

Castletroy Greenway to NTP Connection Active Travel Scheme



December 2024


Rev	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
0	Final	L. Kennedy		05.12.2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	POTENTIAL ROUTE OPTIONS.....	2
3.	SUMMARY:	
	FEEDBACK FROM THE NON STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION.....	3
4.	SUMMARY.....	5

Appendix 1 – Route Options Drawings

1 INTRODUCTION

The Castletroy Greenway to National Technology Park (NTP) Connection Active Travel Scheme [the proposed Scheme] is a project proposed by Limerick City and County Council and is being funded by the National Transport Authority. Following a competitive tendering process, Tobin Consulting Engineers were appointed in Q3 of 2023 for Phases 2-7 as per NTA Project Approval Guidelines.

The Castletroy Greenway scheme was completed in September 2021 and consisted of a 1.3km segregated walking & cycling facility linking a number of key attractors in the Castletroy area, including Castletroy College, Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh and Castletroy Shopping Centre. The Greenway is heavily used and has high usage by students getting to their schools.

The Active Travel Department received approval from the NTA in 2022 to progress with the Castletroy Extension north towards Holland Road in the National Technology Park. This extension northwards will provide further connectivity with up to 80 employer organisations situated in the NTP, whilst also providing improved connectivity with the University of Limerick campus and the City to UL greenway and the residential areas north of the R445.

The scheme will form a positive active travel option for users, giving walking and cycling access to local schools, sports grounds, shops, and community facilities where possible. An initial study area was established by our appointed consultants which is highlighted in Figure 1 below. All routes presented in this report are contained within this boundary.



Figure 1.1 – Site location and extents of study area

As part of the route options study, a non-statutory public consultation was held over a period of 4 weeks from Friday 27th September 2024 to Friday 25th October 2024 to allow members of the public to give their views. Information on the route options was made available by:

- Visiting the in-person information session at the Munster GAA Headquarters, Newcastle, Castletroy V94 NW83 on Thursday, October 10th, 2024 for the lunchtime session between 12.30pm and 2.30pm, or the evening session between 5pm and 7pm
- Accessing mypoint.limerick.ie, viewing soft copies of proposals and/or providing an online submission.
- Viewing hard copies of preliminary options and drawings for the scheme which will be available in County Hall, Dooradoyle and City Hall, Merchants Quay for a 4 week duration between Friday, September 27th, 2024 and Friday, October 25th, 2024

Both the lunchtime & evening information sessions on October 10th at the Munster GAA Headquarters were well attended with a good level of engagement and discussion with people from all sectors of the Castletroy/Anacotty/ Monaleen community on the route options on display.

2 POTENTIAL ROUTE OPTIONS

As part of the options development process, several routes were considered within the scheme area. Overall, a total of 4 no. potential route options were developed for inclusion at the public consultation stage. An overview of the routes is shown below in Figure 1.2 with routes options outlined in further detail in Appendix 1 – Drawings Options 01 - 04.



Figure 1.2 - Greenway route options

3 SUMMARY: FEEDBACK FROM THE NON STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A total of 5 no. submissions were received online via the MyPoint portal during the course of the 4 week non-statutory consultation, with a 6 no. written submissions being received during the lunchtime and evening information sessions held on 10th October. The following is a summary of key issues raised (in no particular order) with regard to the route option presented:

- *Options 2 & 3 would limit future expansion options for the Gaelscoil and are not favourable*
- *Support for option 1 as the most direct route and the least interaction with the R445 Dublin Road*
- *Concerns with the short section of 2-way cycletrack on the R445 Dublin Road and whether people will use it or stay on-road*
- *Concerns that the existing cycletrack infrastructure on the Gaelscoil access road is too narrow and needs to be upgraded*
- *Options 2 & 3 should be discarded as the link they provide from the current Greenway to the R445 are too indirect*
- *Option 1 is positive in that it provides a direct link to the R445 but the signalised crossing will mean lengthy wait time for pedestrians & cyclists which may result in people avoiding the crossing point*
- *Suggestion that a zebra crossing with a central refuge would be more efficient and safer crossing as is the case at Kilmurry Roundabout & Annacotty Roundabout or alternatively a parallel crossing*
- *A grade separated underpass would avoid any conflict and highlights the numerous underpasses on the Limerick Greenway*
- *Option 4 is positive as it is direct but also provide a connection to the Walkers Road cycling infrastructure and will provide an impetus to create a further link along the R445 to the Annacotty Roundabout and Mackey Roundabout*
- *Option 4 creates the perfect opportunity to complete the Walkers Road connection to the R445 and is a more complete and safe solution*
- *To not connect the Walkers Road facility to the Greenway extension would mean cyclists having to come through the Castlebrook Estate which in itself contains some safety issues*
- *It is essential to provide a protected boundary between the Greenway and any road crossings or parallel roads and highlights issues with vehicles accessing and travelling on the Castletroy Greenway within the Mills development and towards Castletroy Playground.*

- *Concerns with the opportunity lost in progressing projects that are not part of the LSMATS cycle network and the current plan does not connect the Castletroy Greenway to the Castletroy District Centre as identified in objective econ03 in the Development Plan.*
- *Query on the rationale for prioritising routes over Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Routes as identified in LSMATS and that the obvious gap in the network is between Annacotty Roundabout and Kilmurry Roundabout*
- *A crossing of the R445 should be provided between the Mills Development and Lidl*
- *Preference for option 4 with the 2-way cycletrack and routes should be traversable in both directions*
- *Routes should be segregated as shared spaces are disliked by cyclists and pedestrians alike and shared spaces should be minimised and delineated with striped zebra markings as appropriate*
- *Cyclists should have priority where expected cyclist flows are higher than the expected vehicular flows such as the southern end of Holland Road*
- *The design should be future proofed to allow for easier integration with the planned secondary route along the R445*
- *Extra lighting should be considered on the section between the R445 and Holland Road*
- *Infrastructure for CCTV should be included*
- *Green verge should be included for safety between the cycletrack and the R445 main road*
- *Bins along the route with public signage about littering*
- *Maintain no right turn from R445 to Walkers Road*
- *Concerns around Option 2 & 3 and the close proximity to the school playground from a child protection point of view*
- *Request for cyclelanes on both side of the R445 to enable better access to shops on both sides*
- *Additional traffic calming urgently needed on the R445*

4 SUMMARY

Further analysis of the route options will now be undertaken by the Active Travel team and Tobin in conjunction with the NTA on route options. The options report will be finalised as per NTA Project Approval Guidelines including a Multi-criteria Analysis to determine the preferred route. Once a preferred route has been selected, preliminary design stage will commence with a view to the statutory public consultation in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts being progressed.