

GALWAY RING ROAD

Image of Traffic Congestion in Galway
(Source; RTE)



Galway City and County Council are proposing to develop a ring road around Galway City known as the N6 Galway City Ring Road. Galway City experiences significant transport problems including; peak hour traffic congestion and unreliable journey time. There is an overuse and overreliance of private cars in Galway. There is a lack of alternatives and space on the streets for the development of sustainable public transport routes. The proposed Galway City Ring Road will provide a bypass of Galway City which will lead to shorter journey times for users.

Galway City and Council, has ensured members of the public the new road will lead to a major saving in journey times for car users when completed. This will lead to less traffic in the city centre. Galway County and City Council believe that this will establish a long-term strategy for transport to, within and around the city.

The proposed route involves building a new bridge over the River Corrib, two short tunnels on the city's east side, demolition of 44 houses and acquisition of 10 more houses which would also be affected. The proposed road is planned to go through a special area of conservation which is protected under EU Law. Reports have been completed to find out what /if any impact the road will have on the protected area. The road needs to have no significant impact on the natural and built environment.

Those in favour of the project have said that it is essential to tackling the city's traffic problem by taking cars out of the city centre. However, those opposed argue that the money should be used to improve public transport options in Galway. Project Ireland 2040 proposes an environmentally sustainable public transport system that enables economic growth and meets significant increases in travel demand. The plan outlines the need to change Ireland's approach through investment in public transport as opposed to constructing more roads which will result in more cars polluting our environment. There are calls from members of the public and interest groups for the need to develop and improve Galway's bus network and cycle lanes to plan for a sustainable future.

A meeting will soon take place between members of the public and Galway City and Council. Galway City and Council have applied for planning permission from An Bord Pleanála who are responsible for strategic infrastructure development in Ireland and will decide whether to allow the road to be constructed. An Bord Pleanála will decide on the new road and ensure that all information is considered.