

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

South Douglas Road Junction Upgrade



Part 8 Proposal

October 2020



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Cork City Council

SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD JUNCTION UPGRADE – PART 8 PROPOSAL

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SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD JUNCTION UPGRADE – PART 8 PROPOSAL

1.0 Introduction & Layout

Pursuant to the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Cork City Council plans to carry out the South Douglas Road Junction Upgrade.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development, including an Appropriate Assessment screening report and an Environmental Impact Assessment screening report are available to view by visiting <https://consult.corkcity.ie/en>

Alternatively they will be available by appointment for inspection **on working days from Friday 09th of October to Friday the 06th of November, 2020** at Reception Desk, Cork City Council, City Hall, Cork.

Please phone 021-4924000 to arrange an appointment.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made;

- In writing to Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Development, City Hall, Cork. It should be clearly marked **“South Douglas Road Junction Upgrade.”**

Or

- Electronically at <https://consult.corkcity.ie/en>

Closing date for all submissions is on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday the 20th November, 2020.**

This document will outline the proposals for the South Douglas Road Junction Upgrade. The following sections will outline the proposed changes in detail and will outline how these changes will affect all road users.

2.0 Background & Proposal

In accordance with the recommendations of the Douglas Land Use and Transport Strategy (DLUTS), Cork City Council plans to carry out road network improvement works at the junction of the South Douglas Road and the N40 Douglas West off Slip. The Junction is currently a roundabout and in line with DLUTS the proposal is to replace this with a traffic signalized junction as well as carry out upgrades to pedestrian and cycling facilities in the area. The removal of the roundabout will provide benefits for road users particularly vulnerable road users and promote the use of sustainable modes of transport.

The proposed development consists of:

- Replacement of the existing roundabout at the Junction of the South Douglas Road (R851), the N40 West Douglas off ramp and Willow Park, with a new traffic signalised T-junction

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- Improved pedestrian facilities with extension of footpaths and provision of pedestrian crossings
- Provision of new raised off road cycle tracks on South Douglas Road (R851), N40 West Douglas off ramp and Willow Park
- Relocation of the bus stop on the northern side of the South Douglas Road
- Coordination of proposed traffic signals with existing traffic signals at the West Douglas/N40 On Ramp junction
- Revised layout of road into and out of Willow Park and Gaelscoil na Dúglaise
- Revised layout of traffic lanes on the N40 West Douglas off ramp.

The following section will now outline the scheme aims and objects.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

The proposed scheme has the following aims:

- 1.0 Promote the use of more sustainable modes of Transport in the Douglas area
- 2.0 Reduce congestion in the area
- 3.0 Improve safety in the vicinity of the N40 South Link Road Slip / South Douglas Road

These aims will be met by the scheme by achieving the following objectives:

- Provide safer pedestrian access from Douglas Village to Willow Park, Gaelscoil na Dúglaise and the Tramore Valley Park through the provision of controlled crossings on all approaches to the South Douglas road.
- Improve and widen footpaths to Willow Park, Gaelscoil na Dúglaise and the Tramore Valley Park.
- Provide a Northbound segregated cycle track under the N40 connecting to the existing northbound cycle lane on the South Douglas Road.
- Provide a raised 2 way segregated cycle track to Gaelscoil na Dúglaise with the inclusion of bike parking at the end of the cycle track.
- Provide for coordination of the proposed traffic signals at the junction with existing adjoining signalised junction in Douglas to improve efficiency and reduce congestion. This will benefit Public Transport journey times on this route as well as general traffic in the area.
- Reduce traffic congestion backing up onto the N40 South Ring Road through enhanced traffic detection and management of traffic signals.

The following sections will examine the scheme in more detail for each mode of transport.

4.0 Pedestrian Facilities

The existing roundabout is not friendly to pedestrians and vulnerable road users. There are currently uncontrolled crossings on the western side of the roundabout which do not cater for the desire line of pedestrians crossing from Douglas and continuing on the South Douglas Road and vice versa. There are no controlled or uncontrolled crossings to cater for the East to West crossing movement at the existing roundabout.

This scheme proposes the following pedestrian improvements:

- Realign footpaths to better cater for desire lines of pedestrians through the junction.
- Provide 4m wide push button controlled crossings on all arms.
- Upgrade footpath conditions in the area.
- Provide dropped kerb facilities in the area for mobility impaired and buggy access.
- Upgrade tactile paving and provide Push Button Units with audio sounders for visually impaired users.
- Ensure adequate crossing times are allocated to enable all road users to cross in a safe manner.
- Provide measures to prevent parking on footpaths.
- Upgrade of Public lighting in the vicinity of the scheme.

If the proposals are implemented pedestrian facilities at the junction will be greatly improved and will encourage more road users to choose walking as a mode of transport for at least part of their journey. It will encourage the use of park and stride as a means of travelling to the neighbouring schools. It will also make it easier for pedestrians to access local facilities such as those in Douglas Village and the Tramore Valley Park.

5.0 Cycling Facilities

The existing roundabout is not friendly to cyclists. Cyclists currently use the existing roundabout circulatory carriageway to gain access to the existing northbound cycle lane on the South Douglas Road.

This scheme proposes to provide additional cycling infrastructure to improve the safety for cyclists at this junction.

Cyclists travelling from the South Douglas road will be provided with a raised Northbound Cycletrack under the N40 Overpass. This will be ramped at the Douglas end to allow access to the raised track and at the approach to the junction. The lane will be demarcated at grade through the junction and continue onto the existing Cyclelane to the north of the Junction. A small section of contraflow cyclelane and dropped kerb will be provided to allow segregated access to the Willow Park/ Gaelscoil na Dúglaise cycletrack and the Tramore Valley Park via an uncontrolled crossing point.

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A raised cycle track will be provided from the proposed junction at the South Douglas Road to the entrance of Gaelscoil na Dúglaise. Covered bicycle parking will be provided at the start/end of this cycletrack.

Cyclists using this new track travelling Eastbound will navigate the junction using the proposed toucan crossings at this junction. This will provide the safest access for cyclists wishing to use the South Douglas Road.

While this project addresses the northbound movement of cyclists in line with the current Cork Cycle Network Plan it is acknowledged that cyclists travelling in the southbound direction at this location will continue to share the carriageway with traffic. The provision of dedicated cycling facilities in the southbound direction will involve land take and is outside the scope of this project however, this route will be examined further as part of the Bus Connects project. The Bus Connects project, as outlined in the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS), will aim to further improve sustainable transport including the cycling facilities at this junction particularly in the southbound direction.

6.0 Public Transport

As outlined in the previous section the South Douglas Road is to be reviewed under the Bus Connects project and as such this scheme will only be providing minor adjustments to the public transport facilities.

The South Douglas road is a busy bus route with the 206 and 219 both using this route. There are 2 bus stops in the vicinity of the scheme; one to for the northbound movement and one for the southbound movement.

This scheme proposes to move the Southbound Bus Stop North approximately 30m. This will improve the flow of traffic through the proposed junction by providing greater capacity.

The new bus stop location will include kessel kerbing to improve access/egress from the bus and a new bus shelter. Ducting for the future provision of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) system will also be included as part of the works.

7.0 Vehicular Traffic

As outlined in the proposals the existing roundabout will be replaced with a signalised T junction. This junction will be linked with the existing traffic signals that are already in situ at the southern side of the N40 via a fibre optic cable. This will enable the coordination of the two junctions to provide optimum capacity of both junctions.

The traffic signals will provide adequate capacity for the main flow of traffic along the South Douglas road while providing adequate capacity for traffic on the Willow Park/N40 Slip road to prevent backing up onto the main N40 carriageway. Vehicular

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detection loops linked into the traffic signal controllers will be provided to ensure that traffic will not back up onto the N40.

Access to Willow Park from the South Douglas road will be provided by a dedicated westbound traffic lane. Traffic using this lane will stop at the junction of the N40 Slip road and wait for a gap in traffic to proceed. A yellow box will be provided to ensure access will be maintained when the slip road gets congested. This road will be aligned in such a way as to prohibit a right turn movement back onto the N40 Slip Road. No right turn signage will also be provided.

To prevent accidental access to the N40 No entry signage will be provided at various intervals on the slip road.

8.0 Summary of Proposals

In summary the proposed development consists of:

- Replacement of the existing roundabout at the Junction of the South Douglas Road (R851), the N40 West Douglas off ramp and Willow Park, with a new traffic signalised T-junction
- Improved pedestrian facilities with extension of footpaths and provision of pedestrian crossings
- Provision of new raised off road cycle tracks on South Douglas Road (R851), N40 West Douglas off ramp and Willow Park
- Relocation of the bus stop on the northern side of the South Douglas Road
- Coordination of proposed traffic signals with existing traffic signals at the West Douglas/N40 On Ramp junction
- Revised layout of road into and out of Willow Park and Gaelscoil na Dúglaise
- Revised layout of traffic lanes on the N40 West Douglas off ramp.

This report has outlined the background to the project and the various changes associated with the scheme for all road users. It has outlined the improvements and benefits for all modes of transport. It has outlined that further changes will be made at a later date to further improve the junction for more sustainable modes as part of CMATS and Bus Connects.