

N3 M50 TO CLONEE



PUBLICATION OF OPTION SELECTION REPORT & PREFERRED OPTION CONFIRMATION

JUNE 2022

Project Description

Fingal County Council (FCC) and Meath County Council, with the support of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), is progressing the planning & design of the N3 M50 to Clonee project. FCC is working to develop a multi-modal transport scheme along the N3/M3 corridor between the M50 and Clonee, with a focus on improving long term access to public transport and reducing existing and future traffic congestion issues. Consulting engineers, ROD-AECOM, have been appointed to undertake the required studies and designs including all required environmental assessments.

The N3/M3 corridor is a strategic link on the national road network that has seen significant traffic growth recent years. Public policy at national, regional and local level aims to provide a high-quality transport corridor to underpin and support the economic development of the areas connected by the N3/M3 strategic road network in Fingal, Meath and the wider region.

	Studies & Research	Publication & Milestones	Public Participation
2019	Options Development and Refinement	Options Identification	NA
2020	Options Appraisal to Support Identification of Emerging Preferred Option	Emerging Preferred Option Identification	Emerging Preferred Non-Statutory Public Consultation
2021/2022	Options Selection Report & Preferred Option Confirmation	Preferred Option Identification	Stakeholder Engagement
2022	Complete Design Appraisal and Statutory Documents	Planning Submission Preparation	Statutory Documents
2023	Subject to Government Approval Make Planning Submission	Issue of Planning Submissions & Orders	An Bord Pleanála Statutory Consultation

What's happening now – publication of the Preferred Option

An Emerging Preferred Option (Option DS 2 Online Median Widening) was published for this project in May 2021, followed by a period of non-statutory public consultation seeking feedback on the proposal. Following the conclusion of that public consultation period and the assessment of the submissions received, a Post Consultation Report is now available to download from the FCC Portal (<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>).

Following the completion of the Option Selection Process and review and consideration of the submissions and feedback received through the non-statutory public consultation, there is no substantially new and/or additional information which would result in an amendment to the previously presented Emerging Preferred Option. Therefore, Option DS 2, without any amendments, has been selected as the Preferred Option and is recommended to proceed to the next stage of the design process, i.e. Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation. As a result of the consultation process, significantly enhanced sustainable and active travel measures will be considered in Phase 3.

A plan of the Preferred Option is shown overleaf. The indicated alignment does not represent the actual width of the road scheme or the lands to be acquired. The shaded corridor indicates the lands within which the N3 M50 to Clonee road scheme could potentially be developed subject to further design and assessment.

The Option Selection Report has now been published, documenting the process of selecting the Preferred Option and outlining the rationale and criteria applied in this process.

The Report can be viewed or downloaded from the FCC Portal (<https://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse>).

It can also be viewed at the following locations from 2pm June 29th 2022:

- Fingal County Council, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, County Dublin, K67 X8Y2 (Monday - Thursday 9am - 5pm; Friday - 9am - 4.30pm.)
- Fingal County Council, Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638 (Monday - Thursday 9am - 5pm; Friday - 9am - 4.30pm.)
- Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath C15 Y291 (Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2-5pm)

Next Steps

Following the selection of the Preferred Option, the next phase of the planning and design process (i.e. Phase 3: Design and Environmental Evaluation) can commence subject to relevant approvals. The design of the Preferred Option will be developed, including improvements to junctions, prioritised bus lanes, and improved facilities for active travel parallel to and across the M3/N3 corridor. An Environmental Impact Assessment will then be prepared and any required acquisition of lands will be determined. The N3 M50 to Clonee Project Team will continue to engage with people living, working, and owners of land and property within the area throughout the process.

In order to inform the design process, the N3 M50 to Clonee Project Team will first undertake a range of engineering and environmental site surveys. The design team will be in contact with landowners who may be affected by these surveys to make arrangements for access. As the site surveys are completed, the initial design of the road can become more defined. When the design has reached a level of detail such that informed discussions can take place, directly affected landowners will be contacted in relation to the design and its impact on land and property. Thereafter, feedback will be considered, and amendments may be made, before finalising the design and land requirements. The dates shown on the figure are indicative, subject to approval to commence Phase 3, and may be subject to change as the Phase 3 design process progresses.

Preferred Option - Plan View

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Preferred Option

The option which performed the most favorably in the options assessment was DS2 Online **Median Widening**. The provision of an additional lane will increase network capacity, improve access to public transport, and improve safety on the N3. The use of the existing wide median will minimise impacts on adjacent land.

This option provides a significant overall benefit in terms of traffic flow and improving journey time reliability of public transport.

Improvements are planned to the **Inbound Regional Bus Lane** as a complementary measure alongside the DS2 Online Median Widening option.

If you have further queries about the design process, or wish to speak to someone about the project, the N3 M50 to Clonee Project Team is available and can be contacted by post to:

Senior Executive Officer,
 Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department,
 Fingal County Council,
 County Hall,
 Main Street,
 Swords,
 Co. Dublin,
 K67 X8Y2

Preferred Option - Cross Section Development

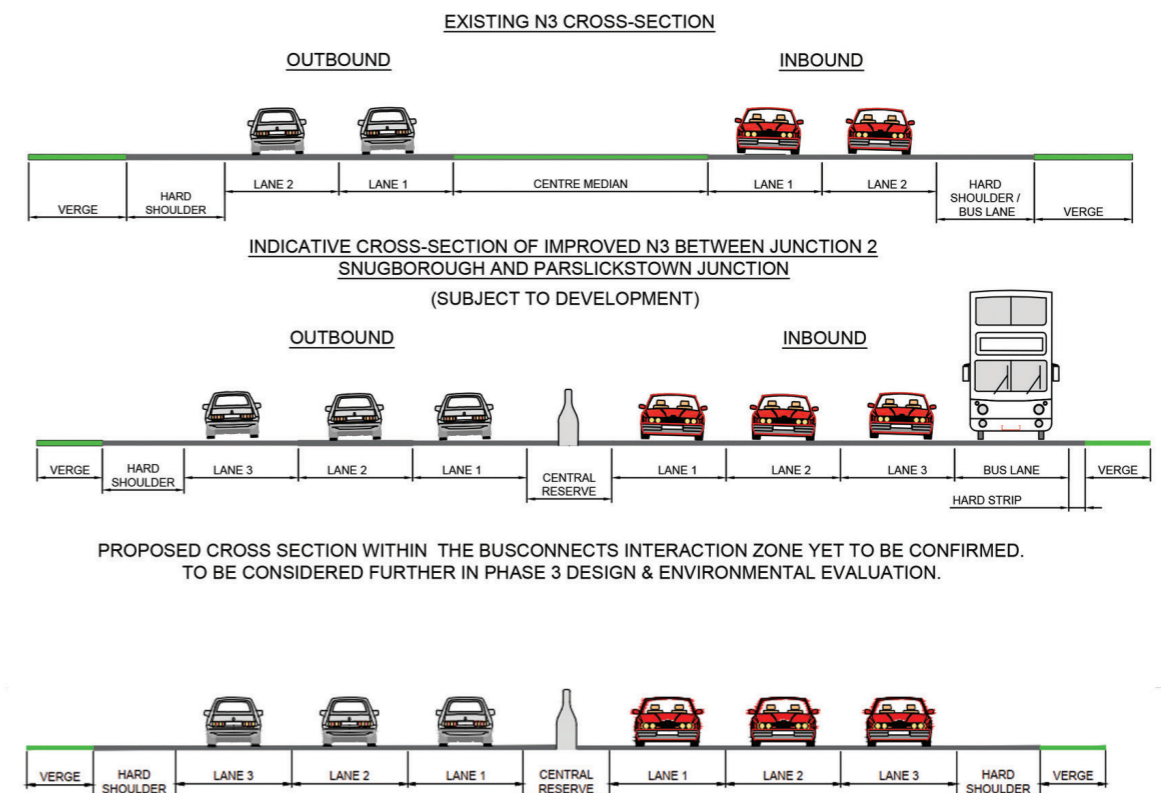


Figure 3: Emerging Preferred Option - Median Widening between Junction 2 Snugborough and Parslickstown Junction