

N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky)



Public Consultation 2 Information Brochure Route Corridor Options February/March 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Westmeath County Council in conjunction with Longford County Council supported by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) invite the residents of the local area, members of the public and interested parties to participate in a public consultation on the Route Corridor Options for the N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) project.

The existing 52km section of the N4 is a single carriageway road that passes through or close to several settlements, including Ballinalack, Rathowen, Edgeworthstown, Longford and Newtown Forbes.

We are working to improve safety and connectivity between Mullingar and Longford (Roosky) and enhance overall accessibility in the region and to the West/ Northwest by resolving the network deficiencies along this section of the N4 route.

The project will alleviate congestion in the settlements along the route, improve journey times and allow for safer and more reliable journeys for road users, including vulnerable users and users of road-based public transport.

It will also act as an enabler for strengthening tourism through improved connectivity between Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, and the Wild Atlantic Way.

The project will also provide for improved opportunities for active travel through provision of dedicated walkways and cycling routes, and support sustainable mobility through provision for electric charging infrastructure to encourage the use of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions.



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Bonneagar Iompair Éireann
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí



AN LONGFORT
Comhairle Chontae An Longfort
Longford County Council

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Previously a Preferred Route Corridor and Route Selection report were published in July 2010 but at that time the National Roads Authority (NRA) advised that due to funding restrictions further work on the project was to be suspended. Due to changes in environmental legislation, design standards and in order to comply with the requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Public Spending Code, it has become necessary to fully re-appraise the proposed project through the TII Project Management Process; Phases 0 to 4, including Scope and Pre-Appraisal (Phase 0), Concept and Feasibility (Phase 1), Options Selection (Phase 2), Design and Environmental Evaluation (Phase 3) and the Statutory Processes (Phase 4).

As a result, studies carried out over a decade ago must be revisited.

To achieve this, Westmeath County Council undertook Phase 0 and commissioned ROD-AECOM to deliver the project through Phases 1 to 4 of TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

NEED FOR THE SCHEME

The N4 serves a vast geographical area and provides a strategic function in terms of connecting the West and Northwest regions of Ireland to the Midlands and the East of the country. It provides access to peripheral areas of the country including Leitrim, Roscommon, Sligo and Donegal; Cavan via the N55 and Mayo via the N5 at Longford. Many businesses in these areas depend on the N4 corridor for access to both national and international markets.

The proposed project represents over 25% of the N4/M4 corridor and remains the largest unimproved section of this route.

The main aims of the project are to deliver on policy and improve road safety.





Policy Context

Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all of its people. The development of the project will deliver on a number of policy documents at European, National and Regional Levels. An upgrade of this section of the N4;

- supports the EU Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) in relation to the delivery of the TEN-T comprehensive road network
- supports the Strategic Outcome of the National Planning Framework in relation to Enhanced Regional Accessibility
- is identified in the National Development Plan
- is identified as an objective in both the Westmeath and Longford County Development Plans

Safety

Road safety along this section of the N4 is compromised with the current cross section and presence of over 500 at-grade junctions and private accesses.

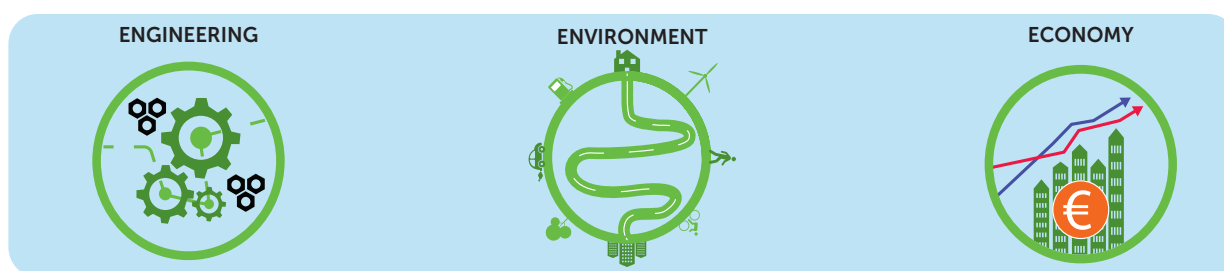
 x 17.5K	• serves up to 17,500 vehicles per day
 x 500	• featuring over 500 junctions and direct accesses
 x 159	• 159 collisions in twelve years from 2008 to 2019
 x 17	• 17 fatalities in twelve years from 2008 to 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

The project is currently in Phase 2: Options Selection, which is a 3-stage process.

Phase 2 Option Selection	Stage 1 – Preliminary Options Assessment
	Stage 2 – Project Appraisal Matrix
	Stage 3 – Preferred Option

During our Stage 1 Preliminary Options Assessment we identified feasible Route Corridor Options within the study area while taking account of the constraints and the feedback received from the first non-statutory public consultation which was held in summer 2020. These Route Corridor Options were subjected to a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) under the assessment criteria of:



Route Corridor Options

These have now been shortlisted to identify Route Corridor Options to be considered during Stage 2 (Project Appraisal Matrix). The shortlisted options are presented on the map within this brochure.

The public consultation format has been adapted to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. Details and information in relation to the Route Corridor Options are being made available online through a virtual public consultation experience on our project website – details overleaf. We would welcome your feedback on the Route Corridor Options which you can submit on-line through our virtual public consultation platform or by making a submission by email or post - details overleaf.

ROOSKY

DRUMLISH

BALLINALEE

NEWTOWN FORBES

EDGEWORTHSTOWN

LONGFORD

ARDAGH

RATHOWEN

BALLINALACK

MULTYFARNHAM

MULLINGAR

N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky)



STUDY AREA BOUNDARY

EXISTING N4

ROUTE CORRIDOR OPTIONS:

- OPTION 1 - NAVY
- OPTION 2 - ORANGE
- OPTION 3 - GREEN
- OPTION 4 - BLUE
- OPTION 5 - BLACK
- OPTION 6 - YELLOW
- OPTION 7 - MAROON
- OPTION 8 - PINK
- OPTION 9 - TEAL
- OPTION 10 - BROWN
- OPTION 11 - PLUM
- OPTION 12 - RED

Note 1:

The Route Corridor Options indicated on this drawing are indicative, not final and are subject to change. It is a work in progress and will be modified as a result of consultation, including feedback from this public consultation, feedback from stakeholders and further investigations, including environmental, land and geotechnical surveys. As the design is refined and assessments undertaken by the various environmental specialists, this may result in changes to all or part of the proposed Route Corridor Options.

Note 2:

The Route Corridor Options are generally shown as 300m wide corridors. These corridors do not represent the actual width of the proposed road development or the lands to be acquired – the corridors simply indicate the lands within which a road alignment could feasibly be developed. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Option may be comprised of a combination of different options displayed above.

Note 3:

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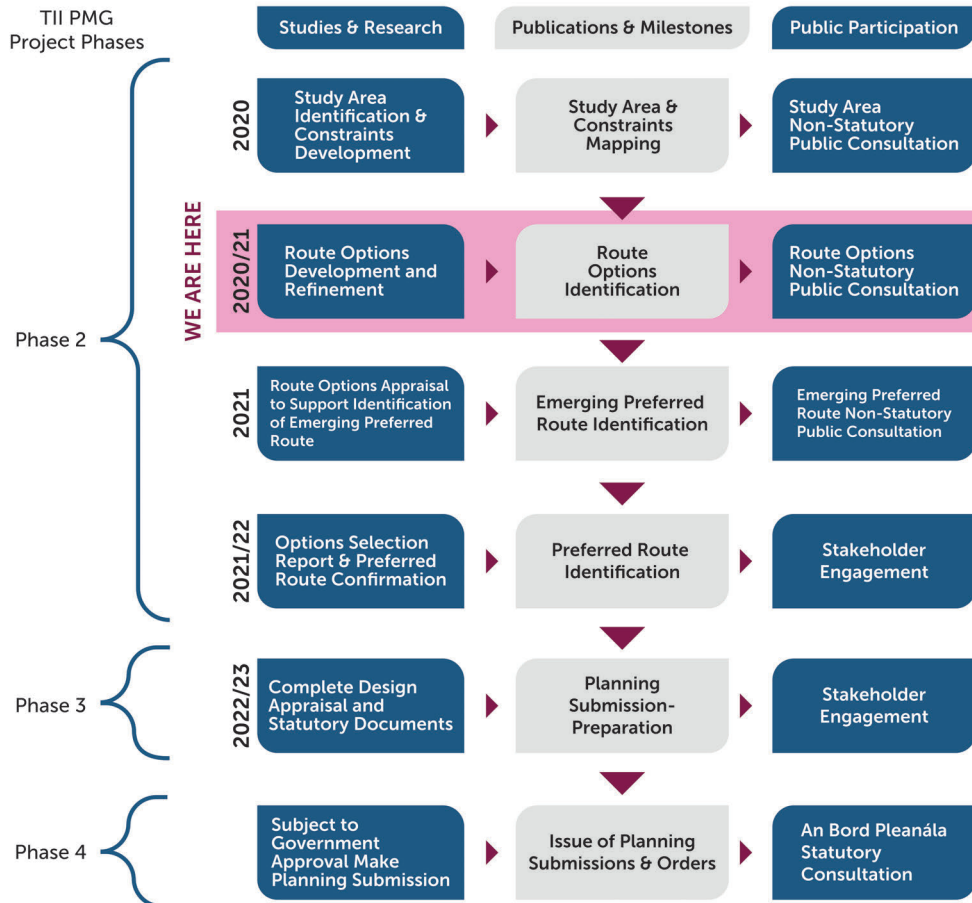
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NEXT STEPS

The options selection process will involve a detailed assessment of route corridor options under the following criteria; Economy, Safety, Environment, Accessibility and Social Inclusion, Integration and Physical Activity. The feedback and submissions received through this public consultation will be considered by the project team throughout this process.

Public Consultation Roadmap



Further Information

National Roads Office

Westmeath County Council,
Culleen Beg,
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
N91 2TPE

ROD-AECOM

Unit 23C Lough Sheever Corporate Park,
Robinstown,
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
N91 V340

For further details on the Route Corridor Options please refer to our dedicated project website: www.n4mullingartolongford.ie or email us at: info@n4mullingartolongford.ie

If you do not have internet or email access please feel free to contact us on **086 059 9895** (9:00am to 5:00pm Monday - Friday) or alternatively you can write to us at ROD-AECOM, Unit 23C Lough Sheever Corporate Park, Robinstown, Co. Westmeath N91 V340.