



N16 Munakill Realignment

Second Public Consultation – Route Corridor Options

18th November to 18th December 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is COVID-19 affecting this consultation?

For this Second Public Consultation (Route Corridor Options), an information brochure and questionnaire have been distributed to residents and landowners throughout the study area and is also available for download on the LCC website. The N16 project team is available to answer any questions and provide information to assist you with your submission.

In compliance with current COVID-19 measures, and to provide access to project information in a safe environment, online meetings will be facilitated within the period between November 23rd and December 4th 2020. If you would like to arrange an online consultation with a member of the project team, please contact us by phone or email to book/arrange an online meeting.

The project team can be contacted during office hours at (071) 9138909 (Weekdays 9am-5pm) and at n16munakill@rpsgroup.com.

Should the current COVID-19 restrictions be eased during the course of the public consultation period, it may be possible to facilitate 'in-person' meetings, by appointment only, at a suitable venue. Strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines will apply, in order to safeguard the health and safety of the public and staff. Should this be possible, further information will be published on this website.

What are the Next Steps?

Feedback received during this public consultation will be considered by the project team as part of the Stage 2 Option Selection phase. The next stage (Stage 2) will involve a detailed assessment of all three Route Corridor Options under the following criteria:

- Economy
- Safety
- Environment
- Accessibility and Social Inclusion
- Integration
- Physical Activity

Stage 2 of the Option Selection Phase will identify an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor which will then be displayed at a future Public Consultation.

How can I provide my views on the route corridor options?

The project team welcomes feedback on any issues or information, relating to the corridors, which you think should be considered by the engineers and environmental consultants in identifying an Emerging Preferred Route.

Once you have viewed the scheme information including the route corridor map, you are invited to complete the consultation questionnaire and return it:

- **Email:** n16munakill@rpsgroup.com
- **Post:** RPS Consulting Engineers, 7 Beulah Building, Finisklin Road, Sligo, F91 A0H9.

All feedback should be returned to the Project Team *by 18th December 2020*.

How will my feedback be used?

Feedback and submissions received through this consultation will be considered by the project team in Stage 2 of the Option Selection Phase.

What process was used to identify the Route Corridor Options?

As part of Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility, a broad project study area was identified within which the proposed road or alternative could feasibly be located, both north and south of Munakill Lake. The first public consultation on the study area and constraints was held in May-June 2020.

As part of Phase 2 Options Selection, the feedback from the initial consultation process has been considered by the project team. Ecological surveys were carried out within the study area from August-October 2020 to enable the identification of habitats, plants and animals. The development of Stage 1 Preliminary Route Corridor Options has progressed during this period with the project team examining engineering, environmental and economic factors.

Three feasible route corridor options have now been identified for the N16 Munakill Realignment scheme as shown on the route corridor options map.

How will an Emerging Preferred Route be identified?

Our Project Team, supported by a wider team of environmental scientists, engineers, archaeologists, and transport planners, will carefully consider all feedback and submissions received through this consultation process.

Taking this consultation feedback into consideration, the Stage 2 of the Option Selection phase will involve a detailed assessment of all three Route Corridor Options, under the following criteria:

- **Economy** - to reduce the costs of travel between the endpoints of the scheme at an investment cost that offers good value for money.
- **Safety** - to reduce the potential for collisions through provision of a road alignment in accordance with current design standards and to improve safety for all road users
- **Environment** - to minimise the environmental impact and the private land take required for the scheme.
- **Accessibility and Social Inclusion** - to reduce social exclusion by enhancing accessibility to services from designated rural zones within the study area; and to improve road based public transport by improving journey times and journey time reliability.
- **Integration** - to improve the connectivity and route consistency of the national road network in Co. Leitrim; and
- **Physical Activity** – to provide opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists as part of this scheme.

Stage 2 of the Option Selection Phase will identify an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor which will then be published for further public consultation in 2021.

My property is located within a Route Corridor Option. How will this project impact my landholding?

The project is currently at the 'Option Selection' phase in accordance with the TII Project Management Guidelines. Landowners whose properties are located within the route corridor options are encouraged to engage with the project team.

It is important to note that the 60m corridor does not represent the actual width of the road scheme or the lands to be acquired – the corridors are route options within which a road scheme could feasibly be developed.

The project team will make every effort to minimise the impact of this improvement scheme on private landholdings. Where it is necessary to acquire lands to accommodate the improvements, the project team will be liaising directly with impacted landowners.

It should be noted that the boundary of a route corridor may be subject to change as the project develops to address any new or previously unidentified constraints emerging during the design process.

When will an Emerging Preferred Route be identified?

Based on the current project programme, it is anticipated that an Emerging Preferred Route will be identified in the first half of 2021 and will be subject to further consultation. The project team will be contacting all impacted landowners and a liaison officer will be appointed to engage directly with landowners.

How will the project affect planning applications within the corridors?

Leitrim County Council has the responsibility for planning and managing development within its county. New planning applications within the study area may have an impact on the delivery of this project. Planning applications and new developments may still be granted within the study area, however as some planning applications may affect the project. All relevant planning applications will be reviewed by the Project Team. Each application will be considered on a case by case basis.

Why was the existing road not considered for improvement works?

A full upgrade of the existing N16 route has been considered but has been ruled out for a number of reasons:

- Retaining the existing alignment results in retaining a sub-standard section of infrastructure and fails to improve the road consistency and road safety performance of the N16. Therefore the project would fail to achieve its objectives which are supported by EU legislation, the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Leitrim County Development Plan.
- It would not provide a road that is 'fit for purpose' and consistent with contemporary standards which would be expected of a national primary (strategic) route which is part of the Ten-T strategic transport network. As such it would do little to promote the growth and economic development of the region.
- The existing alignment would require a significant number of departures from standard (e.g. horizontal and vertical alignment, forward visibility, side road and entrance visibility, overtaking provision, etc) which would not therefore improve road safety and reduce the risk of collisions.

How likely is the scheme to be built?

The advancement of this scheme is subject to ongoing funding and statutory approvals.

The upgrade of the N16 is required to address the sub-standard section of road and improve the road consistency and road safety performance of the N16. This objective is supported by EU, national and regional policies including the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Leitrim County Development Plan.