

Roscommon County Council (RCC), with the support of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), is progressing the Planning & Design of the N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project. Roughan & O' Donovan – Aecom Alliance (ROD-A) were appointed in November 2018 by RCC to progress the project through the Feasibility, Route Selection, Design & Statutory Process Phases.

The purpose of this public consultation is to inform the public of the route selection process and invite written submissions regarding any aspects of the proposal.

The objective of the Option Selection Phase is to define the study area, identify constraints within the study area, develop feasible route options, and to carry out an assessment of these options in accordance with the Common Appraisal Framework to determine a preferred option.

Background

Since 2003, there have been a number of studies carried out in respect of the N61 National Secondary route, including the 2011 National Secondary Road Needs Study, which have identified the section from Ballymurray to south of Knockcroghery as substandard and in need of improvement.

Prior to the appointment of ROD-A, Roscommon National Roads Regional Office (RNRRO) on behalf of RCC carried out the initial development of the project with the identification of constraints in order to define an initial study area for the project. These constraints were documented, mapped and presented at the First Public Consultation held in March 2018.

Following the appointment of ROD-A, the initial study area was reviewed in the context of potential future upgrades to the N61 corridor. This review concluded that the initial study area should be increased to the south and west to include consideration of more direct route options from Killiaghan & Gort (south of St. John's Church) to Ballymurray.

Need for the Project

The N61 National Secondary route is the major north-south arterial route through County Roscommon connecting the urban centres of Boyle, Tulsk, Roscommon, Knockcroghery, Lecarrow, Hodson Bay and Athlone.

The N61 currently experiences traffic levels in the region of 8,000 vehicles per day at Ballymurray, with traffic levels significantly increasing to over 13,000 vehicles per day (AADT) on the approach to Athlone. The existing route is substandard in terms of horizontal and vertical alignment, cross-section, sightlines and has a high number of junctions and direct accesses, all of which add to its poor road safety record. The route also passes through the centre of Knockcroghery village, traversing two rail level crossings on the Dublin to Westport/Ballina Railway Line at Ballymurray/Bogganfin and Galey townlands respectively.

The need for the project is supported by planning and transport policies at National, Regional and Local level.

Progress on the Project to Date

Following the appointment of ROD-A, the initial constraints study was re-visited, and additional constraints were mapped. The next stage was to develop feasible route corridors within the study area, of which a total of 18 corridors were developed (this includes 7 corridors which are variations of other corridors). A Stage 1 Assessment of the route corridors was carried out in accordance with the Common Appraisal Framework headings of Engineering, Environment and Economy. Following this assessment, six corridors are being taken forward to the Stage 2 Assessment. The six corridors being taken forward are labelled Route Corridors C, C-3, E, F, G and J as shown on the figure contained within this brochure.

Route corridors close to the western and eastern extremities of the study area have been eliminated at Stage 1 for reasons such as their increased environmental impact, greater length, reduced safety improvement and reduced economic benefit. This has resulted in route corridors closer to the centre of the study area being considered more favourable, except where the impacts of specific route corridors resulted in those being eliminated.

Feedback

Roscommon County Council wishes to consider your views and comments in relation to the route corridor development and selection process. We therefore invite and welcome submissions on the route corridors presented overleaf, so that this information may be used to assist the design team in the further development of the project.

A comment form is included with this information leaflet to gather your views. Please complete this comment form and submit it at the Public Consultation event or return it using the attached Freepost envelope on or before the **10th January 2020**.

For additional project information, or to complete the comment form online, please visit the project webpage at: www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Roads/Publications-and-Information/

Alternatively, please contact a member of the project team at Roscommon National Roads Regional Office:

Tel: 090 6627004

Email: N61BK@roscommonnrdco.ie

What Happens Next?

Over the coming months, the design team will review the submissions received, refine and develop the route corridors, undertake further environmental surveys, assess the benefits and impacts of each route option in detail and identify an emerging preferred route corridor. This emerging preferred route corridor will be presented at a Third Public Consultation prior to finalisation of the route selection process.

Following confirmation of the preferred route corridor, the Project Team will then refine the design, undertaking additional environmental and technical surveys and assessments with the objective of seeking to avoid, reduce and mitigate potential impacts on the receiving environment. This process will culminate in the publication of the Statutory Orders and the applicable Environmental Reports in accordance with the relevant legislation for the development consent process.

Anticipated Timeframe

Stage	Period
Emerging Preferred Route Public Consultation	Q1/Q2 2020
Publication of Option Selection Report	Q2 2020
Design Development and Environmental Assessment	Q2 2021
Prepare & Submit Planning Submission	Q1 2022

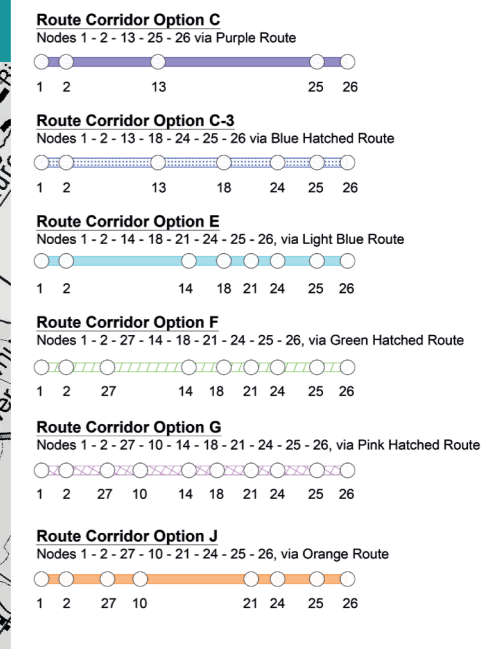
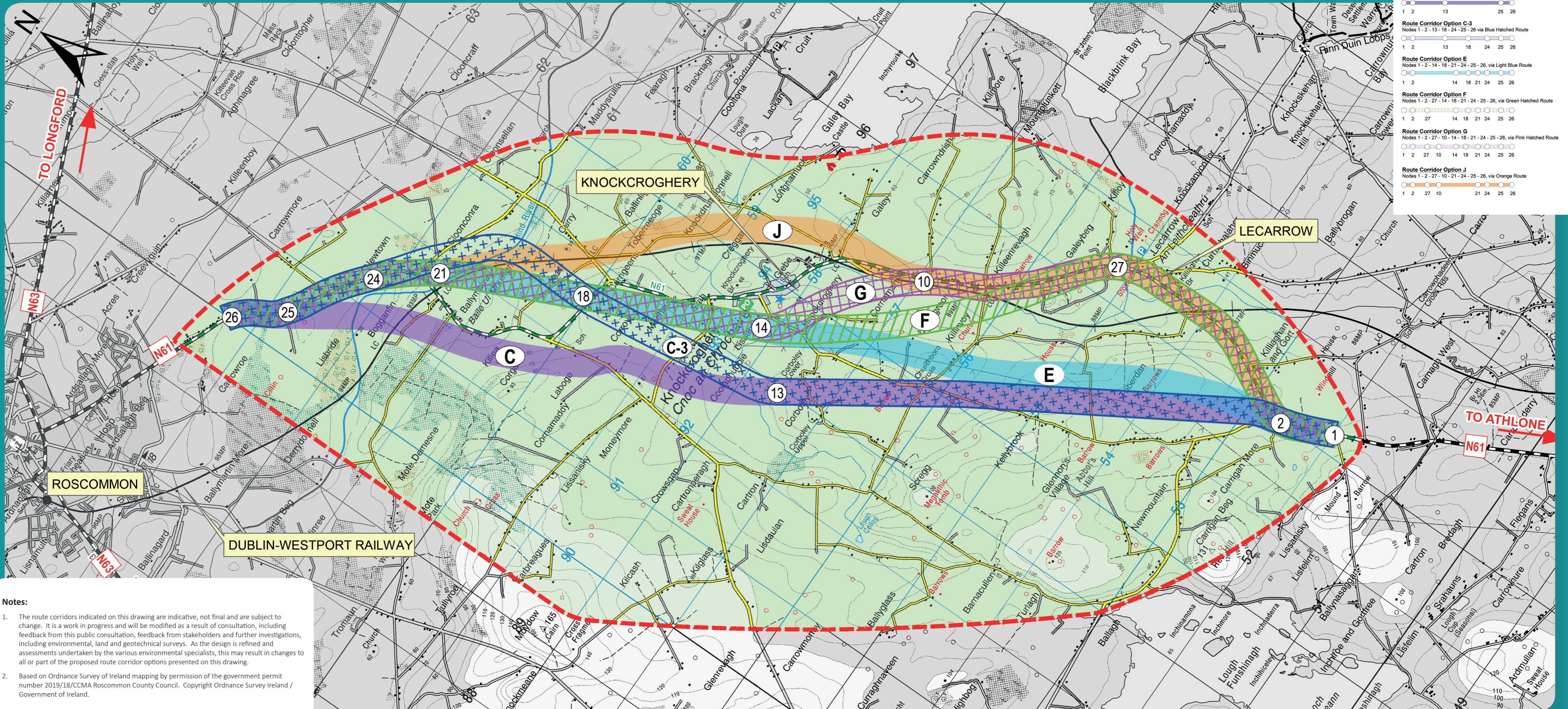
The N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project



Public Consultation No. 2 Stage 1 Option Selection November 2019



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Notes:

- The route corridors 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 presented on this drawing.
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