



# N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road

## Design and Environmental Evaluation

Newsletter - October 2021



## Dear local resident,

We were last in touch with you in November 2020 to announce the preferred scheme option for the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road. In the meantime, the project team has been working to develop the scheme design, based on technical and environmental considerations. The design and environmental assessment has now progressed to a stage where the project is nearly ready to start its journey through the planning processes. We therefore want to provide you with an update on the project so that you are fully informed on its development.

The strategic importance of Rosslare Europort as an international gateway with continental Europe continues to grow as part of Ireland's response to Brexit. Even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, weekly continental ferry services at the Port have increased to 34 per week. Freight volumes with continental Europe increased by approximately 460% in the first half of 2021, and overall freight volumes, including with Britain, have increased by approximately 60%. Projections up to the end of August confirm that these growth rates are being sustained. This increase in freight traffic, combined with the return of tourist traffic puts increased pressure on the N25 national road serving the port and on local villages and communities that interface with the N25, including Rosslare Harbour village.

For the avoidance of confusion, please note that the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road is a separate stand-alone project from the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour project, which has also confirmed the selected scheme option and is also progressing to design and environmental assessment. While the two projects are inter-related, they are not inter-dependent and are being developed independently of each other. It is anticipated that a planning application for N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road may be submitted to An Bord Pleanála before the end of the year or early next year, while it is anticipated that the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour project may be submitted for planning in 2023 at the earliest. Subject to securing the separate planning approvals and the necessary funding, it is anticipated that the N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road could be constructed and opened in advance of the construction of N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour. The two projects would be fully integrated and together will complete the high-quality N11/N25 transport corridor all the way between Dublin and Rosslare Harbour, providing efficient and seamless connectivity for people and goods travelling through Rosslare Europort.

The N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road is a key link in a very significant multi-modal transport investment that is planned for Rosslare Harbour in the next decade. This investment would secure the future resilience of this critical international land-sea corridor by delivering a safe, sustainable, high-quality and cost-effective transport connection with Rosslare Europort, while also providing opportunities for enhanced amenities and placemaking in Rosslare Harbour village.

Information on the project can continue to be accessed on the project website [www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie](http://www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie), and the project can continue to be contacted at the contact points provided on the back page.

Yours sincerely

**Wexford County Council**

## Current Status

The proposed scheme will consist of approximately 1.5km of road carriageway, a railway crossing, an underpass, footway/cycle facilities and associated local road/access tie-ins. The scheme includes a combination of existing road and new road corridor, utilising the existing Ballygerry Link Road and then extending a new section of road looping to the north, over the Dublin to Rosslare Harbour railway line before connecting into Rosslare Europort via a new roundabout proposed as part of the masterplan development for Rosslare Europort. The map at the back of this newsletter shows how the scheme will integrate with the proposed new internal layout in Rosslare Europort.

The preferred scheme option is now progressing through the next phase of the project which is 'Design & Environmental Evaluation'. During this phase the scheme is further developed to refine the design of the road alignment, junctions and accesses, and structures. At the same time the environmental evaluation informs the developing design, and this iterative process aims to avoid, minimise or mitigate environmental impacts where possible.

This process also allows the land take required for the scheme to be defined to facilitate a more detailed engagement with affected land and property owners as well as local residents and other project stakeholders.

Site surveys and investigations are being undertaken to inform the design and environmental evaluation process. These include mammal surveys, bird surveys, air quality surveys, noise surveys, landscape and visual surveys, cultural heritage surveys, topographical surveys and geotechnical investigations.

All fieldwork/surveys are being coordinated with landowners for permission to access lands.

## Integration with Other Planned Transport Infrastructure Investments

There is very significant multi-modal transport investment planned for Rosslare Harbour in the next decade. These investments have the potential to create safer and more accessible public spaces in Rosslare Harbour, providing potential opportunities for further investment and enhancements in the village and the wider communities in south County Wexford.

The N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road project is a key link to integrate and facilitate these separate planned investments.

The N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road project is collaborating closely with Rosslare Europort to fully integrate the scheme design with the port masterplan development which will provide new and more efficient access within the port and is anticipated to commence construction this year. These two separate developments will be fully integrated to provide the fastest and most efficient connectivity for people and goods travelling through Rosslare Europort.

The scheme design is also being integrated with the separate N25 Ballygillane Roundabout project which is anticipated to commence construction early next year.

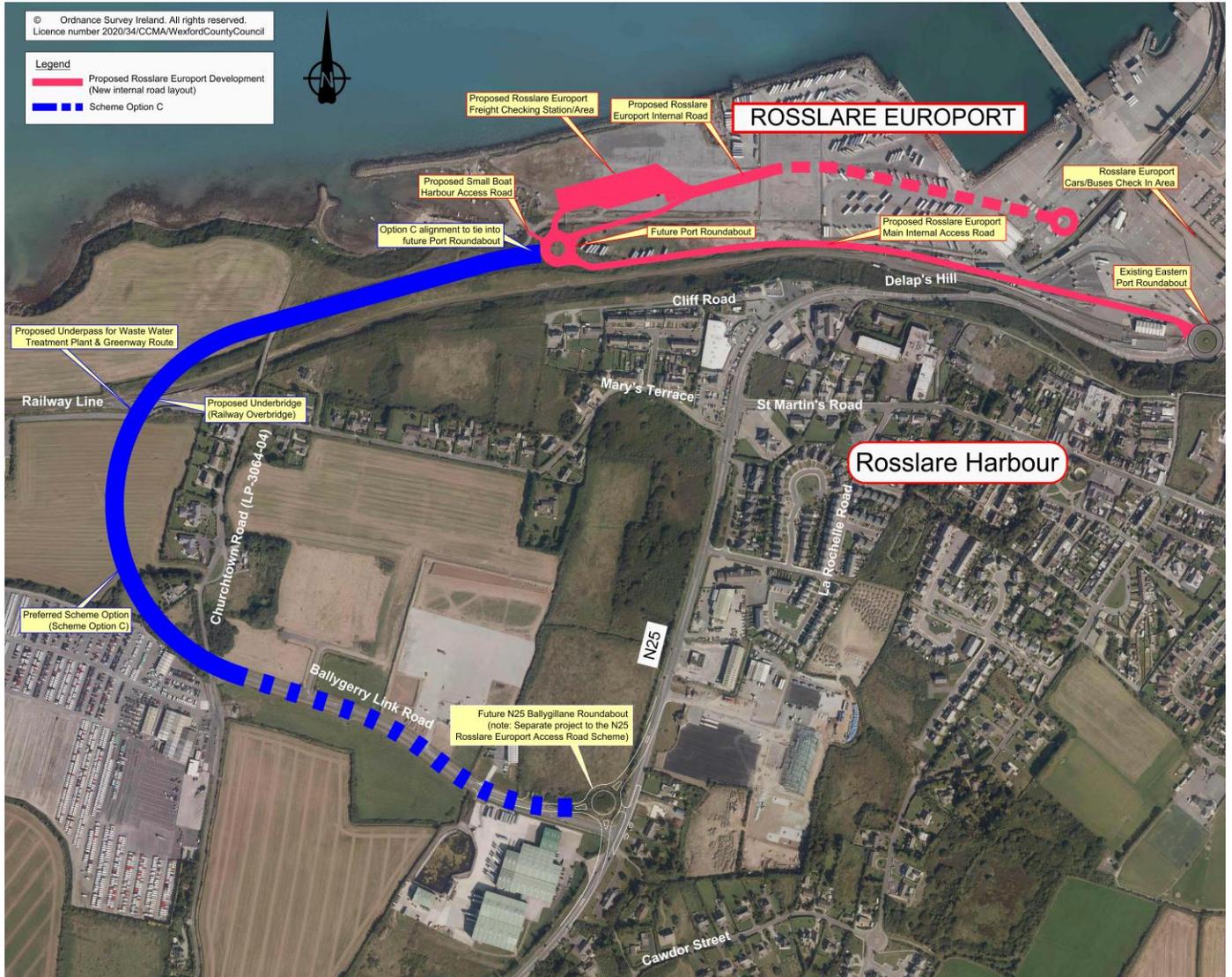
The scheme also incorporates high-quality segregated cycling and walking facilities which would potentially integrate with a future greenway corridor connecting Rosslare Harbour with Rosslare Strand and potentially on to Wexford town to the north.

The N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour project is also progressing to design and environmental assessment. Subject to securing the separate planning approvals and the necessary funding, the two projects would be fully integrated to provide efficient and seamless connectivity for people and goods travelling through Rosslare Europort.

## Planning Process

It is anticipated that a planning application may be submitted to An Bord Pleanála before the end of the year or early next year. The planning application will be available to view on Wexford County Council's consultation website and at County Hall as well as the offices of An Bord Pleanála. Submissions and observations on the application will be invited in writing to An Bord Pleanála and an oral hearing may be convened. Notices of the Council's intention to seek An Bord Pleanála approval will be published in local and national newspapers in advance of the application. The planning application will include an environmental report and Natura Impact Statement as well as a design report and other relevant documents. An application for a Compulsory Purchase Order of the lands required for the scheme will also be submitted to An Bord Pleanála at the same time.

## N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road Scheme



### What Happens Next (indicative timescale)



### Further Enquires & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items, and project reports can be found on the project website [www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie](http://www.rosslareeuroportaccessroad.ie). The project team can also be reached at the following addresses:

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