

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

Cork City Council

Passage Greenway Phase 3 - Skehard Road Link



Part 8 Proposal

July 2026



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Cork City Council

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1 Introduction

In accordance with Part 8, Cork City Council intends to give notice of the proposed scheme – Passage Greenway Phase 3 - Skehard Road link.

The scheme will improve access and connectivity between Skehard Road and its environs, and the Passage Greenway as well as providing a safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle link catering for all pedestrian and cycle users including, commuter, leisure, and family cycling groups.

This document outlines the proposals for the scheme and will outline how these changes will affect all road users.

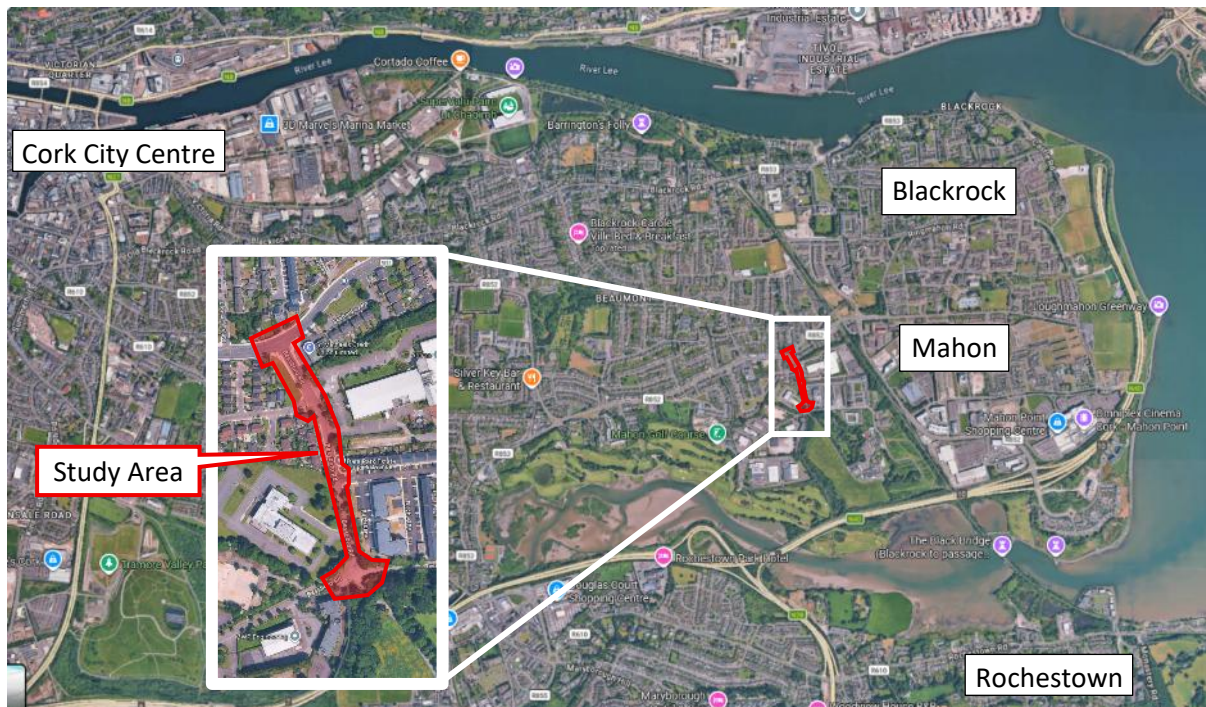
2 Project Details

The proposed development will consist of works to improve access and connectivity between Skehard Road, and its environs, and the Passage Greenway. The proposed development comprises:

- Upgrading of pedestrian crossings to Toucan crossings at the junction of Skehard Road and Bessborough Road.
- Construction of new footpaths a new two-way cycle track south of the junction, incorporating raised entry treatment at side roads and entrances to premises.
- Removal of the existing mini-roundabout on Bessborough Road and replacement with a priority junction and an associated zebra crossing.
- Ancillary improvements such as: public lighting, road drainage improvements, improved road traffic signage, replacement and additional road markings, and other associated works will also be implemented where necessary

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Map below shows the project location



3 Part 8 Planning documentation

This Part 8 planning report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended. This report should be read in conjunction with the following documentation:

- Part 8 Planning Report (This document)
- Public Notice
- Scheme Drawings
- Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report
- Environmental Impact Assessment Screening and Determination Report

4 Purpose of the Scheme

4.1 Objectives Purpose of the Scheme

The overall purpose of this project is the delivery of a pedestrian and cycle link which will be both safe and attractive, catering for all pedestrians and cycle users including commuters, leisure, and family cycling groups. Ultimately when the scheme is delivered, it will help to improve connectivity between Skehard Road and the Passage Greenway, improve safety and contribute towards an increased number of trips in the area by pedestrians and cyclists.

5 Project Related Policies - National Planning Framework (Project Ireland 2040)

Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF) provides a high-level strategic planning framework to guide development and investment.

The following policy objectives are relevant to the scheme:

National Policy Objective 4: Ensure the creation of attractive, liveable, well-designed, high-quality urban places that are home to diverse and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and well-being.

National Policy Objective 27: Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by prioritising walking and cycling accessibility to both existing and proposed developments and integrating physical activity facilities for all ages.

National Policy Objective 64: Improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in our urban and rural areas through integrated land use and spatial planning that supports public transport, walking and cycling as more favourable modes of transport to the private car.

6 Regional Policy

Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028

The scheme is located within Cork City Council jurisdiction. The Cork City Council County Development Plan 2022-2028 is therefore a key planning policy document of relevance at local level.

The scheme is compliant with the objectives of the Cork City Development Plan. The plan includes several Strategic Objectives which will be relevant to the scheme. In this section each of the relevant Strategic Objective is summarised and a comment included regarding how the current project satisfies the requirements of that objective.

Objective 4.1 – Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

CMATS together with other parts of the City Development Plan, promotes a shift to more sustainable travel modes, including active travel such as walking which can, in-turn, improve accessibility to public transport facilities such as bus routes.

- The current project will provide improved pedestrian infrastructure, dedicated cycle facilities and traffic calming features which, together will provide a safer and more attractive road environment for active travel. The improved pedestrian infrastructure will also improve accessibility to bus stops in the areas, with the improved accessibility in this instance be particularly beneficial for those who are either very young or old, and those with mobility impairments.

Objective 4.2 – City Centre Movement Strategy

The CCMS has an overarching objective to enhance the opportunities for active and sustainable travel, prioritise pedestrians, and reduce dependency on private cars within the city.

- While the current project proposal falls outside the CCMS study area, it is nonetheless consistent with the principles of the strategy in terms of improving the pedestrian and cyclist experience and providing greater opportunity for safe walking and cycling.

Objective 4.4 – Active Travel

To promote update of walking and cycling as attractive modes of transport through development of a network of high quality cycleways and footpaths.

- The current project proposal will provide a significant improvement in the pedestrian facilities in the study area. The segregated two-way cycle track will be a very significant improvement to safety and accessibility within the area for cyclists. The greater connectivity the scheme offers to the Passage Greenway via the existing amenity walk will provide improved prospects for uptake of active travel between the local area and the greenway, both for leisure and

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commuting. The traffic calming features of the proposal will further improve the safety and accessibility of the area for walking and cycling.

Objective 4.5 – Permeability

A feature of Objective 4.5 is the creation of links between adjacent roads and public transport networks in order to improve connectivity, permeability and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

- While the current project will not involve the creation of any completely new links, the provision of new footpaths and the two-way cycle track will certainly be a substantial improvement in the quality and safety of the route between Skehard Road and the Passage Greenway. This will have a significant benefit to pedestrians and cyclists using the route, and also provides opportunity for a growth in active travel uptake in the area.

7 Existing Infrastructure

The Passage Greenway may be accessed from the Skehard Road area via the existing amenity walk which passes outside and along the western and southern boundaries of the Bessborough estate grounds. However, the footpaths leading to/from Skehard Road are in relatively poor condition. Additionally, some sections of footpath lack drop kerbs at key pedestrian crossing locations. In the vicinity of the mini roundabout, pedestrians need to cross a wide area of open junction without the aid of any proper footpath or crossing facility, particularly on the eastern side of the mini roundabout. This is particularly hazardous for pedestrians with mobility impairment or for pedestrians with small children or buggies.

There are no existing dedicated formal cycling facilities along the route. The existing mini roundabout is not friendly to cyclists and could be hazardous especially for younger or less confident cyclists wishing to access the Passage Greenway via the existing amenity walkway.

8 Proposed Infrastructure

8.1 Pedestrian Improvements

This scheme proposes the following pedestrian improvements:

1. Modification of the pedestrian crossings at the junction of Skehard Road and Bessborough Road to a Toucan crossing standard. This will facilitate more convenient and safer crossing of the junction by both pedestrians and cyclists.
2. Provision of new and replacement footpaths on both sides of the road south of the junction to facilitate safer and more convenient access and connectivity within the area and onwards to the Passage Greenway via the existing amenity walkway.
3. Tightening of various junction radii along the length of the scheme and narrowing of the road carriageway will reduce vehicle speeds on the road, thereby improving road safety.
4. Provision of raised entry treatments with associated uncontrolled crossings at all side roads and several busy entrances to private premises along the length of the scheme. These will provide traffic calming at these junctions and allow for pedestrians to cross these side roads/entrances with a greater degree of safety and convenience.
5. Removal of the existing mini-roundabout and replacement with a priority junction. This will provide a more compact junction layout that is more legible for all road users while providing more dedicated space and crossing facilities for pedestrians.
6. Provision of the raised Zebra crossing near the entrance to the existing amenity walk-way will facilitate safer and more convenient access for pedestrians.
7. Upgrading of Public Lighting will provide a for a greater degree of safety and visibility and for pedestrians

If the proposals are implemented, pedestrian facilities in the area will be greatly improved. This will encourage more road users to choose walking as a mode of transport for at least part of their journey. The improved connectivity with the amenity walk which links onward to the Passage Greenway main line will encourage further use of that facility for leisure and local commuting purposes by active travel.

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8.2 Cycling Improvements

This scheme proposes to provide cycling infrastructure to encourage cycling and improve the safety for cyclists along the route.

1. Upgrading of the pedestrian crossings at the junction Skehard Road and Bessborough Road to a Toucan Crossing standard will allow cyclists to navigate the junction in a more convenient and safer manner.
2. Provision of approx. 300m of two-way segregated cycle tracks along the eastern side of the road south of the junction will provide a safe and convenient route for cyclists from the local area to access local facilities and the Passage Greenway via the existing amenity walkway.
3. Tightening of various junction radii along the length of the scheme and narrowing of the road carriageway will reduce vehicle speeds on the road, thereby improving road safety.
4. Removal of the existing mini-roundabout and replacement with a priority junction will provide a more compact and legible junction layout that will be much more convenient for cyclists to negotiate safely.
5. Upgrading of Public Lighting will provide a for a greater degree of safety and visibility and for cyclists also.

The proposed cycling facility will provide enhanced access for cyclists to facilities within the area and will improve access to the Passage Greenway via the existing amenity walkway for leisure and local commuting by active travel.

8.3 Verges and Landscaping

The scheme will require the removal of up to 11 mature trees from the roadside verges. To offset this loss, new tree planting and landscaping will be undertaken insofar as is reasonably practicable using appropriate species. A detailed tree survey will be undertaken and new-planting scheme will be developed as part of the detailed design of the scheme.

8.4 Public Transport & Vehicular Traffic

This scheme will only be providing minor adjustments to the public transport facilities.

Two new bus stop facilities have recently been installed on Bessborough Road to service anticipated new routes under the Busconnects project. As part of this scheme the bus stops will be retained and enhanced further.

As outlined in the proposals the existing roundabouts will be:

- Removal of the mini-roundabout and replacement with priority junctions. This will provide a more compact and legible junction layout which will benefit all road users in terms of safety.
- Provision of traffic calming in the form of raised entry treatments to all side roads and several busy entrances to private premises. This will encourage slower vehicle speeds and will also facilitate safer crossing of those side roads and entrances by pedestrians.
- Narrowing of the road carriageway which will encourage lower vehicle speeds.
- Provision of improved public lighting and road traffic signage will provide a more legible and safer environment for all road users.
- The works will involve removal of on-street parking on Bessborough Road by the provision of double yellow lines on both sides of the road.
- The roadway along the entire route will also be resurfaced.

9 Summary

The proposed scheme aims to improve access and connectivity between the Skehard Road area and the Passage Greenway, promote the use of more active modes of transport in the area as well as improving the safety of all road users in the vicinity.

This report has outlined the background to the project and the various changes associated with the scheme for all road users. It has outlined the improvements and benefits for all modes of transport.

10 Submissions

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development, including an Appropriate Assessment screening report and an Environmental Impact Assessment screening report are available to view by visiting <https://consult.corkcity.ie/en>

Alternatively, the Plans & Particulars will be available for inspection or purchase on working days from **Friday the 17th July 2026 to Friday 28th August 2026** at Reception Desk, Cork City Council, City Hall, Cork.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development is situated, may be made;

- In writing to **Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Development, City Hall, Cork.**
Submissions should be clearly marked “**Passage Greenway Phase 3 - Skehard Road Link**”
- Or -
- Electronically through <https://consult.corkcity.ie/en>

Closing date for all submissions is on **Friday 11th September 2026 at 4.00 p.m.**

All comments, including names and addresses of those making submissions and observations, submitted to Cork City Council in regard to this scheme, will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented at the monthly meeting of Cork City Council. Accordingly, they will be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain. Cork City Council will retain data for no longer than is necessary and in accordance with the Council's Retention Policy and relevant Data Protection legislation.