

Cork Chamber  
Fitzgerald House  
Summerhill North  
Cork  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

To Whom It Concerns,

Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members together employing 100,000 people throughout the city, metropolitan area and county. Our vision is to be a world-leading Chamber of Commerce, delivering on a progressive economic, social and sustainability agenda at the heart of a vibrant business community.

As such, we are determined to ensure that our 202-year-old Chamber continues to create a positive legacy. Our direction is guided by our formal pledge to uphold the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals five of which have been identified by the Chambers Ireland network.



In our latest submission on the N25 Carrigtohill to Midleton Upgrade project, Cork Chamber supported the Red Route Option as the preferred route based on the location of a significant junction at Ballyadam. From an FDI perspective Ballyadam provides real opportunity at a time when increased competition from other regions exists in the area of manufacturing FDI in the high-tech manufacturing sectors. Therefore it is very positive to see that the Red Route Option performed best in meeting the scheme objectives.

We believe that the N25 Carrigtohill to Midleton Upgrade project and the associated Red Route Option will provide an enhanced route within the metropolitan area, as well as providing improved

connectivity between Cork and Waterford, which is of national strategic significance for haulage, goods and service provision.

Little Island is a key employment centre and the Little Island Transport Strategy provides for more sustainable modes of transport for those living and working in the area. It is therefore essential that there is an adequate connection between Carrigtwohill/Midleton and the nearby Little Island area in terms of rail, bus, cycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

The upgrade of this section of the N25 will complement the ongoing work at the Dunkettle Interchange, which will have a huge impact on regional traffic flow as well as safety.

The provision of an Active Travel facility along the full length of the scheme is to be commended however upgrading this route provides an opportunity to take into account the development of the eastern corridor as a whole. CMATS envisages an interurban cycleway running from Midleton to Cork and a secondary network connecting to Cobh. Meanwhile the proposed Midleton to Youghal Greenway will also open up East Cork to more tourism, and therefore a modern and safe cycleway to connect Carrigtwohill to Midleton should be part of the overall picture in the development of this Active Travel facility.

It is also essential that the €185.4m investment in Irish Rail enabling increased connectivity between the Mallow to Cork lines and the Midleton/Cobh to Cork lines, including the upgrading of Kent station and new stations along the route progresses with pace to ensure that the N25 road is complemented by a viable and competitive public transport option.

The N25 corridor is of vital importance to the economic future of Cork and the upgrade of the Carrigtwohill to Midleton section of this network is key in developing the eastern corridor. However it is of paramount importance that this upgrade takes a holistic approach and the plans consider the long-term possibilities of the eastern corridor as a whole. While the upgrade of this section road of the N25 will improve journey times and inter-regional accessibility, the corridor must also cater for more sustainable modes of transport such as bus, rail, cycle.

Cork Chamber supports the upgrade and, in particular, the access to Ballyadam as a critical component of the upgrading of the eastern transport corridor. We commend the County Council for its work to date on the N25 Carrigtwohill to Midleton Upgrade and the plans which include improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians between the two towns, improvements to public transport connectivity and provisions of safe access to strategic development sites. It is crucial these improvements are treated with the same importance as the upgrade of the road itself.



Yours Sincerely,

Conor Healy  
Chief Executive