



Taisteal Gníomhach
Active Travel
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

**Report to Accompany Part 8 Planning Drawings for
Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road**

Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended)
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended)



Offaly County Council
Áras an Chontae
Charleville Road
Tullamore
County Offaly
R35 F893

Director of Services
Transport and Active Travel

March 2025

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

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Contracting Authority	Offaly County Council
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Document Title	Report to Accompany Part 8 Planning Drawings for Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road

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1. BACKGROUND

The National Transport Authority (NTA) Investment Programme was introduced in 2021 and is one of a series of national and local support measures designed to increase the number of walking and cycling networks so that walking, cycling and public transport will account for 50% of all journeys made by 2030.

As part of this investment programme it is proposed to Construct a new Link Road at Collins Lane Tullamore (L6062-3 to L60623-1) under the National Transport Authority (NTA) Investment as per scope of works listed within Section 4 below.

The lands in question are in the ownership of Housing and Sustainable Communities Limited and Offaly County Council has obtained the consent of the land owner to undertake this part 8 process.

2. PLANNING

In accordance with the Planning Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Offaly County Council is required to inform and consult the public, relevant authorities and the elected members of the planning authority of the proposed Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road.

As prescribed in the regulations Offaly County Council has placed a site notice at the proposed site and advertised in two local newspapers and has invited submissions from the public and prescribed bodies.

Offaly County Council has prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and has determined that the proposed development would likely have no significant effects on the environment. (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended) Accordingly, it has been determined that an EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development. As part of this process any person may, within 4 weeks beginning on 18th March 2025, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

An Appropriate Assessment screening has been carried out by Offaly County Council and it has been determined that there would likely be no significant impacts on European sites from the proposed development.

Plans and particulars of the proposed Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road are available for inspection or purchase during public opening hours at the offices of Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, County Offaly (R35 F893) and the offices of Tullamore Municipal District, Acres Hall, Tullamore, County Offaly (R35 WV59), for a period of four weeks ending 15th April 2025.

Submissions or observations in respect of the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which

the development is situated, may be made in writing within an envelope marked “**Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road - Part 8 Submission**” to Mr. Barry Lennon, Acting Director of Services, Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, County Offaly (R35 F893) before 12.00 noon on 2nd May 2025.

The drawings and particulars of the proposed development are also available to view online at: <https://www.offaly.ie>

3. LOCATION

Tullamore is the county town of County Offaly. It is on the Grand Canal, in the middle of the county, and is the fourth most populous town in the Midlands Region, with 15,598 inhabitants as of the 2022 census. Tullamore is approximately 34km Northeast of Birr and approximately 30km Southwest of Edenderry. The town is served by the National Secondary Roads N52, N80 and trains on the Dublin-Galway and Dublin-Westport/Ballina inter-city routes.

As the county town of Offaly, many government services are located here such as the Midlands Regional Hospital and HSE services. Government departments located in the town include the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Education.

Tullamore has traditionally been an important industrial, retail and services centre for County Offaly.

Collins Lane consists of the Regional Road R443 and the Local Secondary Road L-6062-3. Collins Lane serves the northern part of Tullamore Town providing a link between the Regional Road R420 to the Kilbeggan Road R421. It also provides access to the Ballín Rí, Cill Bán, Driom Liath, Hawthorns and Eiscir housing estates and the Tullamore Educate Together National School.

The Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme Permeability Link Road aims to provide an additional pedestrian, cycle and road link from the Collins Lane (Local Secondary Road L-6062-3) to the Driom Liath housing estate (L60623-1). This road will also provide access to existing Zoned Lands (New Residential) in the area.

4. SCOPE OF WORKS

Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road (L6062-3 to L60623-1), includes the following non exhaustive list of works:

- Construction of approximately 180 metres of single carriageway.
- Construction of approximately 360 linear metres of footpaths and cycle paths.
- Pedestrian crossings and uncontrolled crossings including drop kerbs and tactile paving.
- Provision of road drainage within the scheme.
- Installation of public lighting.
- Installation of road markings and road signage.
- Construction of boundary fencing, where appropriate.
- Re-Location / diversion of existing utilities where necessary.

- Associated ancillary works.

The Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 outlines a number of policies and objectives as follows:

SSP-06 It is Council policy to strategically prioritise the development of Tullamore to underpin its role as a designated Key Town and driver of economic development for the county.

SSP-07 It is Council policy to require sustainable, compact, sequential growth and urban regeneration in Tullamore by consolidating the built-up footprint through a focus on regeneration and development of town centre infill and brownfield sites, and encouraging regeneration of underutilised, vacant and derelict lands for residential development and mixed use to facilitate population growth.

LUZO-04 Provide for new residential development and other services incidental to residential development.

SMAP-04 It is Council Policy to continue to work with the relevant transport providers, agencies and stakeholders to facilitate the integration of active travel (walking, cycling) with public transport.

SMAP-11 It is Council policy to prioritise the need for people to be physically active in their daily lives; to improve permeability and to promote walking and cycling in the design of streets and public spaces as an alternative and sustainable mode of transport; and to support safer walking and cycling routes to schools under the Green Schools Initiative subject to appropriate environmental assessments, including Habitats Directive Assessment.

SMAO-07 It is an objective of the Council that cycle lanes are designed and maintained in accordance with the National Cycle Manual by the National Transport Authority 2011.

The proposed works conform to the policy and objectives as set out in the County Development Plan 2021-2027.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The main environmental impacts to be considered are as follows:

Noise

There will be an increase in noise pollution for the duration of the construction works. On completion of the works the noise levels will revert to existing levels.

Visual

There will be an impact on the Collins Lane Area visually for the duration of the construction of the Collins Lane (Tullamore) Active Travel Scheme – Permeability Link Road. On completion of the works listed above under

section 4, there will be a visual enhancement to the appearance of the Collins Lane Area of Tullamore.

Natura 2000 Sites

See attached Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Part 8 Application.

6. DRAWINGS PROVIDED

OY/25/000X/001 - Cover Sheet

OY/25/000X/002 - Schedule of Drawings

OY/25/000X/003 - Site Location Map

OY/25/000X/004 - Proposed Layout and Typical Cross Section.