lessons for planning and place-making?



The InPLACE Project: Investigating Planning, Place- making and Commuting

Aim

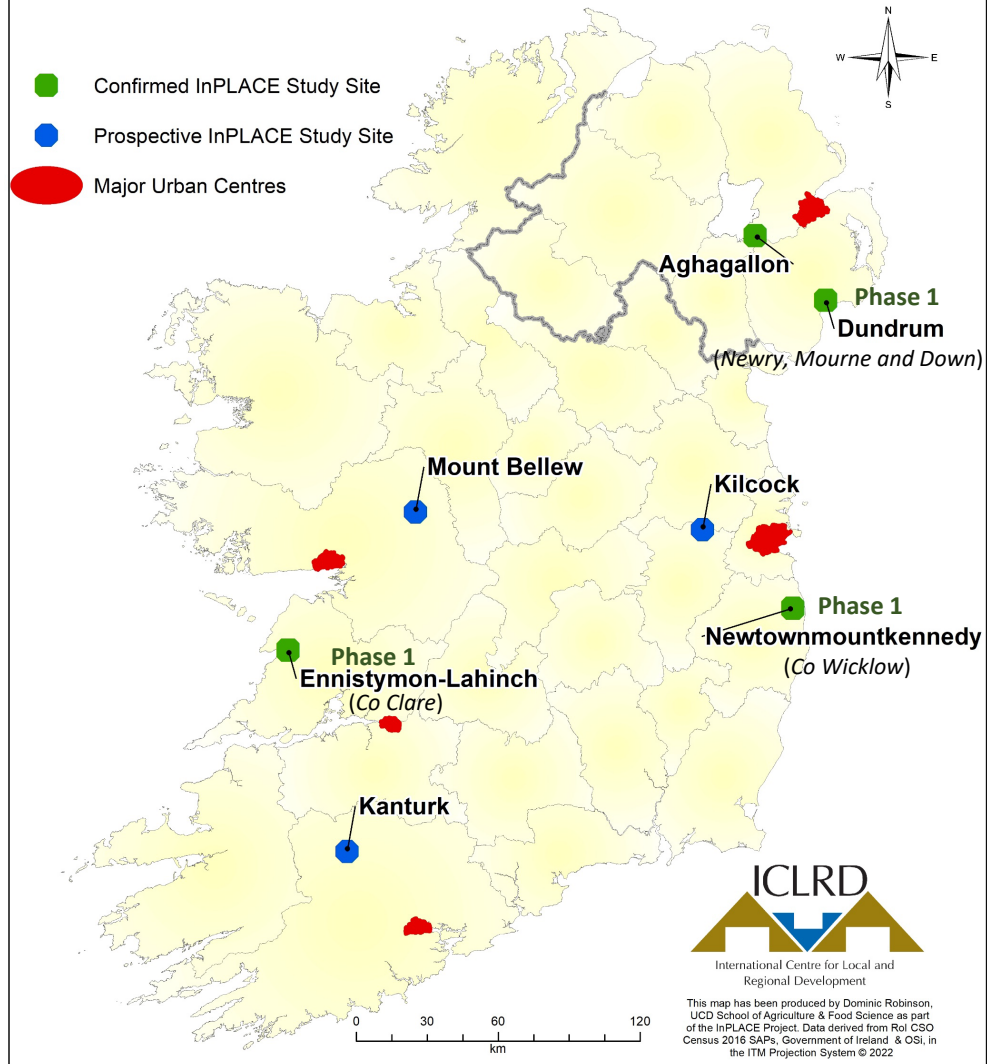
- To investigate the impact of commuting, especially long-duration out-commuting, on people and place

Objectives

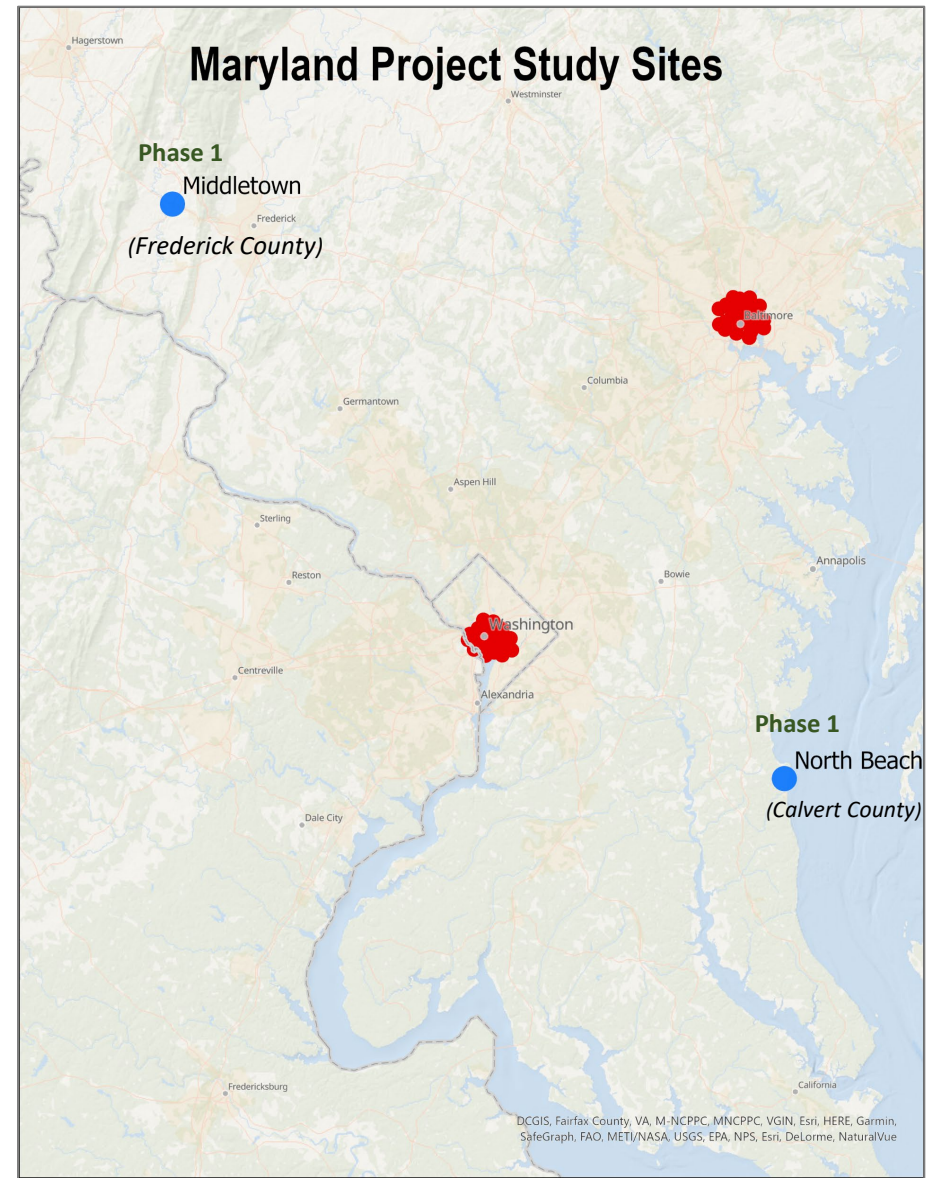
- To quantify and map the scale of pre- and post-COVID commuting in the case study locations
- To examine the demographics, community dynamics and spatial patterns of development in the case study areas
- To assess the impacts of pre- and post-COVID commuting
- To examine good practice examples of place-based interventions that promote more resilient and sustainable communities

InPLACE Project Study Sites

- Confirmed InPLACE Study Site
- Prospective InPLACE Study Site
- Major Urban Centres



Maryland Project Study Sites



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Research Design

- **A Case Study Approach**

The methodology is designed to gain an **in-depth** picture of commuting in **selected locations**, and its impacts on the community and the place

- Settlements (in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Maryland) that experience significant out-commuting on a daily basis
- Communities of comparable size (population) and socio-demographic composition with significant levels of out-commuting (>45 minutes each way)

Methodology

- Four research strands:

Strand 1: Area Profiles

- Baseline profile of the case study areas (commuting, recent land use change, service provision, civil society organisations) using data mapping and visualisation (StoryMap)

Strand 2: Policy analysis / Literature Review

- Literature Review – International
- Policy analysis – Island of Ireland

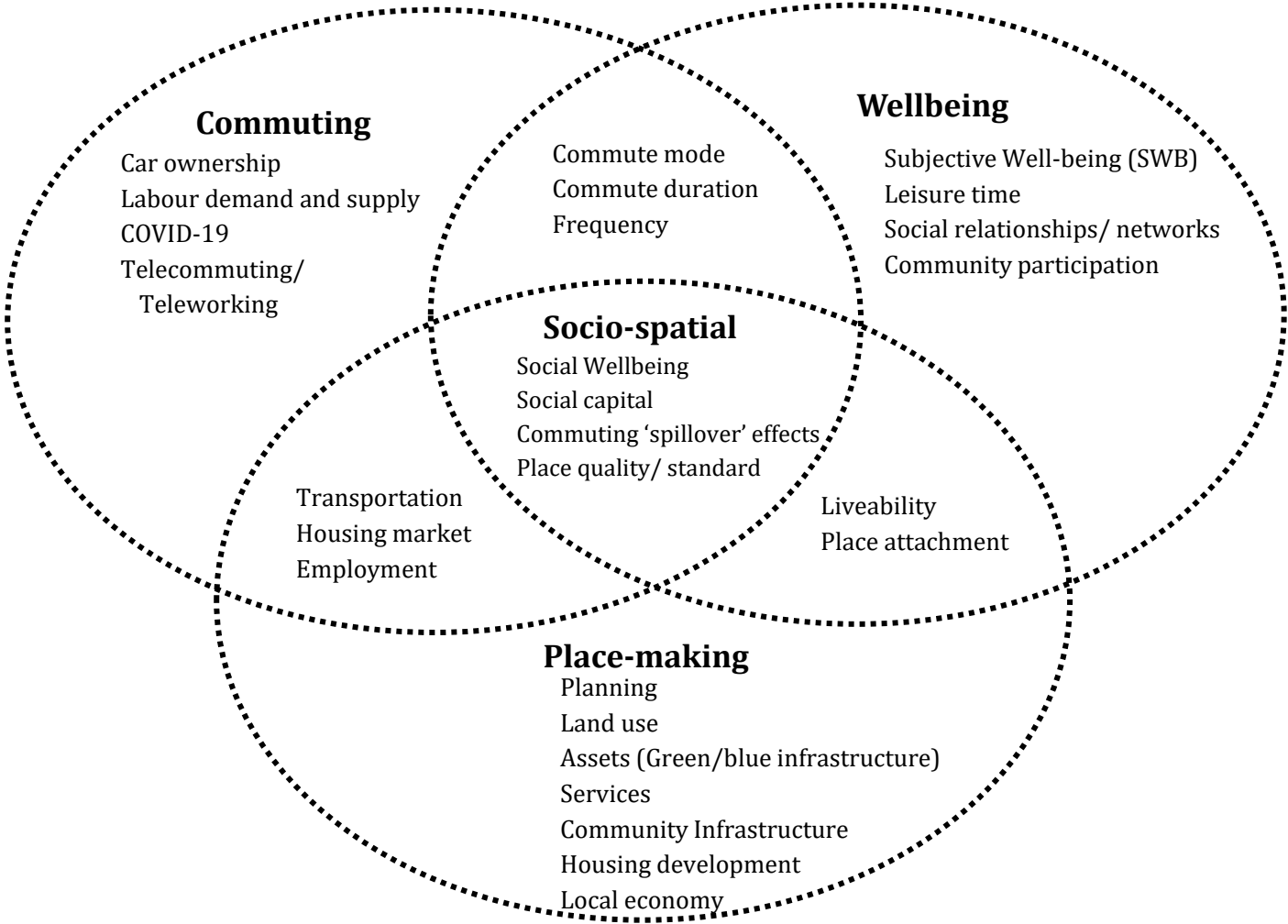
Strand 3: Stakeholder Engagement

- Interviews and focus groups with commuters and other stakeholders
- Survey of local community and application of Place Standard tool

Strand 4: Examination of Best Practice

- Irish and international exemplars of how more sustainable relationships between home and workplace can be promoted

Literature Review – Key Insights



Policy Domains

National and Regional

- Balanced Regional Development
- Compact Growth
- Sustainable Ruralism
- Public Transportation
- Land use changes /mixing
- Digital infrastructure / connectivity
- Climate change / low carbon transitioning
- Healthy places

Local

- Quality of life / social well-being outcomes (for individual subjective well-being and collective social well-being)
- Quality of place domains:
 - Housing
 - Traffic / mobility / public transport
 - Work and local economy
 - Social inclusion / social cohesion / social capital
 - Sense of place
 - Natural Environment

