



Comhairle Cathrach  
na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

## **Screening Determination as required under Article 4(5) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2014/52/EU**

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Galway City Council is proposing to construct the following Pedestrian Crossing in Galway City. The project is known as the 'Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project', and shall consist of the following:

### **Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project**

The *Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project* entails the construction of a temporary pedestrian crossing across the R863 University Road at Galway Cathedral. It will facilitate safe movements for walkers, wheelers and cyclists, including vulnerable road users. The crossing will connect the footway on University Road near Fisheries Field to Droichead an Dóchais (formerly the Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge).

The temporary pedestrian crossing will be a toucan crossing (i.e. signal controlled crossing for pedestrians and cyclists use) and will be located on the western side of the Salmon Weir Bridge.

The rationale for constructing a temporary controlled crossing is to facilitate a safe crossing point of the R863 until such time as the construction of the *BusConnects Cross City Link* project is complete. The *Cross City Link Project* has received consent on the 27th of September 2024 but is currently the subject of an ongoing Judicial Review.

The project is located on the west bank of the Lower River Corrib adjacent to the Salmon Weir Bridge. The Lower River Corrib is a designated Natura 2000 site, Lough Corrib SAC (000297).

Having regard to:

- The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by EIA Directive 2014/52/EU and the guidance contained in:

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#### **Fáiltítear roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.**

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- *“Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development”* published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2003;
  - *“Environmental Impact – Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Screening”* published by the European Commission in 2017; and
  - *“Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment”* published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 2018.
- And on the basis of the objective information provided in the *“Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing - Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Note”* – Enviroguide a DNV Company- March 2025.

Galway City Council, as the Competent Authority, determines that the ‘Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project’, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

It is considered that the Screening Report has been carried out giving full consideration to the EIA Directive and in particular Annex I, II and III of that Directive, which sets out the requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA.

The project has been assessed as follows:

- (1) The project has been screened against the criteria outlined in Section 50(1)(a) of the Roads Act 1993-2021 and Article 8 of S.I. No. 119/1994- Roads Regulations, 1994. This project does not fall within any category of development requiring a mandatory EIA; hence the preparation of an EIAR is not required under Section 50 (1)(a).
- (2) The scheme has been screened against the criteria outlined in Section 50(1)(b) and Section 50 (1)(c) of the Roads Act 1993-2021, as follows;
  - a. Section 50(1)(b) - ‘If An Bord Pleanála considers that any road development proposed (other than development to which paragraph (a) applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, it shall direct the development be subject to an environmental impact assessment’.
  - b. Section 50(1)(c) – ‘Where a road authority or, as the case may be, the Authority considers that a road development that it proposes (other than development to which paragraph (a) applies) consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, it shall inform An Bord Pleanála in writing prior to making any application to the Bord for an approval referred to in section 51(1) in respect of the development.’



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- (3) Therefore, it is considered that the scheme should undergo an EIA screening to determine if an EIAR would be required in accordance with Section 50(1)(b) and 50(1)(c) of the Roads Act 1993-2021.

As the proposed 'Salmon Weir Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Project' is sub-threshold, it has, therefore, been assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the criteria for determining whether or not a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment as outlined within Annex III of the EIA Directive.

It is further considered that the Screening Report contains a fair and reasonable assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, having regard to the foregoing and in particular:

- The size and design of the whole project;
- In combination with other existing and/or proposed projects;
- The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
- The production of waste;
- Pollution and nuisance;
- The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge; and
- The risk to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).

It is considered that the environmental effects arising from the proposed project will generally be localised, minor in nature and occur principally during the construction phase.

I concur with the conclusion and recommendation of the screening report that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on the receiving environment, does not require a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment Report, is sub-threshold, and following the assessment detailed in the Screening report, does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

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*James Russell*

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James Russell, Senior Planner, Galway City Council

June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025