

PART 8 PLANNING

BALLYVOLANE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR PROJECT: NORTH RING ROAD TO MERVUE

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Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
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Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor – North Ring Road to Mervue

1. INTRODUCTION

The Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor has been identified as an important transport corridor for the north side of Cork City. This transport corridor, from Ballyvolane to the city centre, links the existing population north of the R635 North Ring Road to the city centre via the R614 Ballyhooly Road and Summerhill North. Planning permission has recently been granted for a large-scale housing development to the north of Ballyvolane and the area is zoned for further large-scale population expansion under the City Council’s Ballyvolane Urban Expansion Area planning objective. There is a requirement for major upgrades to the local road network and in particular the need for cycle, pedestrian and public transport infrastructure upgrades to cope with existing and future demand for more sustainable modes of transport. This new infrastructure, when completed, will provide a sustainable transport corridor between Ballyvolane and Cork City centre.

2. SITE LOCATION

The site is located on the northside of Cork City and is known as the North Ring Road to Mervue section of the Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor. It extends along the R614 Ballyhooly Road from its junction with the R635 North Ring Road to the proposed Longview residential development site just north of the entrance Mervue Lawn and encompasses adjacent sections of the R635 North Ring Road from Riverview Estate to Clonard and a footpath extension to Boyne Crescent, as well as the upgrade of the Ballyvolane Road from Clonard estate to the Rathcooney Road/Banduff Road junction, See Figure 1 below which shows the site location on a Cork City map.

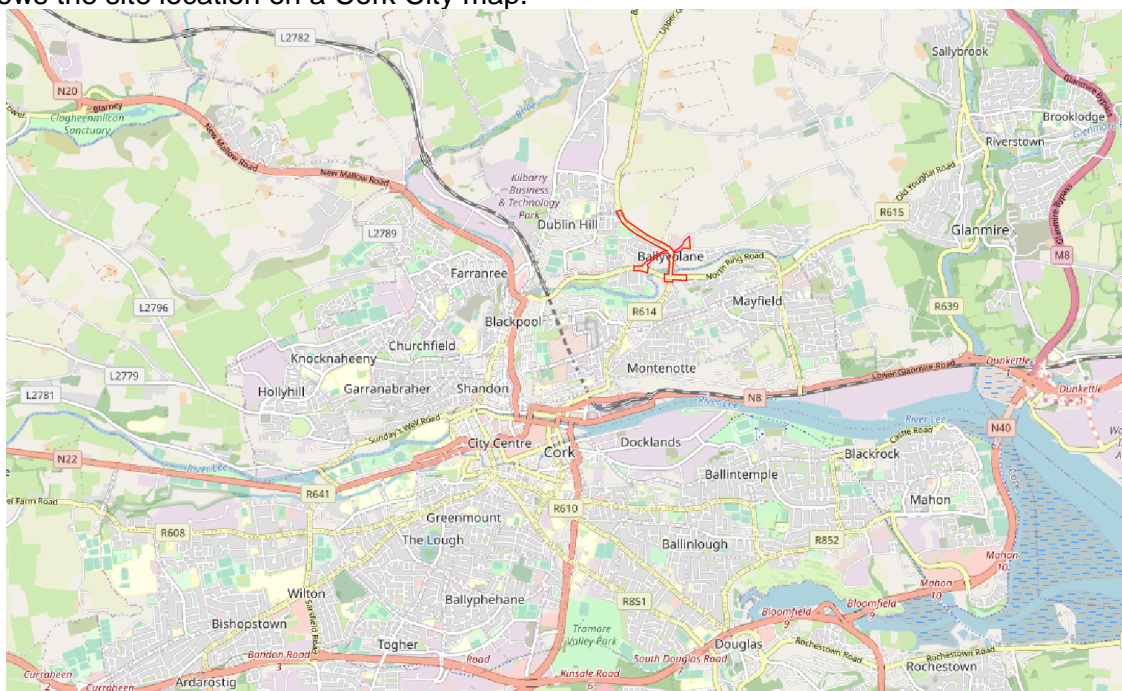


Figure 1 Map of Cork City with Proposed Scheme Outlined in Red

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The overall length of the roads to be upgraded measures approximately 1.8 kilometres and consists of 1.0km of the Ballyhooly Road, 0.3km of the North Ring Road, 0.3km of the Ballyvolane Road, 0.1km of the Banduff Road and 0.1km of the Rathcooney Road.

The project works will include widening and realignment of the existing road corridor, services diversions, drainage works including lengthening of the existing culvert and bridge structure on the Ballyhooly Road, realignment of junctions, new footpaths, cycle tracks, bus lanes, new surface water drainage system, new road lighting scheme, new boundary treatments, retaining walls, earthworks embankments, accommodation works, new landscaping with tree & hedge planting, traffic calming measures, junction buildouts, new road markings, upgraded road signage and street furniture and all ancillary works necessary for completion.

The works will include the widening and realignment of the existing road corridor into adjacent agricultural land, public green areas, commercial premises and private gardens.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS

The project works comprises of:

- widening and realigning the existing R614 Ballyhooly Road to provide a 6m wide single carriageway along the full length of the scheme (1000m in Length) and improving the alignment to provide DMURS standard minimum horizontal and vertical radii curves and sight lines
- the provision of continuous 2m wide footpaths on both sides of the R614 Ballyhooly Road from the North Ring Road to Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds) (262m in Length)
- the provision of continuous 2m wide off-road cycle tracks on both sides of the R614 Ballyhooly Road from the North Ring Road to Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds) (262m in Length)
- the provision of bus lanes on both sides of the R614 Ballyhooly Road from the North Ring Road to Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds) (262m in Length)
- the provision of a 1.8m wide footpath on the right-hand side (looking to north) of the R614 from Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds) to the proposed pedestrian crossing to Longview Developments residential site (738m in Length)
- the provision of a 4m wide multi-use space on the left-hand side (looking to north) of the R614 from Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds) to the proposed pedestrian crossing to Longview Developments residential site (738m in Length)
- widening and realigning the existing Ballyvolane Road to provide a 6m wide single carriageway from Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds junction) to the R635 North Ring Road junction (320m in length)
- the provision of continuous 2m wide footpaths on both sides of the Ballyvolane Road from Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds junction) to the R635 North Ring Road junction (320m in length)
- the provision of continuous 2m cycle tracks on both sides of the Ballyvolane Road from Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds junction) to the R635 North Ring Road junction (320m in length)

Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor

- the upgrade of two existing major signal-controlled junctions at 1) North Ring Road/Ballyhooly Road Crossroads and 2) Ballyvolane Cross (Fox & Hounds) with revised traffic signal phasing/sequencing, additional bus lanes, bus priority control, revised traffic lanes, additional cycle and pedestrian facilities as well as improved facilities for vulnerable road users
- the upgrade of the existing signalised pedestrian crossing on the North Ring Road at Riverview estate to a toucan crossing
- the provision of a 4m wide multi-use space to connect Riverview Estate to Ballyvolane Road
- a change in traffic priority of the Banduff Road/Rathcooney Road junction to favour Banduff Road traffic over Rathcooney Road traffic by realigning the junction layout and providing DMURS standard design to improve road safety and traffic congestion issues
- the provision of a 2m wide footpath on the northern side of Banduff Road to its junction with Rathcooney Road.
- the provision of a 3m wide multi-use space on the southern side of Banduff Road to its junction with Rathcooney Road
- widening of the Glen River Bridge and lengthening of the culvert
- the provision of a proposed new Toucan Crossing at the proposed Longview residential development site
- the provision of improved pedestrian, cycling and public transport infrastructure on all roads in the scheme with new bus stops, bus shelters, pedestrian crossings, toucan crossings, upgraded signal-controlled junctions with bus priority and cycle priority infrastructure, vulnerable road user infrastructure such as raised entry treatments at access roads, tactile paving and ramps where necessary
- the continuation of footpaths through side road junctions with raised entry treatments at access roads (such as at Clonard, Dunnes Stores, Valebrook, Ashgrove Drive, Fox & Hounds Neighbour Centre, Brookvale, Ashgrove Villas, Meadow Park Road, Meelick Park, Mervue Lawn)
- the provision of a new surface water drainage system for part of the project
- the provision of a new low energy LED public lighting scheme for the length of the project
- the provision of new boundary treatments where garden walls and gates are set back, stock proof fencing, new bridge parapet walls at the Glen River bridge culvert

Existing roadside boundaries are to be set back to accommodate road widening, new bus lanes, new footpaths and cycle tracks. The pedestrian space will be formed of standard 100mm – 150mm depth of concrete footpath on 150mm deep granular material sub-base. The cycle tracks are likely to be constructed of 100mm deep bituminous macadam surfacing on 150mm deep granular material. The bus lanes and carriageway space is likely to be constructed of 300mm depth of bituminous road paving material on various depths of granular layers. Existing trees and hedgerows that are to be removed as part of the works will be replaced by similar native variety semi-mature trees and hedging.

Resurfacing of the existing carriageway is to comprise of milling and overlay of the existing road with minimum 40mm to 250mm maximum of asphaltic concrete (bituminous layers).