

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

Westmeath County Council and Longford County Council wish to consider any comments you may have in relation to the route corridor options that have been identified.

Please carefully consider each route corridor shown in this brochure and the exhibition posters and let your comments be known by completing the questionnaire and returning it to the address below. We would be grateful if you could complete the Questionnaire to let us know your comments on the route corridor options

Please return the completed questionnaire by Friday 10th October 2008 to Ambrose Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer at the address below.



NATIONAL ROADS DESIGN OFFICE

Westmeath County Council
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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your comments will be reviewed in conjunction with the ongoing studies into the environmental, engineering and economic assessments of the route corridors presented here.

This review will conclude with the selection of an Emerging Preferred Route. An exhibition to present the Emerging Preferred Route will be held before the Route Selection Report is finalised.

A preliminary design for the road will then be undertaken. This will enable the extent of the land required for the scheme to be determined allowing the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) to be prepared. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also be prepared. Both the CPO and the EIS will be sent to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation. An Bord Pleanála may hold an Oral Hearing into any objections received. The likely sequence of events is set out in the diagram opposite. However this is dependant on various approvals being granted and funding being made available.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND YOUR ASSISTANCE

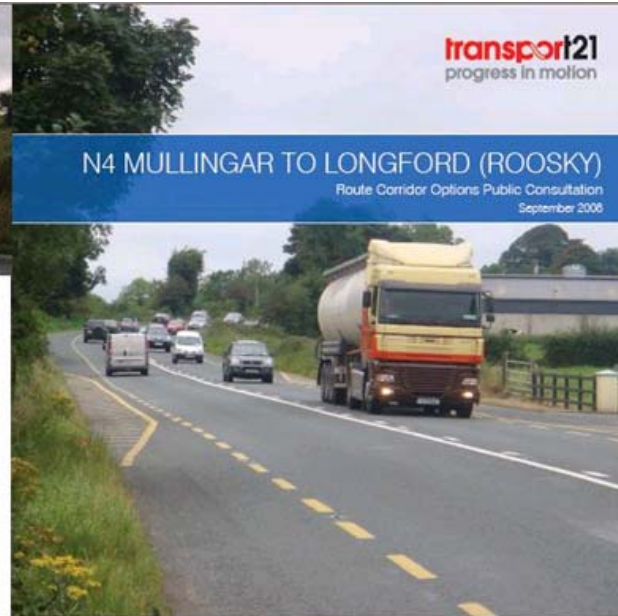
EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE IDENTIFIED

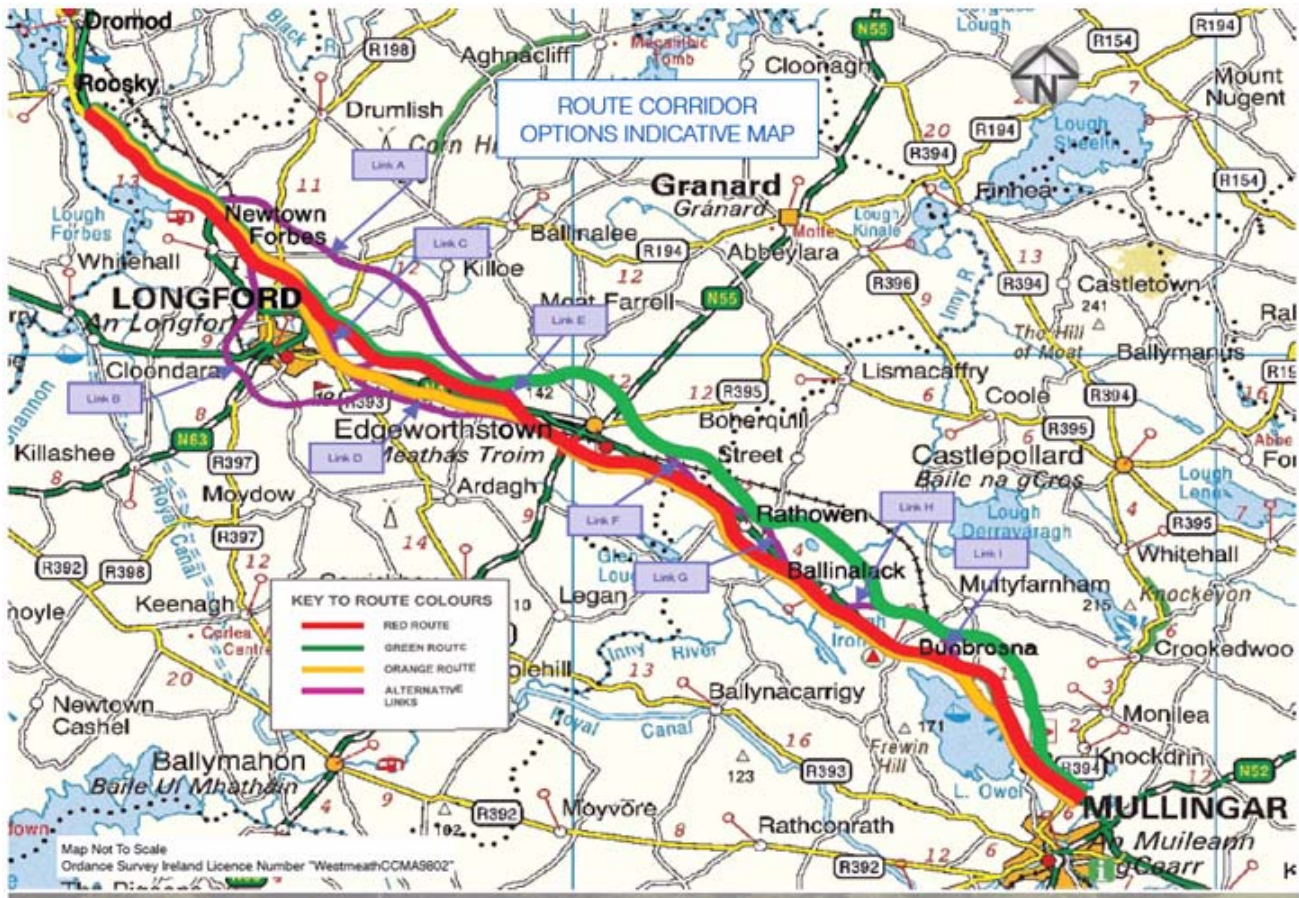
PREPARATION OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFER TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA

CONTRACT PREPARATION AND TENDERING

START OF CONSTRUCTION





THE NEED FOR THE SCHEME

This section of the existing N4 route almost entirely comprises single carriageway road with intermittent hardshoulders of various widths which means safe overtaking opportunities can be restricted during busy periods.

There are also numerous minor junctions and private accesses along the existing route, where slow moving vehicles join the N4. Through traffic also has a negative impact on local communities including Newtownforbes, Longford, Edgeworthstown, Rathowen and Ballinalack.

Traffic flows on the existing N4 rose significantly in the last few years. Studies indicate that by 2030 traffic volumes will be such that it will no longer be possible to provide the minimum acceptable level of service, equating to an average inter-urban journey speed of 80 kilometres per hour.

ROUTE CORRIDOR OPTIONS

Many route corridor options have been considered for this scheme.

Three continuous route corridor options are shown on the Indicative Map, each of which start at Rosky and finish at Mullingar. They are coloured Red, Orange and Green. In addition various shorter corridor options known as Links are shown in purple, which could link up sections of the three corridors to create alternative corridors. The Indicative Map is provided for quick reference. All of the corridors and links can be viewed on a more detailed background and at a larger size on posters at the exhibitions. The route corridor options posters from the exhibitions will remain available to view after the exhibitions at the Longford County Council Offices and the Westmeath National Roads Design Office. We would be grateful if you could complete the Questionnaire to let us know which corridor or alternative corridor you prefer. Please return your questionnaire at the Exhibitions or to the Westmeath National Roads Design Office at the address overleaf.

EXHIBITION DATES:

- Thursday 18th September: Aras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford from 2pm to 8pm
- Friday 19th September: Green Community Centre, Edgeworthstown from 2pm to 8pm
- Saturday 20th September: Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar from 10am to 4pm

Westmeath County Council in partnership with Longford County Council and in association with the National Roads Authority, are investigating route options for an upgrade of approximately 60km of the N4 National Primary Road between Mullingar and Rosky.

This proposed road will link the N4 Mullingar bypass to the recently completed N4 Droimod-Rosky Scheme. To assist with the delivery of this project, Westmeath County Council has appointed Hyder Tobin as design consultants.

Scheme Objectives
The National Development Plan (NDP 2007-2013), Transport 21 Policy, National Spatial Strategy, Border Midland and Western Operational Programme and the Longford and Westmeath County Development Plans are designed to underpin the development of a dynamic national economy.
The scheme aims to achieve the following objectives which have been developed from these plans, policies and strategies:

- To promote sustainable national economic and employment growth
- To strengthen and improve Ireland's international competitiveness
- To foster balanced Regional Development
- To promote Social Inclusion
- To provide a high quality road for strategic routes
- To reduce congestion
- To improve road safety
- To optimize journey times
- To minimize impacts on the environment.

