



# BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road

Non Statutory Public Consultation

January 2023



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



# **BUS CONNECTS GALWAY**

**SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR A BETTER CITY.**

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# Introduction

As Galway City and its environs continue to grow, it is crucial to safeguard the future development of the city as the principal economic centre in the West of Ireland and to ensure that this development is sustainable. There is a strong need to address the transportation issues facing the city and surrounding areas at present, and to underpin future growth by establishing a long-term strategy for transport to, within and around the city.

In many respects, Galway is a city of contrasts in terms of its physical development and transport requirements. While Galway has a compact walkable core, outside of the city centre the suburbs have developed as a succession of low density residential and employment areas, leading to a dominance of private car usage as a means of travel.

This affects the wider county and region, due to the large number of people commuting daily for work or education to the city from the surrounding towns, villages and rural areas.

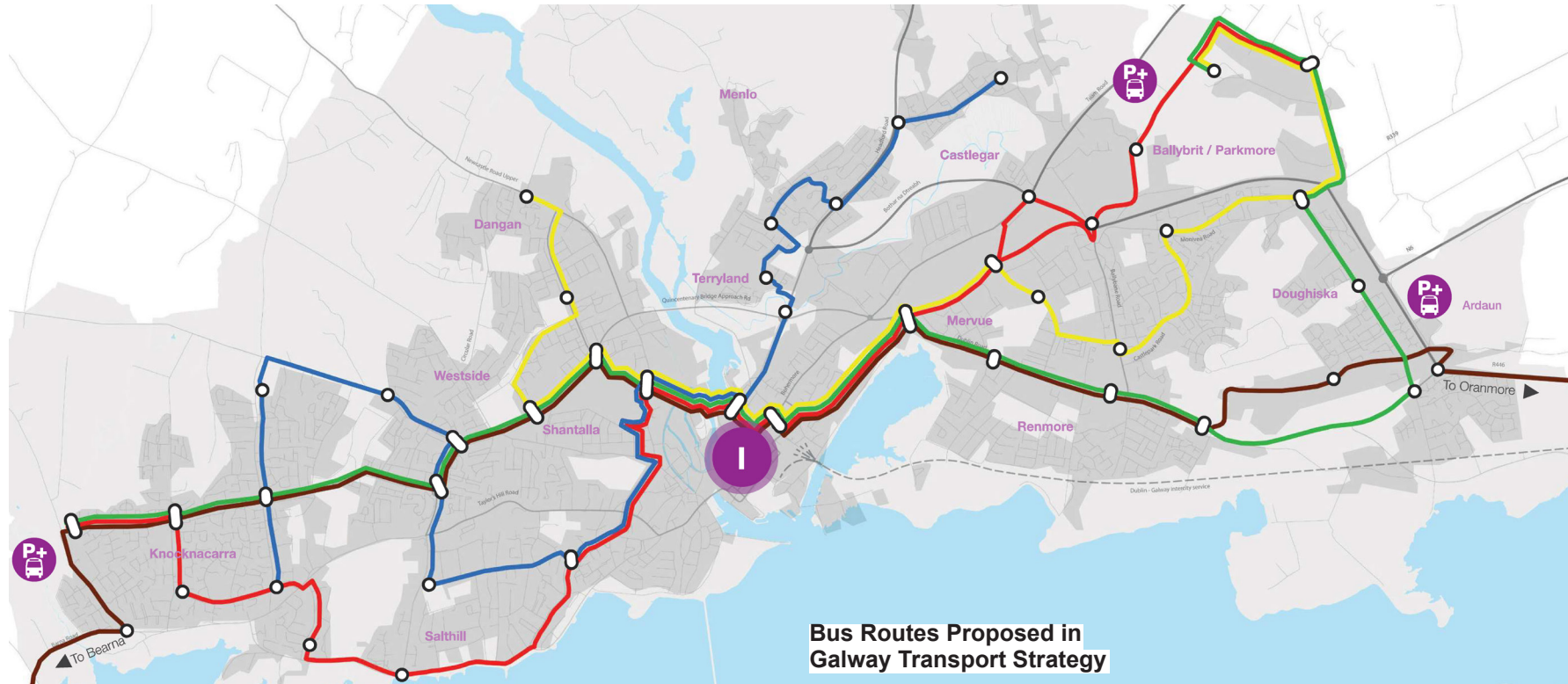
To address these issues, Galway City Council and Galway County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority, developed the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS), which aims to address the current and future transport requirements of the city and surrounding towns and villages.

The GTS identified specific proposals for the R338 Dublin Road in relation to public transport, cycling, and pedestrian infrastructure. These include the provision of bus lanes along the full length of the road, provision of cycling facilities, and improvements and upgrades to footpaths and pedestrian crossings.



# BusConnects

Sustainable transport for a better city



BusConnects is a key part of Government policy to improve public transport and address climate change. Galway is growing, and the city needs a bus network that delivers for the Galway Metropolitan area, and beyond.

BusConnects aim is to deliver a bus service that's better for everybody; the people, the city and the environment. BusConnects is all about providing a

better, more reliable and more efficient bus service. With more buses, going to more places, more often.

BusConnects is a key component within a number of Government and regional policies which include the National Development Plan 2021-2030, Climate Action Plan 2021, the National Planning Framework 2040 and the Galway Transport Strategy.

# Background

The R338 Dublin Road, Galway is one of the primary arterial routes into Galway City Centre. It runs from east of Moneenageisha Junction to Doughiska Road Junction and includes significant landmarks and trip attractors along the route.

BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road is a continuous 4km corridor of high quality pedestrian, cyclist and public transport facilities which will balance transport needs with the unique sensitivities of the local environment.

The BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road Project is key to the delivery of the Galway Transport Strategy to provide infrastructure to reduce reliance on the private car, promote walking and cycling, and support improved frequency and journey time reliability of local bus, regional and national coach services.

In 2020, a non-statutory consultation on an 'Emerging Preferred Route' took place. This provided a wealth of insight and information to the design team.

Since this consultation, significant changes in design and procurement guidance required a review of the proposed design, to ensure compliance with current

'good practice'. These changes include updates to the Public Spending Code, revised design guidance on layouts for bus corridors, and revised National Transport Authority Project Approval Guidelines.

As a result of these changes, and feedback from the first public consultation on BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road, the 'Emerging Preferred Route' has been updated.

Feedback on the updated Emerging Preferred Route is now invited, as part of this second non-statutory public consultation on the BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road proposals.



# Scheme Objectives

The overall objective of BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road is to provide enhanced walking, cycling and bus infrastructure (multi-modal) which will deliver an efficient, safe and integrated sustainable transport solution from east of Moneenageisha Junction to Doughiska Road Junction. This aligns with the strategic aim of the Galway Transport Strategy.

The following six scheme objectives have been identified.

**Economy** - To enhance and support sustainable growth of Galway City through the provision of a continuous high-quality multi-modal corridor which will improve bus journey times and journey time reliability along the R338 Dublin Road.

**Safety** - To enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety through the provision of improved and segregated walking and cycling facilities along the R338 Dublin Road, which will help increase active travel.

**Integration** - To improve connectivity between:

- (a) Galway City Centre and its neighbourhoods such as Renmore, Ballybane, Doughiska, Parkmore and Ardaun;
- (b) Galway City and regional towns such as Oranmore, Athenry and Gort; and
- (c) Galway City and the inter-urban motorway network.

**Environment** - To increase public transport and active travel usage through the delivery of an efficient, low carbon and climate resilient public transport service, which supports the achievement of Ireland's emission reduction targets.

**Accessibility and Social Inclusion** - To improve access to services and outdoor areas, for example, Merlin Park Woods, Ballyloughane Beach, along R338 Dublin Road by improving transport options for everyone, including people with disabilities, mobility issues and people travelling with children.

**Physical Activity** - To enable local opportunities for walking and cycling activity in communities as a result of improved and segregated walking and cycling facilities which will help increase physical activity.



# Option Selection Process

A two-stage options assessment process was adopted. Firstly, all feasible route options underwent a high-level assessment or ‘sifting’ process to assess their suitability to provide for a multi-modal corridor. Each potentially viable route option was assessed in terms of ability to achieve the scheme objectives and was based on professional judgement and a general appreciation of the existing physical conditions and constraints.

This assessment stage focused on high-level engineering and environmental constraints such as existing properties, mature trees and archaeological features. The purpose of this assessment stage was to determine which options were the most viable and should be considered for further detailed assessment.

Following the ‘sifting’ assessment, initial scheme designs were developed based on the specific constraints along different areas on the route. The initial scheme designs for each area were then progressed to an assessment process in accordance with the Department of Transport Guidelines on a Common Appraisal Framework for Transport Projects.

The options for each area were then assessed against the scheme objectives. Each option was then ranked to identify the best option for each area which together formed the Emerging Preferred Route. The development and assessment of the options was undertaken by experts in fields such as biodiversity, air quality, climate change, landscape assessment and cultural heritage.



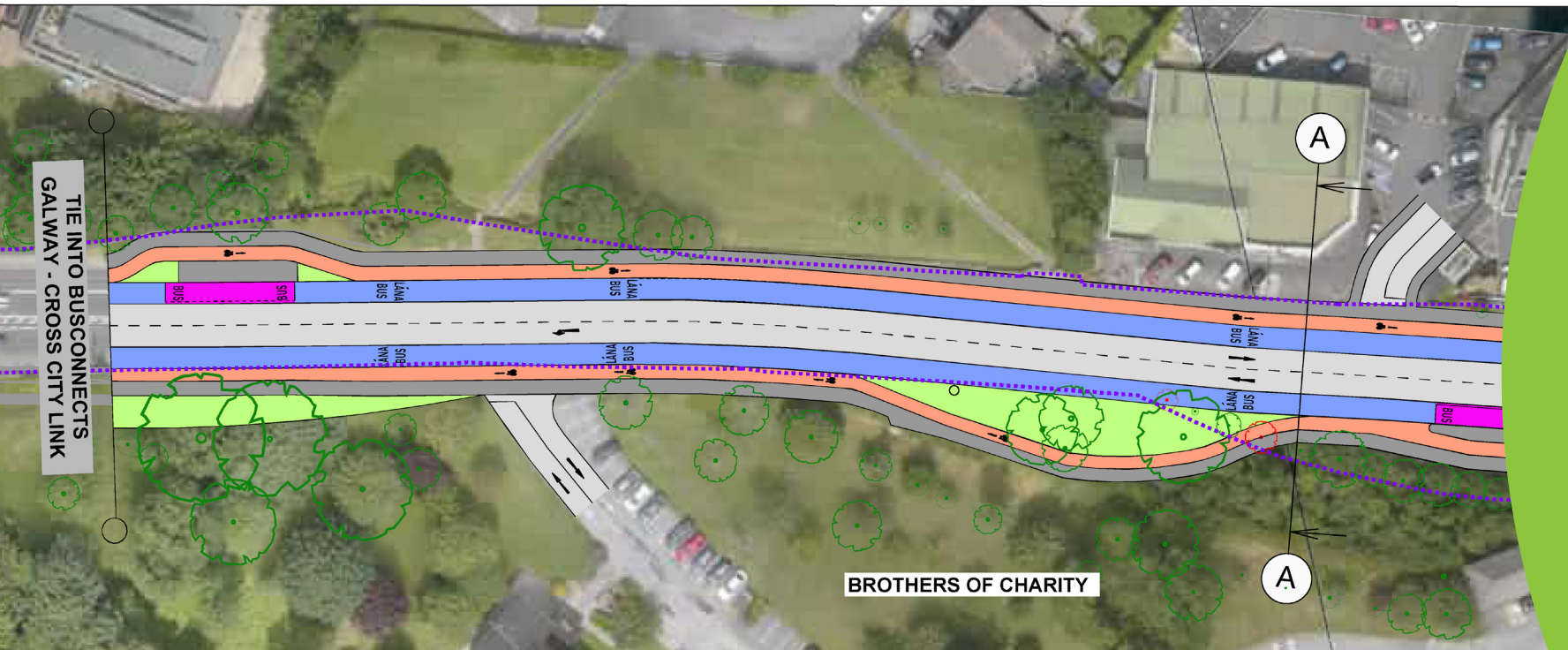
# Emerging Preferred Route

The Emerging Preferred Route is considered as the optimum route with consideration to biodiversity, air quality, climate change, landscape assessment and cultural heritage while meeting the scheme objectives.

The Emerging Preferred Route consists of dedicated bus lanes in each direction, segregated cycle lanes and footpaths for the full length of the route. Dublin Road remains two-way for general traffic. All major junctions along the route are upgraded to signalised junctions with pedestrian and cyclist provision.

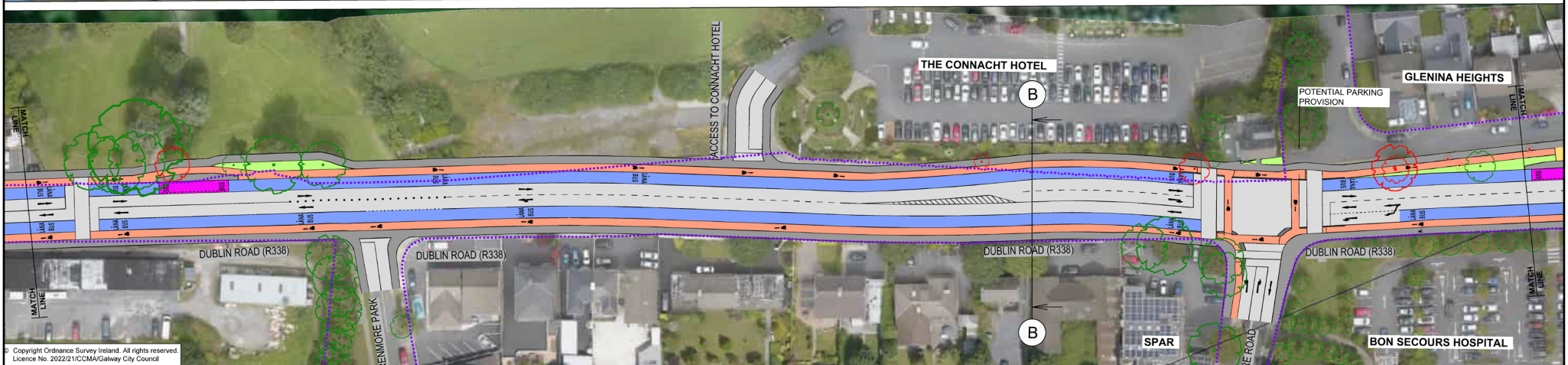
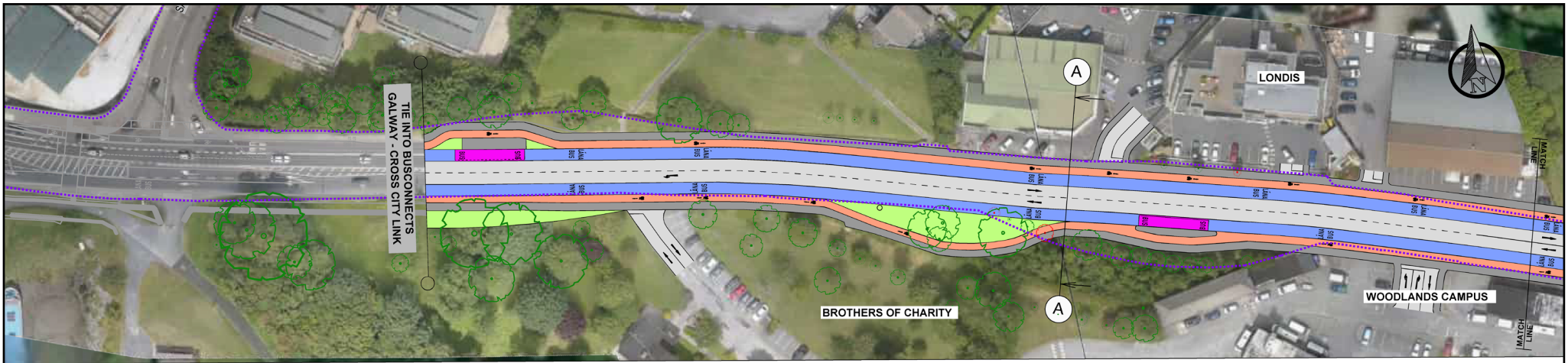
Further details of the proposed route can be seen in the general arrangement drawings provided on the following pages.

**Part of the Proposed Emerging Preferred Route at Wellpark/ Brothers of Charity.**  
See page 11 for full details.



# Index Map



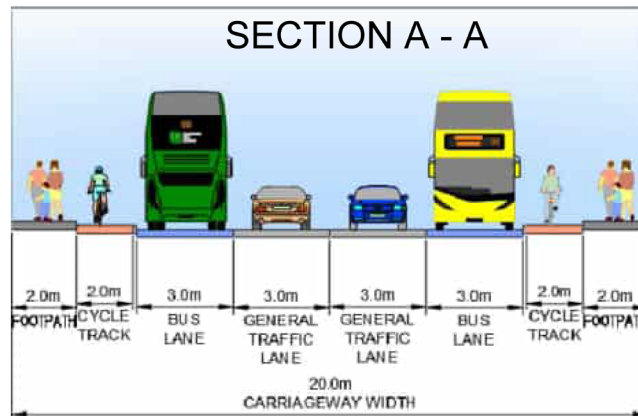


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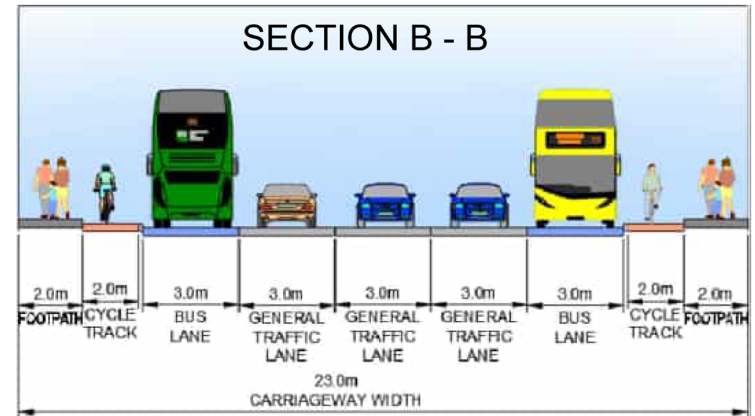
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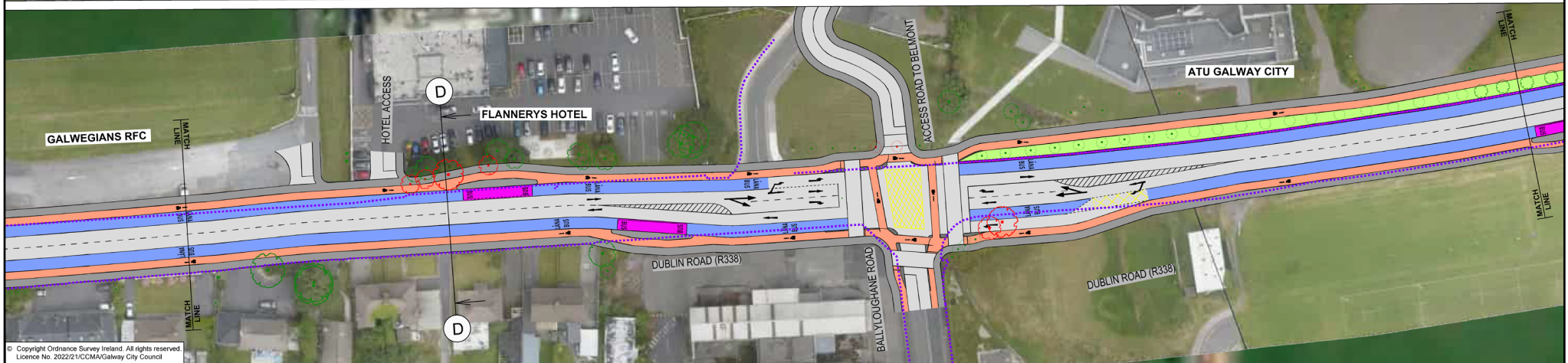
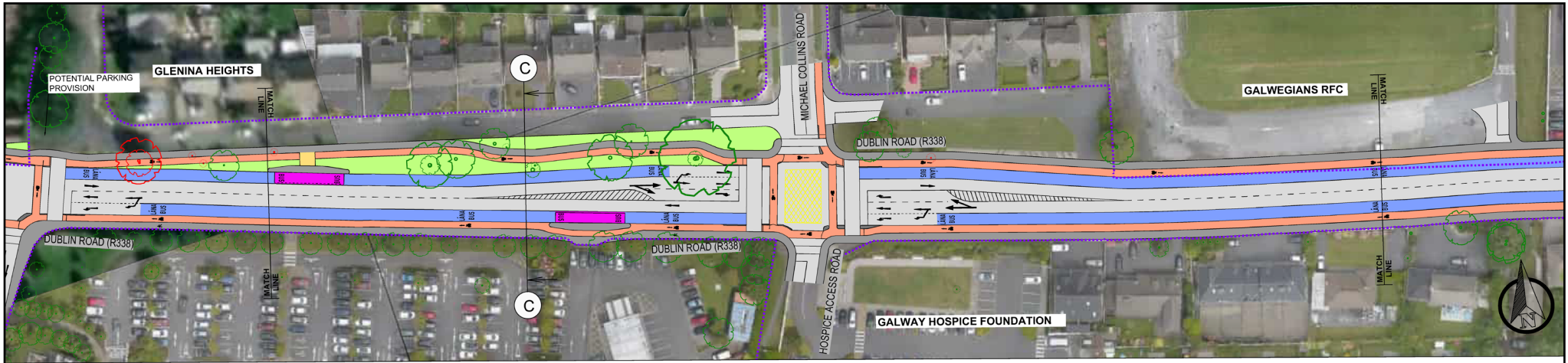
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- CYCLE TRACK
- FOOTPATH
- CARRIAGEWAY
- GRASS AREA / VERGE
- PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY ZONE
- BUS STOP LOCATIONS
- EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED TREES
- EXISTING BOUNDARY

**SECTION A - A**



**SECTION B - B**



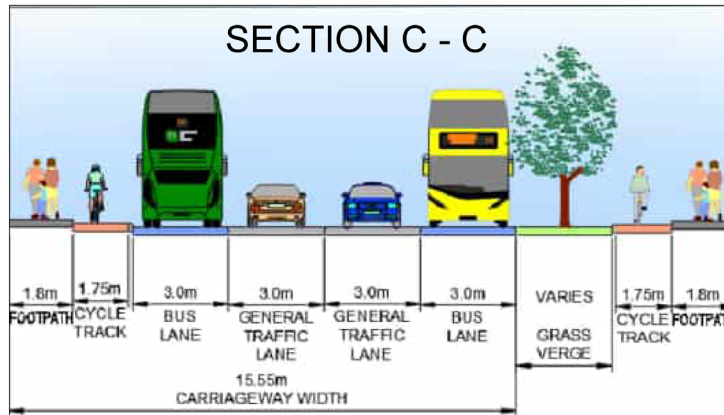


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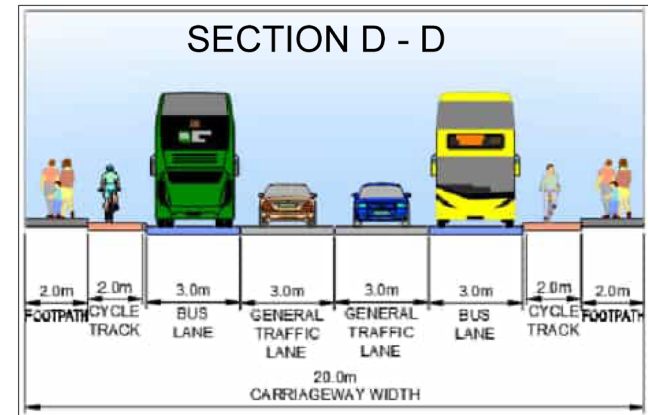
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**SECTION C - C**



**SECTION D - D**

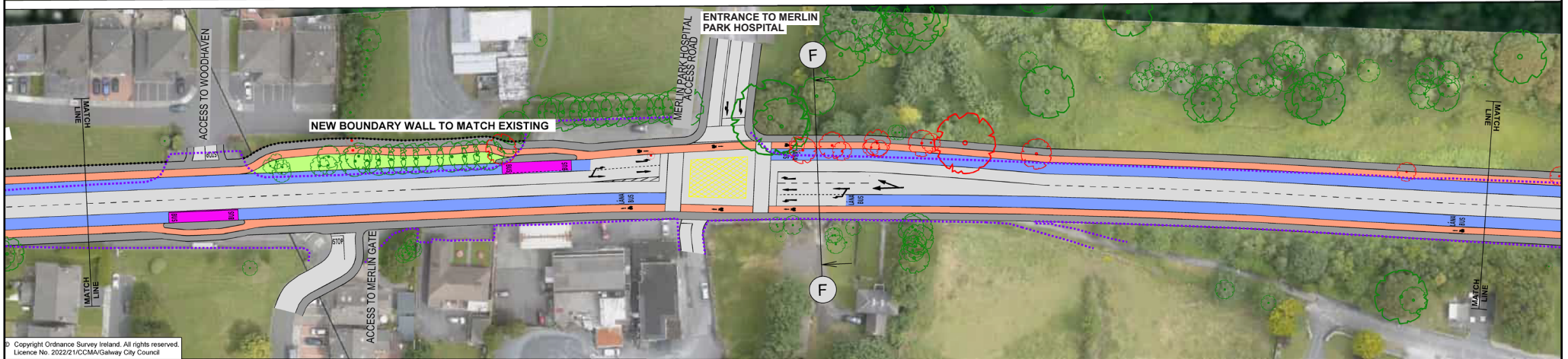
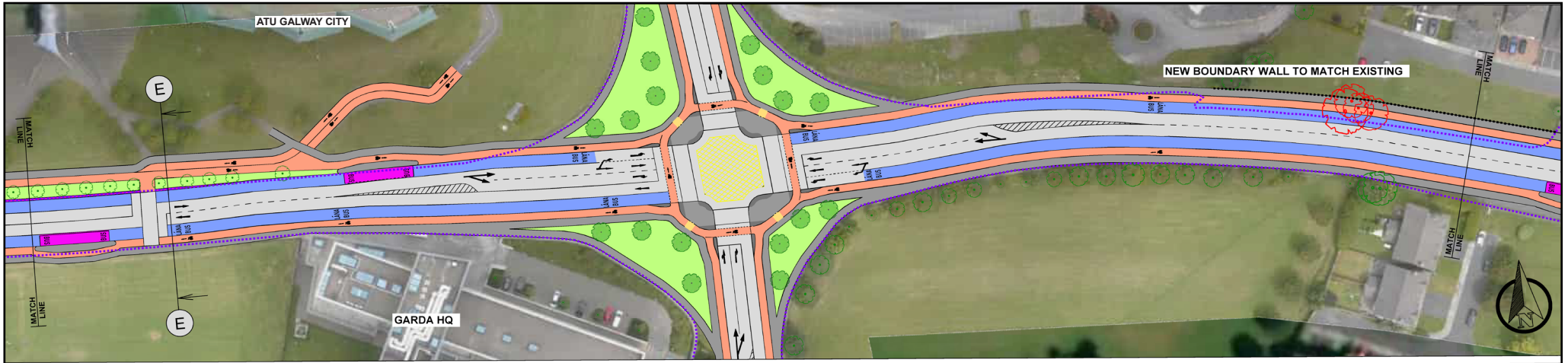




**Glenina Heights Current View East**



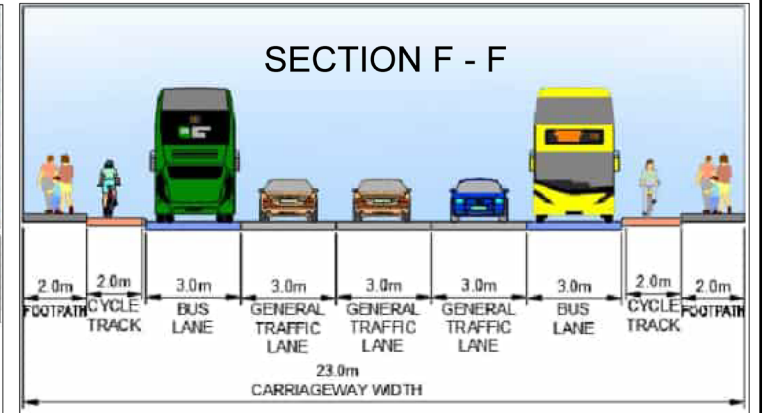
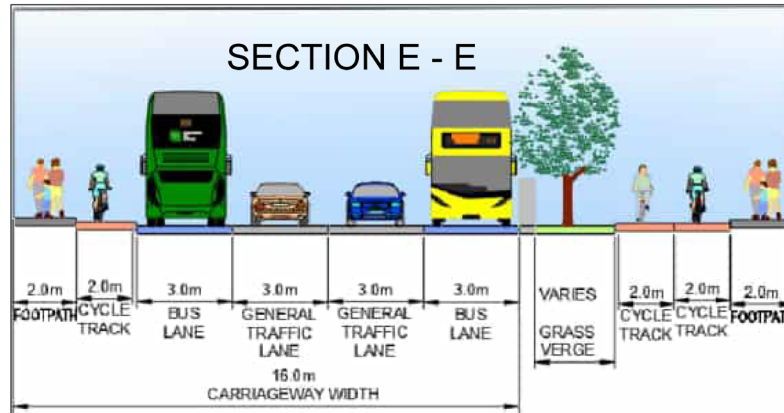
**Glenina Heights Proposed View East**



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**ATU Galway City Current View West**



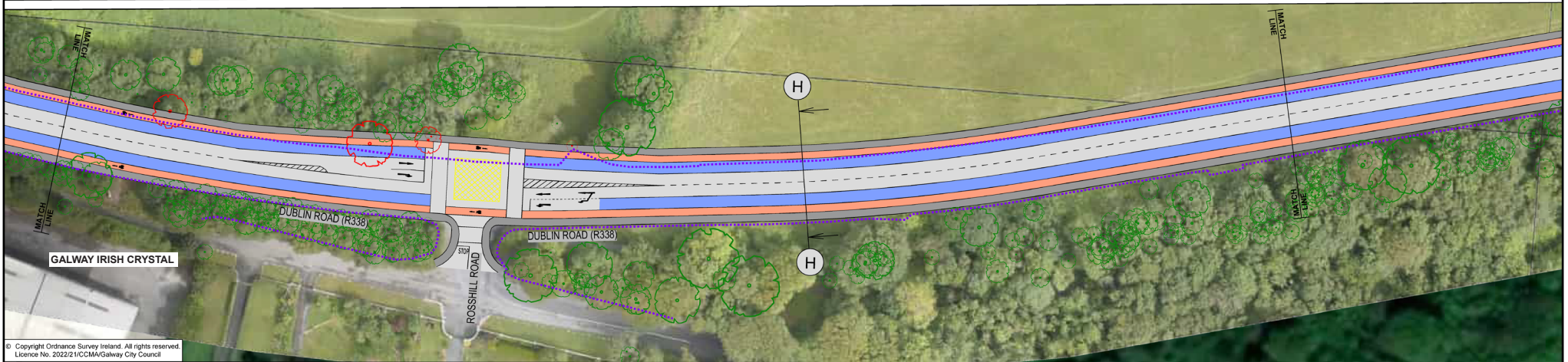
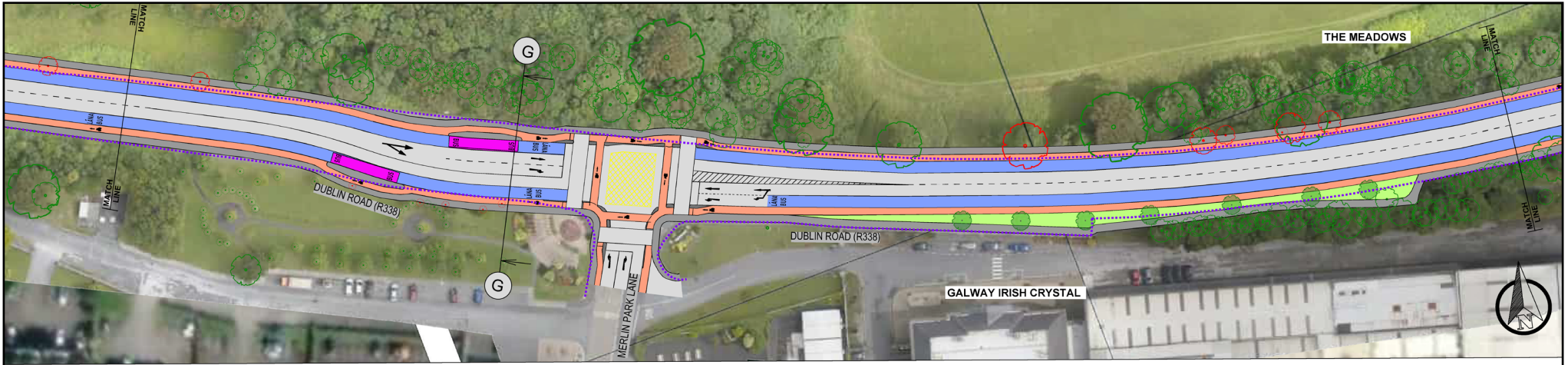
**ATU Galway City Proposed View West**



**Merlin Gate Current View East**



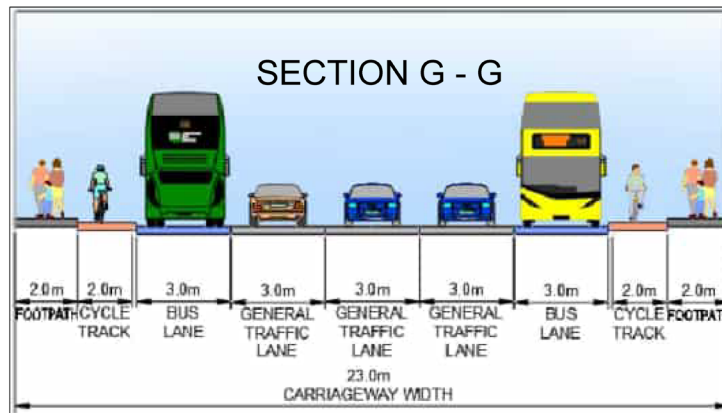
**Merlin Gate Proposed View East**



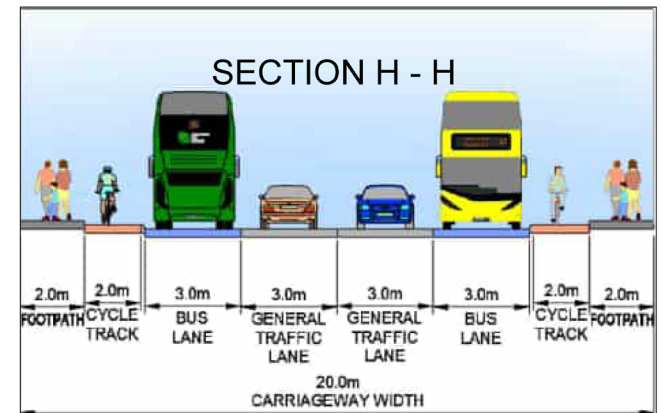
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**SECTION G - G**



**SECTION H - H**

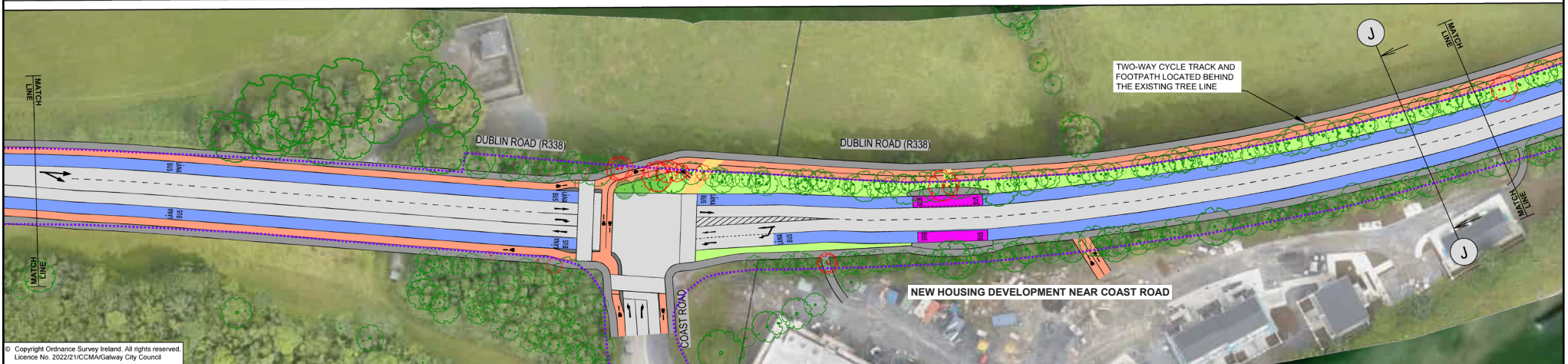
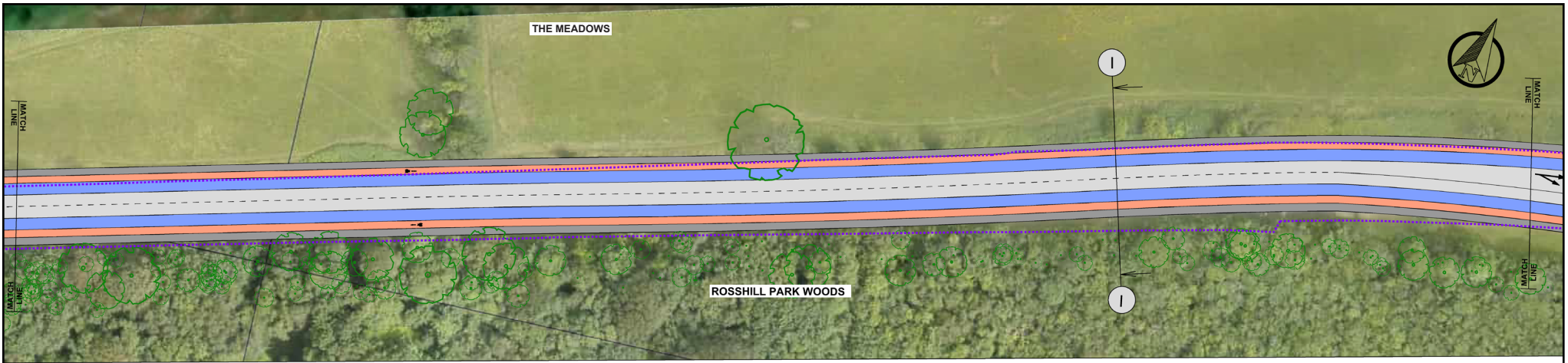




**The Meadows Current View West**



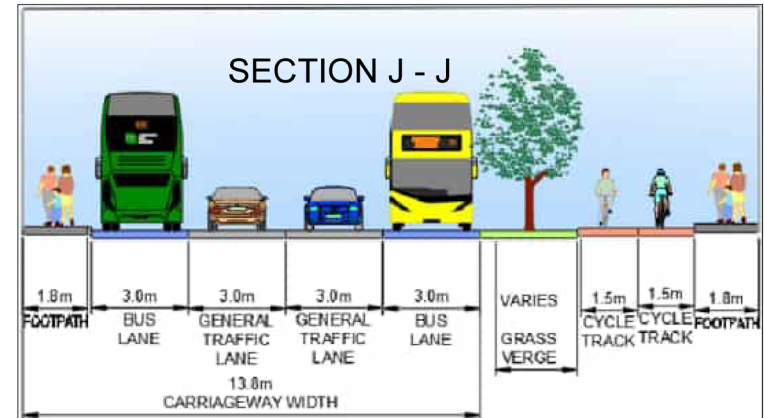
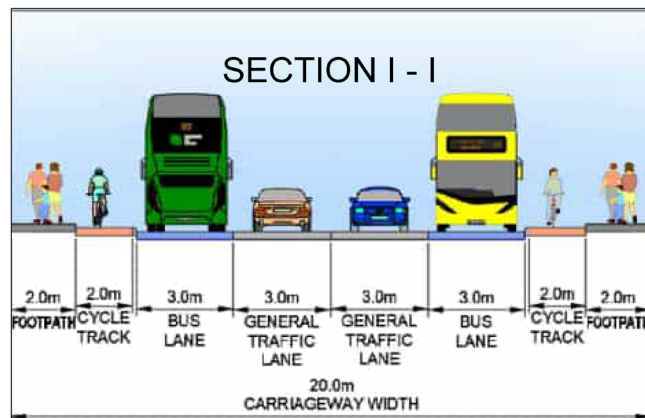
**The Meadows Proposed View West**

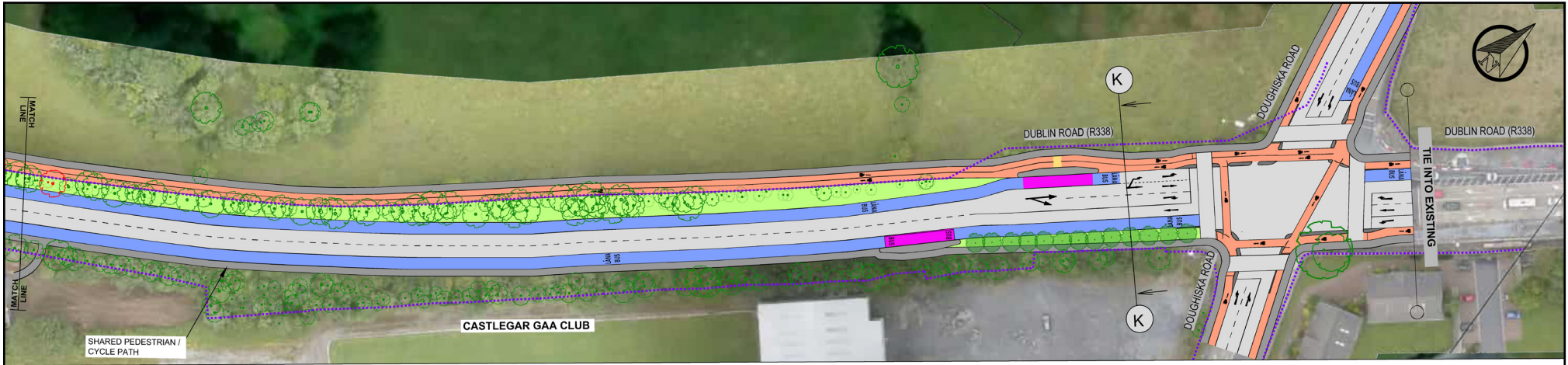


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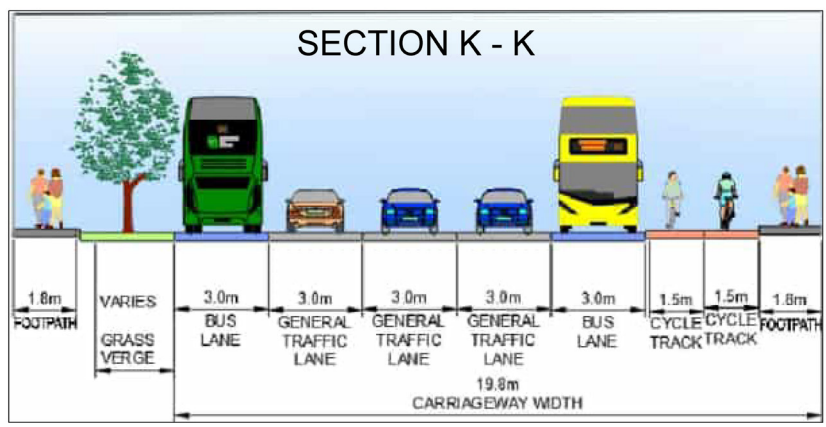




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# Have Your Say

Galway City Council and the BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road design team welcome feedback on the 'Emerging Preferred Route'.

This feedback will assist the design team to prepare a design to process through the planning consent process.

Stakeholder feedback is essential to inform this design, and all views are welcome. Where you think a better alternative exists, please consider suggesting an alternative solution or another option for consideration.

Please see information to the right and on the following page for details on how to share feedback with the design team.

# Find Out More

You can read more about the proposed BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road project in the 'virtual information room' at the link below.

Here you will find an interactive space to look at key project information including:

- A fly through video of the Emerging Preferred Route
- The Emerging Preferred Route drawings
- Information on how to provide feedback.
- A book a meeting facility

<https://www.innovision.ie/bcgdublinroad>

# Get in Touch with the Design Team

You can share feedback on the proposed BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road project

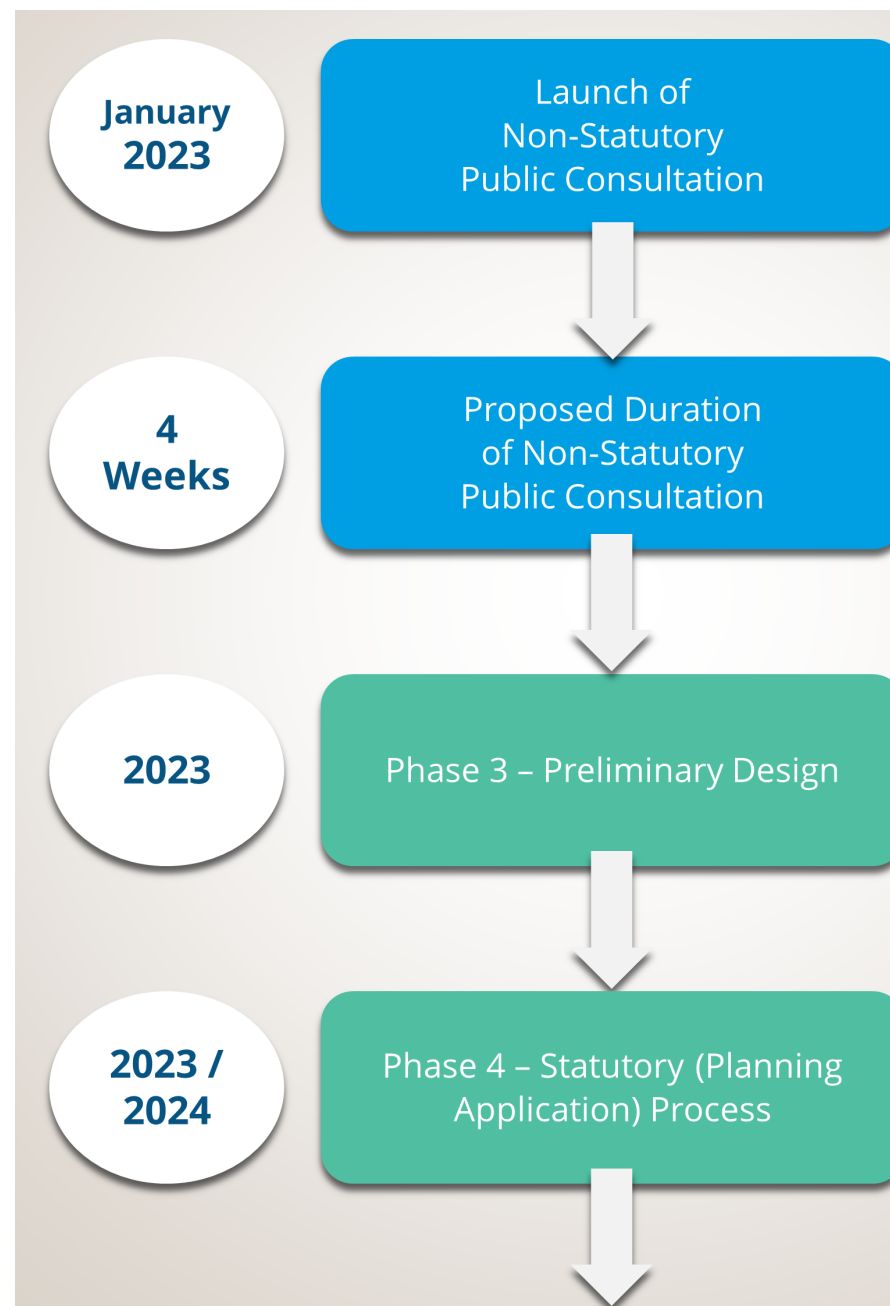
- Online, through the feedback form on the virtual information room, <https://www.innovision.ie/bcgdublinroad>
- By email - [info@bcgdublinroad.ie](mailto:info@bcgdublinroad.ie)
- By post to  
BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road Consultation  
Galway City Council  
College Road  
Galway  
H91 X4K8
- By phone 1800 911 090  
9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday



# Next Steps

At the end of the public consultation, a report summarising the public consultation process and the submissions received will be prepared. Each submission will be reviewed and considered. Any subsequent amendments to the Emerging Preferred Route that result from the consultation process that are appropriate, and beneficial for the overall scheme, will be incorporated.

The Design Team will then commence Phase 3 - Preliminary Design. The purpose of this phase is to develop the design of the Preferred Option selected in Phase 2, including the transport corridor layout and junction arrangements, and undertake an environmental evaluation of the design to a sufficient level of detail to establish landtake requirements and to progress the project through the statutory process. Updates will be published on the project website [www.bcgdublinroad.ie](http://www.bcgdublinroad.ie) and through local press and social media. Any decision to proceed with this overall project would be subject to planning consent by An Bord Pleanála. As part of that process members of the public can make a submission or observation to An Bord Pleanála.



*For updates on these Key Project Milestones, check out our website at [bcgdublinroad.ie](http://bcgdublinroad.ie)*



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
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For more information, visit [www.bcgdublinroad.ie](http://www.bcgdublinroad.ie)

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