



**MEETING OF THE TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION SPC MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 10TH JUNE 2025**

Question submitted by Mr F. Flaherty, Community/Voluntary Sector

Request for Update on Progress of Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway Project -

Can the Road Design Office provide a detailed update on the current status and progress of the Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway project, including milestones completed to date, current stage of planning or design, estimated timelines for construction, and any obstacles that may impact the project's delivery ahead of the 2027 Ryder Cup?

Reply

In June 2022 technical consultants were appointed by Limerick City and County Council to progress the Phase 0 stage (Scope and pre-appraisal) for the Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway project. The consultants completed their commission in March 2023, the output of which was the Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) which is a key deliverable within TII Project Management Guidelines. In the interim period Iarnród Éireann announced their decision to reopen the Foynes to Limerick railway to freight traffic with works starting on the ground in late 2022. This was seen as a potential opportunity for the Greenway project and so several meetings were held with Iarnród Éireann staff and their consultants to examine the feasibility of co-locating a Greenway and an operational railway within the confines of the existing railway corridor.

Iarnród Éireann's consultants produced a report on this proposal in May 2023. Their report was based on a twin track arrangement with a Greenway located 3m from the nearest 'live rail'. This concluded that there was not adequate space to cater for both infrastructures within the railway corridor. We reengaged with Iarnród Éireann and their consultants, tabling several alternatives including a proposal to consider 'passing loops', where twin track running could be accommodated at certain points along the route. Iarnród Éireann were not in favour of any of our proposals, citing restrictions on future development of their services and network. The matter was discussed at senior level within TII, the Department of Transport and Iarnród Éireann and approval was given in January 2024 from TII to reexamine the feasibility of co-locating a greenway and an operational single tracked railway within the existing railway corridor, between Ballingarrane and Adare. This study concluded in August 2024 that whilst it is possible to locate a greenway and a single tracked railway within the railway corridor at certain locations, it is not viable over the full entirety of the route, due to Iarnród Éireann technical requirements and topographical restrictions.



At this point it became clear that whilst the railway corridor may play some part in the provision of a Greenway between Rathkeale and Limerick, it would not be the sole solution. To move the project forward, consultants were required to draw up a study area and start examining other possibilities for the project to progress to the next TII Phase. Tender documents were prepared for this competition but approval to commence the competition was not forthcoming from TII due a poor funding outlook at the time. The 2025 funding allocations were announced in March of this year and following TII review and approval, documents were published on etenders on 23rd of May with the tender return deadline set for 23rd of this month.

Once consultants are appointed from the current tender competition (Subject to a positive tender response and TII approval to appoint), we will prepare a study area for the scheme and begin to examine possible route corridors. Public consultations will be held to allow for feedback from members of the public and key stakeholders. The studies completed to date will assist in that process and should help to reduce project timelines overall.

Yours sincerely

DAVID E LEAHY
SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Date: 6th June 2025



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Mid West National Road Design Office is a collaboration of
Limerick City & County Council and Tipperary County
Council.



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Tionscnamh páirtnéireachta is ea Oifig Dearadh Bóthar Náisiúnta an Mhéidin iarthair
íofar Chomhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnígh agus Chomhairle Contae Thíobraid
Árann.