

Introduction

The necessity for a Northern Ring Road is seen as an important strategic infrastructural requirement to complete the existing road network around Cork City. It is hoped that the completion of the project will reduce traffic congestion, improve access and redress the development and infrastructural imbalance towards the northern part of the City. The Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP) 2001-2020 also highlights the importance of the completion of the Northern Ring Road as part of the strategic and spacial development of the Greater Cork Area.

Cork City Council commissioned an initial feasibility study on the Northern Ring Road in 2000. This study outlined the splitting of the Northern Ring Road into three separate phases. Phase 1 - the immediate provision of a new link from the N22 (New Ballincollig Bypass) to the N20 (Mallow Road), Phase 2 - the provision of a link from the N20 to the existing Northern Ring Road and Phase 3 - the provision of a future link to connect to the existing Northern Ring Road to the N8 (Dublin Road).

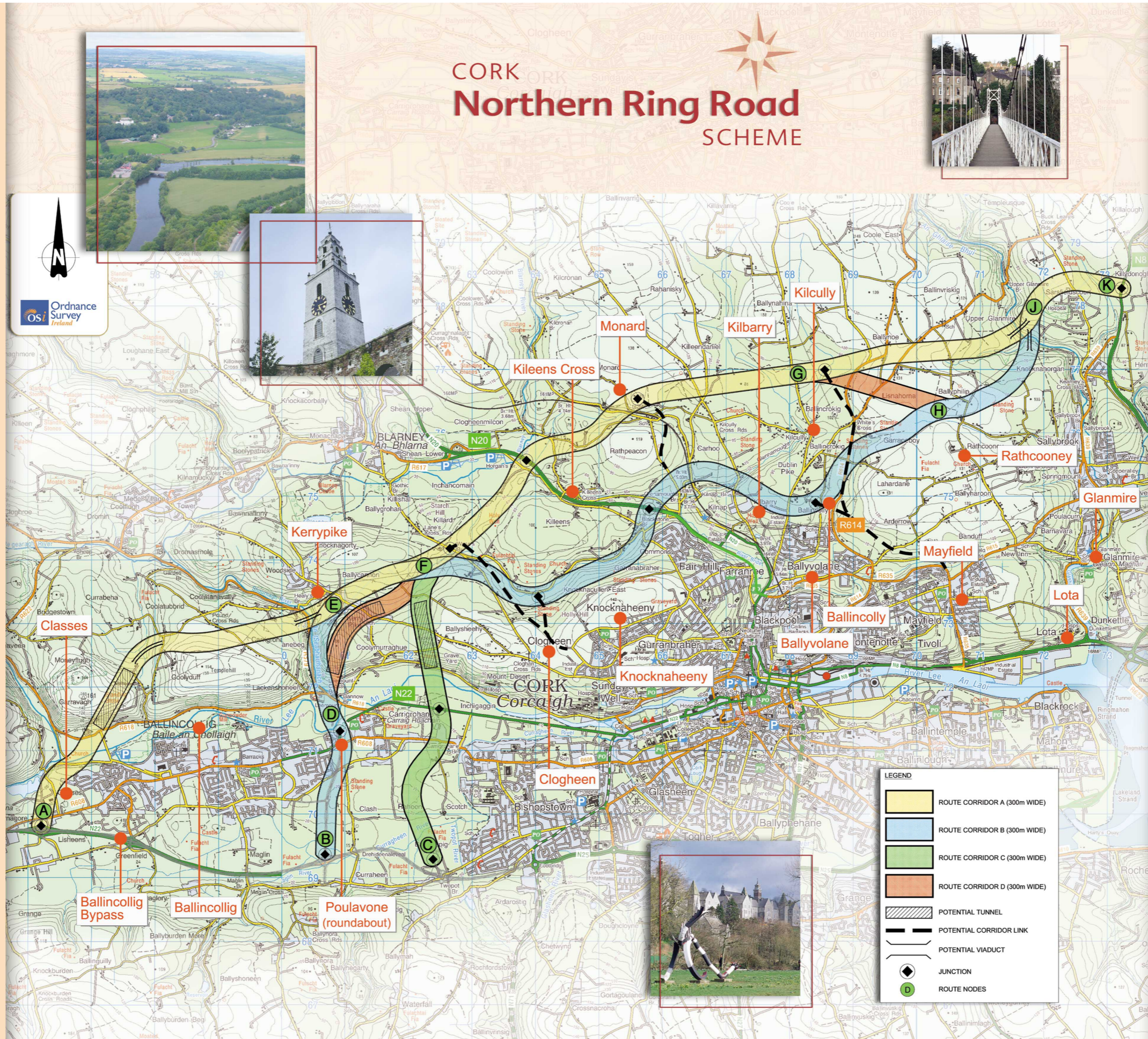
The development of the Northern Ring Road is being promoted by both Cork City Council and Cork County Council and is funded by the National Roads Authority (NRA).

Route Corridor Options Supplementary Public Consultation:

Following the first public consultation for the constraints study in April 2003, this public consultation outlines the various proposals that Cork County Council, National Roads Office Design team are currently developing for the Cork Northern Ring Road project.

This consultation process forms an important part of advancing the design process and allows early involvement of the public in developing the proposals.

Please consider the route corridor options shown on the brochure along with the information displayed at the public exhibition and let your views be known. Either complete the enclosed questionnaire or write to the address shown on the free post envelope giving your comments, to arrive no later than 1st March, 2005.



Route Corridor Options

It is proposed to construct a dual carriageway linking the N22, the new Ballincollig Bypass to the west of the city to the N8, Glanmire / Watergrasshill Bypass to the north-east of the city.

Three route corridors have been identified commencing from the Ballincollig Bypass on the west of the city.

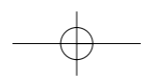
Firstly an outer option coloured yellow, commencing at point A at the Ovens Interchange heading in a north-easterly direction passing over the Inniscarra Road and travelling under the Garravagh peak via a tunnel. The option then proceeds to skirt around the peak of Templehill through the townland of Carrigrohanebeg. This route corridor then crosses over the Shournagh River just south of Healy's Bridge and is proposed to bridge under Kerry Pike at point E.

The next option coloured blue commences from the Poulavone Interchange at point B on the Ballincollig Bypass and utilises the newly constructed Poulavone Link Road as far as the Poulavone Roundabout on the eastern side of Ballincollig Village. This route corridor veers north-westerly and crosses over Leemount Cross and from this point D two sub-options have been identified; firstly, an option which runs parallel to the R579 road at Carrigrohanebeg and then proceeds north-easterly to bridge under Kerry Pike at point E. Secondly, a tunnel option shown coloured orange, which would commence after crossing the Shournagh river and tunnel under Coolymurraghue peak. The tunnel would terminate north-west of Kerry Pike Village.

An inner option coloured green commences from the Curraheen Interchange at point C on the Ballincollig Bypass. The route corridor crosses over the Carrigrohane Road at Inchigaggin and travels under Mackey's Cross via a tunnel. The tunnel would terminate north of Mackey's Cross east of Kerry Pike Village.

All these options would converge at point F which is south-west of Wyse's Bridge.

From point F two route corridors have been identified firstly the outer option coloured yellow continues north of Killeens and crosses the N20 Mallow Road, west of Killeens Cross. The option continues easterly and crosses the railway line at Monard.



Route Corridor Options continued

The option then follows a relatively straight line in a north-easterly direction through the townlands of Killeendaniel, Ballincroig, Ballynoe and crosses through the Upper Glanmire Valley utilising a viaduct structure terminating at point J.

From point J the route corridor options skirt to the north and west of Sarsfieldcourt and connects to the Glanmire / Watergrasshill road scheme at Killydonoghoe terminating at point K.

The inner option from point F at Wyse's Bridge follows the lower Killeens valley north of Hollyhill and Gurrabraher. This option would intersect with the N20 Mallow Road just north of Blackstone Bridge and the option proceeds through the townlands of Carhoo, Kilbarry and Ballincolly. From Ballincolly the option veers northwards and crosses the R614 road just south of White's Cross heading in a north-easterly direction through the townlands of Garraneboy and Ballyphilip rejoining the outer option at point J. Similar to the outer option the inner option terminates at point K on the Glanmire / Watergrasshill Killydonoghue junction. An option connecting the outer option coloured yellow to the inner option coloured blue is shown coloured orange between point G and H.

Depending on the Route Corridor selected, link roads from the northern environs of Cork City will be required. This will provide connectivity between strategic areas of the northside of the City and the proposed Northern Ring Road.

Indicative link roads indicated by a broken black line are also shown on the map. Firstly in the north western area of the City it is proposed to link to the proposed northern ring road from the Holly Hill and Knocknaheeney area. A second link is proposed in the north east of the City providing connectivity to the proposed northern ring road from Mayfield, Ballincolly and White's Cross areas. A third link is proposed at Monard to link the proposed development at Monard to the proposed Northern Ring Road.

In addition the location of possible interchanges or junctions are shown as a diamond symbol on the route corridor options.

CORK
Northern Ring Road
SCHEME



Supplementary Public Consultation -
Route Corridor Options

What happens next?

Careful consideration will be given to the comments and submissions received during this consultation process. Information gathered at this stage relating to the various route corridor options will be reviewed and a detailed route selection study will be carried out.

This process involves a detailed analysis of the proposed route corridor options including:

- Engineering analysis and traffic assessment
- Assessment of environmental impacts
- Preparation of scheme budgets / cost estimates

The objective of this phase will be to select a preferred route corridor.

Further Information

If you have any queries about the proposals please contact:

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