

Belclare to Murrisk Greenway

Phase 2

Non-statutory Public Consultation Emerging Preferred Option



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Bonneagar Iompair Éireann
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport



Project Ireland 2040
Building Ireland's Future

Background

Mayo County Council have appointed Barry Transportation to provide technical consultancy services for Option Selection, Preliminary Design and Statutory Processes for the Belclare to Murrisk Greenway. This Greenway will be delivered in accordance with the Department of Transport Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways.

The route is approximately 6km in length which runs from Belclare to Murrisk and forms an integral part and extension to the Clew Bay Greenway. Not only will the Greenway be used as an enhanced tourism experience, but it will also be key to unlocking access to active travel for people living in the area.

The overall objective of the Belclare to Murrisk Greenway is to provide a high quality, high-capacity continuous Greenway from Belclare to Murrisk. The Belclare to Murrisk Greenway forms part of the Clew Bay Bike Trail which links Westport, Murrisk, Louisburgh, Roonagh, Clare Island, Achill Island, Mulranny, Newport and returns to Westport.

The Belclare to Murrisk Greenway is expected to improve the safety and wellbeing of all road users in the region. This will be achieved by separating vulnerable road users from vehicles with segregated greenway infrastructure.

Study Area

The study area extends from the Aughavale Cemetery near Belclare to the Croagh Patrick Carpark, west of Murrisk Village with a total distance of approximately 6km. The area is largely confined by the presence of Clew Bay to the north and Croagh Patrick to the south. The proposed scheme will provide enhanced active travel and greenway facilities for non-motorised road users from Belclare to Murrisk. East of the scheme, the existing greenway facilities between Belclare and Westport are of a good standard. West of Murrisk Village there is a separate scheme currently under development by the tourism department.

Following from the development of this greenway there is opportunity for new eco-tourism and active tourism businesses to capitalise on the growing market, such as the development of bike tours and walking tours. These new business opportunities may provide meaningful employment opportunities for residents of the Study Area and provide a stable and reliable income from the increased tourism trade as a result of the development of this new greenway. The extent of the study area can be seen in the figure below.



Options Considered

During the option selection process, two options were considered with ten possible routes. Option 1 involves the construction of a roadside greenway next to the R335, of which there are two sub-options, namely Option 1A and 1B. Option 2 involves construction of an elevated greenway located away from the R335, of which there are 8 sub-options, namely Option 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G and 2H. A summary of these options is shown in the table below.

Option Name	Option Description
Option 1A	Roadside Option A
Option 1B	Roadside Option B
Option 2A	Elevated Option A
Option 2B	Elevated Option B
Option 2C Preferred	Elevated Option C
Option 2D	Elevated Option D
Option 2E	Elevated Option E
Option 2F	Elevated Option F
Option 2G	Elevated Option G
Option 2H	Elevated Option H

What's Happening Now?

The project team has developed an emerging preferred option for the route of the proposed greenway along with a proposed cross-section for the scheme. More details of the emerging preferred option can be found on www.mayo.ie/en-ie/national-roads-office/projects/projects-in-planning/belclare-to-murrisk-greenway-project.

The project team is now seeking your feedback on the emerging preferred option for the scheme. Any considerations, information or constraints are welcome, and will be assessed by the project team in the further development of the scheme.

A Public Consultation Event will be held on February 22nd 2024 at Cronin's Shebeen Pub and Restaurant from 1:30pm to 6:30pm, where the emerging preferred option will be displayed, and the Project Team will be on hand to answer any queries.



What Happens Next?

Any comments/information received at this stage will further inform the preliminary design for this scheme. The Project Team give significant attention to the following items:

- Local Constraints along the Road Corridor
- Consistent and Continuous Facilities
- Access to Private Dwellings
- Junction Improvements
- Pedestrian Crossing Locations
- Environmental and Biodiversity considerations

Project Phasing & Timeline

Phase 2

Options Selection

We have identified key constraints to the project development and have developed and assessed feasible solutions in line with the project objectives in order to select a preferred option.



Q3
2023

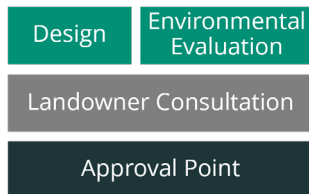
Q1
2024



Phase 3

Design & Environmental Evaluation

We will develop the design of the preferred solution to a sufficient level of detail to establish land take requirements and undertake environmental evaluation to identify and mitigate impacts.

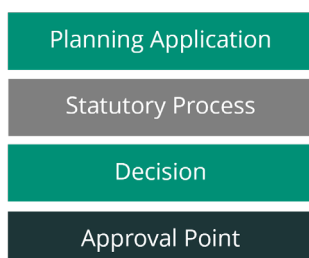


Q3
2024

Phase 4

Statutory Process

We will advance the project through the Statutory Process to ensure that the project is developed in accordance with planning, environmental and other relevant legislation.



Q4
2024

Have your say!

All project information, including Project Drawings and Maps, are available to view at: www.mayo.ie/en-ie/national-roads-office/projects/projects-in-planning/belclare-to-murrisk-greenway-project

or at the in-person Public Consultation Day on 22nd February 2024.

The Project Team is available to answer any queries you may have during this public consultation period, and can be contacted at: nro@mayococo.ie

How to submit your feedback:

- Completing the Emerging Preferred Route Feedback Questionnaire
- In person at our public consultation event
- In writing to Mayo National Roads Office
- Online at consult.mayo.ie



All feedback should be returned to the Project Team before Friday 22nd March 2024.

For Further Information please contact:

Mayo National Roads Office
Belclare to Murrisk Greenway Project Team:

Glenpark House | The Mall | Castlebar | County Mayo | F23 XF40

Engineering Design Consultants (Barry Transportation):

Unit 14C, N5 Business Park, Moneen Rd, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23 YY39