



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme



Section 38

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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Overview

Galway County Council and National Transport Authority aim to provide Active Travel Scheme along Coast Road (R338) in Oranmore linking Oranmore village and the Oranmore Train Station.

This scheme is being progressed in accordance with the National Transport Authority (NTA) Project Approval Guidelines (PAG). In Jan 2026 the proposed Preliminary Design has been approved to progress for Planning, Phase 4.

This summary report outlines the proposed works for the Oranmore to the Train Station Active Travel Project along the R338 Coast Road between the Shopping Access Roundabout, at the Scheme's eastern extent, and the Oranmore Train Station Access junction to the west.

Need for the Scheme

The R338 Coast Road which connects Oranmore and its surrounding residential areas to the Oranmore Train Station does not currently include cycling facilities and the existing pedestrian facilities are substandard. There are no pedestrian crossings on Coast Road and existing uncontrolled crossings at Station Road junction are substandard. The existing signal-controlled crossing on Station Road is 55m away from pedestrian desire line.

Large numbers of commuters travel daily along the Coast Road between Oranmore and the Train Station, and this number is expected to increase supported by ongoing improvements to the Train Station and future increase in frequency of service. Large number of school children walk from the estates along Coast Road to schools in Oranmore. Additionally a CPO for a new 1000 pupil educate together secondary school north of Coast Road has been approved and the design commenced in 2025.

The future development of Garraun, with new housing developments and Oranmore Train Station at its centre and a bus service which would run along Coast Road, is also likely to result in increased pedestrian and cyclist volumes along Coast Road.

Scheme Location

This scheme is located on R338 Coast Road, Oranmore, Co. Galway. Fig 1 below illustrates the location in proximity to Oranmore Town.



Fig 1- Scheme Location

Project Objectives

The primary objectives for this Project are as follows:

- To link cyclists and pedestrians safely from Oranmore to the Train Station
- To improve pedestrian and cyclist safety at Station Road junction and other junctions along the scheme
- To improve connectivity and accessibility within short cycling commute from Oranmore to the Train Station
- To kick-start the development of cycle facilities along the Coast Road between Oranmore and Galway City

Scheme Description and Summary of Proposed Measures

Design proposals for Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme are illustrated in the drawings attached to this consultation.

Environmental Studies identified two nearby Natura 2000 sites—Galway Bay SAC/pNHA and Galway Inner Bay SPA south of the Scheme and determined siting the scheme along northern edge of Coast Road. Overall, no negative environmental impacts are anticipated from the proposed scheme.

Siting the scheme along the northern edge of Coast Road aligns with pedestrian and cycling demand from the Train Station, existing and future housing estates and the future school.

The scheme proposes minor changes to road drainage, like relocating gullies and incorporating SuDS features such as tree pits and rain gardens where feasible.

The Scheme provides 1.1km Active Travel route along Coast Road (R338) between the Tesco Access Road Roundabout and the Oranmore Train Station Access junction. It widens footpaths, provides new cycling facilities and narrows the carriageway width while retaining all existing direct accesses. The proposed measures include:

- Upgrades to pedestrian facilities along the route, including upgrades and repairs to existing footpaths
- New cycle facilities along the route including circa 800m length of shared path and circa 300m length of segregated cycle track.
 - Shared Path would be generally 4m wide, narrowing to 3m at pinch points at Inse Ghlas and Ocean Drive. Although the road cross section to the east of the scheme is generally wide, segregated cycle track would not fit at pinch points. Use of Shared Path to the east of the scheme is supported by existing and predicted pedestrian and cyclists volumes and offers continuous pedestrian and cycle facility up to the Train Station.
 - The cycle track would generally be 3m wide and segregated from the adjacent footpath by a level difference and kerb and from the carriageway by a 0.5m wide buffer, level difference and bevelled kerb. Between Station Road and the roundabout the width of cycle track is reduced to 2.2m wide and segregated from the adjacent traffic lane by a 300mm wide separator kerb.
- Changes to Station Road/Coast Road junction, including removal of left turn slip and splitter islands.
- Upgrades to Tesco Access Road Roundabout, including raised-table pedestrian and cyclists crossings
- New 4m wide Toucan pedestrian and cyclists crossings on Coast Road.
- Removal of existing and construction of new parallel signalised and pedestrian crossing on Station Road, circa 28m north from the junction with Coast Road.
- New raised-table uncontrolled pedestrian and cyclist crossings at the Train Station Access junction, the L7105 Local Road junction, and the Inse Ghlas and the Costa na Mara access road junctions.
- Bevelled kerbs at the edge of the two-way cycle track are proposed at property accesses.

What has been done so far?

We are currently at Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) of a 7 stage NTA Project Approval Process. Figure 2 below illustrates the 7 stages of this process.



Fig 2- NTA's Project Approval Process

In Phase 2 the designers completed the Options Report, and the emerging preferred option has progressed into preliminary design in Phase 3. Some of the measures included in the proposed Preliminary Design are following from the feedback received from the public through the non-statutory consultations held in March 2024 and in November/December 2024. Submissions received were generally in favour of the proposed scheme. All issues raised through the consultation process were considered by the design team and addressed where feasible.

Ecological Impact Assessment Scoping Study conducted on the proposed scheme concluded that works to the south of Coast Road may negatively impact protected areas, including the Galway Bay SAC and SPA, as a result the proposed scheme primarily includes works on the northern side of Coast Road. The proposed scheme screened through AA and EIA studies. Traffic modelling carried out for Station Road Junction and the nearby roundabout ruled out signalisation of Station Road Junction and determined the nearest location of the proposed signalised crossing on Station Road. A Road Safety Audit was conducted on the scheme and any issues highlighted have been addressed accordingly.

What happens next?

This is Phase 4 of the process of the NTA project cycle, Statutory consultation stage of the project. The project is being progressed under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. The public are invited to view the online material, and representations in relation to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to the Active Travel Section through the following two options only:

- In writing to the Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX or,
- Electronically via <https://consult.galway.ie/>.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 6th March 2026 at 12:00pm.

Please Note:

All comments, including the names of those making comments, submitted to the Council regarding to this scheme will form part of the report to be presented to the Executive of the Council.

Accordingly, the report will list the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed Active Travel Scheme in accordance with the regulations of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

The submissions will also be included in the report being published on Consult.ie with the scheme determination. By making a submission it is accepted that the name of individuals or bodies will appear on the statutory report. Galway County Council will review all the comments and observations and consider where appropriate, changes to the design.