



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

REPORT UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (1994)

Safe Routes to School Scheme for St Pauls Secondary School, Oughterard, Co Galway.

1. Introduction

Galway County Council proposes to implement a Safe Routes to School Scheme (SRTS) for St Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard located 900m Northwest of Oughterard village on L1310. The Safe Routes to School Programme was launched in 2021 and developed in response to ongoing concerns for the safety for students walking and cycling to school. The programme is funded by the Department of Transport (DoT) through the National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel Investment Team

Measures introduced for this scheme will include the provision of; a new pedestrian crossing on L-1310, SRTS signage, specific road markings and pedestrian bollards. In order to satisfy the Statutory requirements associated, a Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act process has been conducted for this scheme.

2. Advertisement

The scheme was advertised through the Galway Advertiser newspaper issue Thursday 10th October 2024 advertising the scheme summary. The contents of the advert directed the reader to detailed information which was made available electronically through [Consult.Galway.ie](https://consult.galway.ie/), and also in hard copy which was available for inspection during regular hours from 10am on Friday 11th October 2024 to 12pm on Friday 25th Oct 2024 at Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91H6KX.

A portal to submit electronic representations relating to the scheme was available through <https://consult.galway.ie/> or in writing to; Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway H91H6KX

3. Summary of Submissions Received

The following public submissions were received within the consultation period noted in Item 2 above:

- 2 submissions were received through the online portal consult.galway.ie.
- 1 submission was received from a public representative via email to tcoleman@galwaycoco.ie

Other submissions were received via post and email after the consultation period had ceased, however all submissions were fully reviewed and considered by the Active Travel Team. For Personal Data Protection reasons, the names of persons who made the submissions are omitted from this report. Further details pertaining to the submissions can be seen in Appendix A of this document.

4. Design Changes Following Public Consultation

Following NTA's Project Approval Guidelines, drawing GCO/24/00xx/01 Rev E was deemed to be the preferred option for the scheme. This was available for review by the public through the means noted in Item 2 above. Following receipt of all submissions, a thorough review was conducted and alternative options discussed with NTA to address the concerns noted within the submissions- A decision was made to relocate the proposed pedestrian crossing (as located in drawing referenced above).

A revised drawing was drafted (GCO/24/00xx/01 Rev F) and issued for independent Road Safety Audit (RSA) Stage 1-2. Following receipt of the RSA report minor changes were made to the drawing in line with the report's findings to what is now the final drawing for this scheme, **GCO/24/00xx/01 Rev G** (Ref Appendix B for drawing).

5. Decision to Proceed Under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994

Galway County Council has decided to proceed with this project under the provisions of a Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act. The decision was determined on the basis that:

- This project includes traffic calming measures. Section 38 relates to the provision or removal of traffic calming measures by a local authority, where traffic calming measures are defined in sub-section (9) of section 38 as meaning:

“measures which –

1. *enhance the provision of public bus services, including measures which restrict or control access to all or part of a public road by mechanically propelled vehicles (whether generally or of a particular class) for the purpose of enhancing public bus services, or*

2. *restrict or control the speed or movement of, or which prevent, restrict or control access to a public road or roads by, mechanically propelled vehicles (whether generally or of a particular class) and measures which facilitate the safe use of public roads by different classes of traffic (including pedestrians and cyclists),*

and includes for the purposes of the above the provision of traffic signs, road markings, bollards, posts, poles, chicanes, rumble areas, raised, lowered or modified road surfaces, ramps, speed cushions, speed tables or other similar works or devices, islands or central reservations, roundabouts, modified Guidelines on Traffic Works Procedures junctions, works to reduce or modify the width of the roadway and landscaping, planting or other similar works."

- The proposed works will be undertaken within the boundaries of the public road,
- The estimated cost of the works will be less than €126,000.

6. Conclusion

Following the procedure followed in accordance with Section 38 processes noted above and having considered all submissions received and subsequently adjusting the scheme design in cognisance of same, Galway County Council now recommends that this scheme is implemented in accordance with the plans and particulars provided in Appendix B of this report i.e. Drawing **GCO/24/00xx/01 Rev G**.

This decision will be implemented by way of CE Order and will be notified to all Councillors in the Monthly Management Report.



Tom Coleman
Executive Engineer
Galway County Council

Date: 17th Dec 2024



Rachel Lowe
Senior Engineer
Galway County Council

Date: 17th Dec 2024

Appendix A

Submissions Received During Consultation Period

Submission 1

Submission was received on 15th Oct 2024 at 16:01 via email.

This individual made the observation that the proposed scheme does not give connectivity with N59 or to a proposed footbridge was noted as being vital for the community and the schools.

Submission 2

Submission was received on 24th Oct 2024 at 11:16am via Consult.ie portal.

While this submission welcomed safety schemes for schools they raised a number of issues that they had specifically in relation to the proposed pedestrian crossing such as;

- a) Access concerns to property's' No 23, 24, 25 & 26
- b) Loss of residential parking mainly for properties 23 & 24
- c) Concerns regarding vehicular access to a private lane adjacent to the proposed pedestrian crossing.
- d) Potential for pedestrian crossing to compromise visibility for drivers exiting their premises.
- e) Potential to add risk to pedestrians by making residents reverse in or out of their driveways due to removal of current on street parking spaces.

Submission 3

Submission was received on 24th Oct 2024 at 13:17pm via Consult.ie portal.

While this individual referenced their support of the proposed scheme, they noted that there seems to be a wider problem accessing schools from various other parts of the town and that this needs to be addressed.

Submissions Received Outside of Consultation Period

Submission 4

Submission was received via post into Galway County Council offices, Aras An Chontae. Although the letter was stamped by An Post on 24th Oct 2024, it was not received and stamped by Galway CoCo until 29th Oct 2024. The contents of the letter were almost identical to submission No 2 above however, it was sent from a different address.

Submission 5

Submission no5 was received via post into Galway County Council offices, Aras An Chontae. Although the letter was stamped by An Post on 24th Oct 2024, it was not received and stamped by Galway CoCo until 29th Oct 2024. The contents of the letter were almost identical to submission No 2 & 4 above, however it was sent from a different address.

Active Travel Comments in Response to Items Raised in the Submissions.

1. Lack of Connectivity to the village

Response:

Connectivity of this scheme to N59 and village via a future proposed footbridge over the Owenmore River as noted in the submissions are measures which fall outside of the scope for this Safe Routes to School scheme where funding is limited and priority measures for the school have been factored into the design.

There is however a scheme currently being developed (by NRPO design and Tii Funded) for a footbridge over the Owenmore River and associated linkages between the village and the school.

2. Loss of residential parking

House nr 23 & 24 will lose their current parallel parking places if the pedestrian crossing is to proceed as currently designed (ie as per drawing GCO/24/00xx/01 Rev E).

Response:

The issue has been reviewed in the context of safety for Vulnerable Road Users and accordingly a revised layout for the scheme has been developed which does not directly affect or lead to a loss of residential parking.

3. Visibility Concerns

Concerns raised regarding visibility for vehicles exiting their property. Items such as pencil bollards and a lighting pole were noted as having potential to cause these obscurities.

Response:

- a) The max height of the pencil bollards is 1100mm and their frequency is low therefore loss of driver visibility will be minuscule, if at all.
- b) The lighting standard is isolated, and visibility is achievable either side on approach to the public road when exiting the properties therefore it is deemed satisfactory. The light is required for safety reasons to supplement lighting requirements for the pedestrians. Although the lighting column has been relocated in accordance with the new pedestrian crossing location, the response is the same in terms of its minimal impact of visibility.
- c) Pedestrian crossing signage poles affecting visibility- These are positioned as per Traffic Signs Manuals & Tii standards and response as per Item b response above.

Further to above response, a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit was conducted by Tobin Engineers on the final design (**Drawing GCO/24/00xx/01 Rev G**) and there were no issues raised with regard to the above concerns.

4. Access to private road

There is a fear based on one of the submissions that the proposed pedestrian crossing and ramp will affect vehicles entering and exiting from a private side road adjacent to the crossing point.

Response:

The width of the current carriageway is not being reduced as part of the designed scheme therefore the side road will have the same accessibility as prior to scheme implementation.

5. Safety Concerns for Students

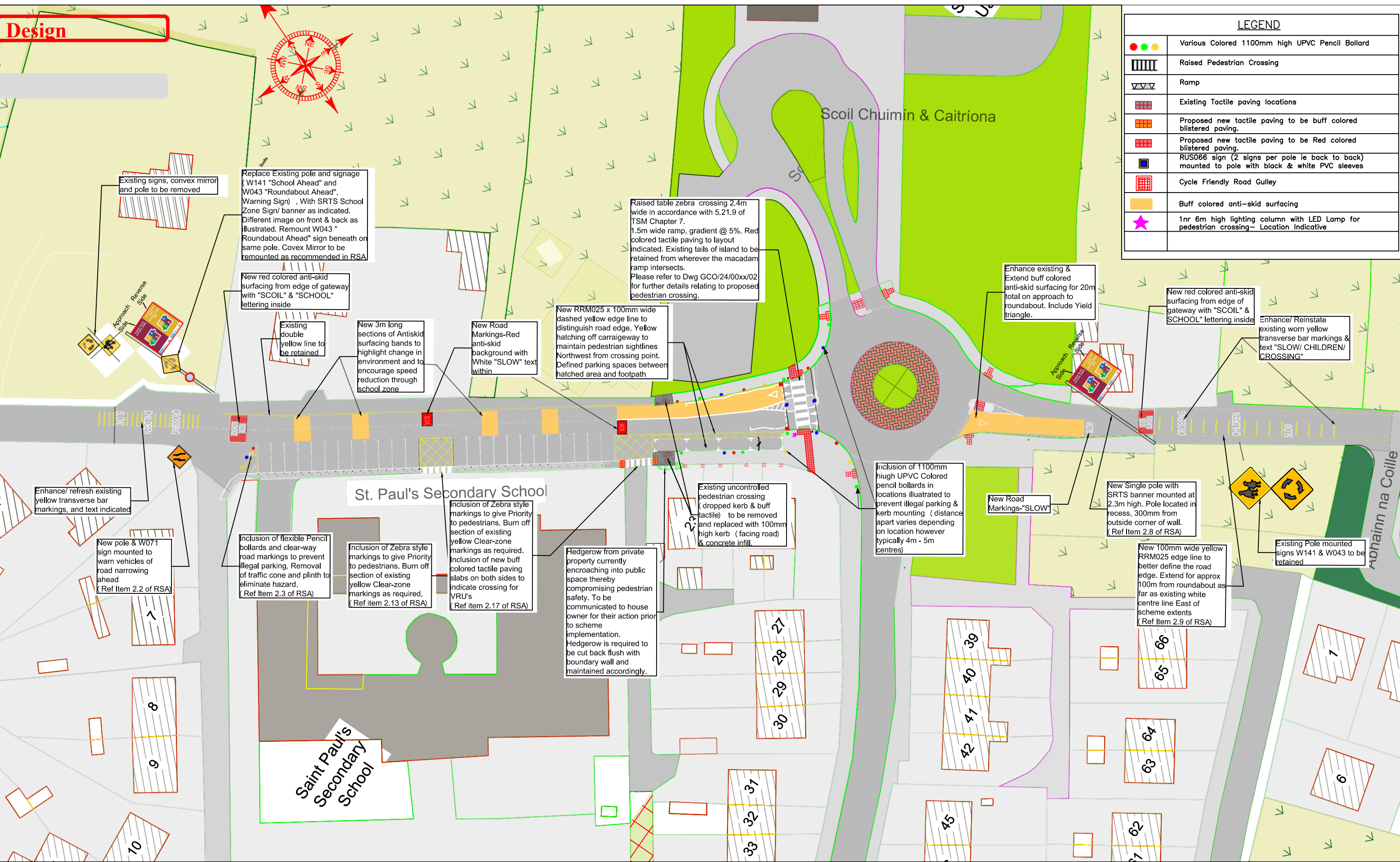
There was a strong opposition to the loss of on-street parking which would have resulted in residents driving/ reversing across the footpath to park within their own premises. These manoeuvres were deemed to add an unnecessary risk to pedestrians facilitating the footpath.

Response:

Galway County Council are looking to implement a safe and effective scheme in this area and for this reason the pedestrian crossing was relocated.

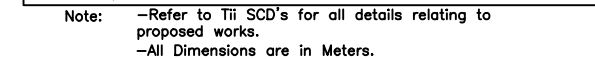
Appendix B

Design



SITE LAYOUT PLAN - Sheet 1 of 2 (Scale: 1:250) Proposed / After

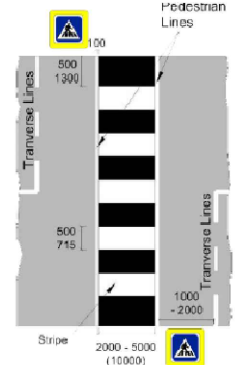
Design



Extract schematic and notes below from Chapter 5 Traffic Signs Manual (Feb 2024)



RUS 066
Pedestrians Crossing



RPC 001A
Zebra Pedestrian
Crossing with RUS 066

A Pedestrian Crossing without a flashing beacon is also available for use in certain situations. This arrangement is Sign RPC 001A where Sign RUS 066 can replace the flashing beacons. RUS 066 may only be erected back-to-back so as to be visible from both directions of travel. This arrangement shall only be used in the following circumstances:

Where a road has a posted speed limit of 50km/h or lower and an 85th percentile speed less than 50km/h; Where the road has only one traffic lane in each direction; 2-way traffic flows of 500 vehicles per hour for crossings without a refuge island and 750 for those with a refuge island. Approaching vehicles must have clear visibility to the pedestrian waiting to cross and the tactile paving area of the footpath; and Crossing locations must have adequate street lighting.

SITE LAYOUT PLAN - Sheet 2 of 2 (Scale: 1:250) Proposed / After



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

**Active Travel Section,
Galway County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.**

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[illegible]

PROJECT	L-1310, St. Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard.		
COMPONENT:	Preliminary Design (for NTA Approval)		
TITLE:	Pedestrian Crossing		
DESIGNED BY:	AT	FILE NO.:	
DRAWN BY:	TC	SCALES:	As Shown & A1
CHECKED BY:	DW	DATE:	Aug 2004
		DRAWING NO.:	GCO/24/00xx/02