

PROJECT PROFILE

Title	National Cycle Network – Route feasibility and delivery study for Dublin-Mullingar	
Contractor	TCD	
Contact details	Brian Caulfield Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering Trinity College Dublin Dublin 2 brian.caulfield@tcd.ie	
NRA Mentor	Helen Hughes	
Start date	Jan-11	
End date	Dec-12	
Status	On-going	
Project reference	NRA04250	

Description	 <p>Ireland is currently in transition from a country that is overly dependent on fossil fuels with unsustainable transportation patterns to a more sustainable environmentally friendly nation. Part of this move is an increased focus on cycling as a mode of transport. Ireland lags behind its European counterparts when it comes to the provision and promotion of cycling infrastructure. In 2009, the first National Cycling Policy Framework was adopted. This set clear and ambitious targets for the country. One component of this framework is an interurban cycle network that will be attractive to commuters, tourists and leisure cyclists.</p> <p>The NRA is currently engaged with several state agencies to coordinate the implementation of Objective 3 outlined in the National Cycle Policy Framework which is to “provide designated rural signed cycle networks proving especially for visitors and recreational cycling”. The NRA is currently concentrating on one element of this objective which the route selection and feasibility study for the corridor between Dublin and Galway. This corridor is split into three distinct sections. The NRA is collaborating with Trinity College on the Dublin – Mullingar route. The research conducted in this project will examine two areas. The section of the study will conduct a route selection analysis and the second section of the research will involve producing design standards for interurban cycle lanes in Ireland.</p>
Objectives	The purpose of this 12-month project is to carry out research into the feasibility and practical issues associates with developing a national cycle-path network in Ireland focusing specifically on the Dublin-Mullingar route. The project will also contribute to the feasibility study being undertaken by NRA with each candidate undertaking a 6-month secondment to the Navan RDO.
Benefits	The project is based on recently issued National Cycle Policy Framework which includes as Objective 3 to “provide designated rural signed cycle networks proving especially for visitors and recreational cycling”. The NRA is currently concentrating on one element of this objective which the route selection and feasibility study for the corridor between Dublin and Galway. This project will focus on the Dublin – Mullingar section of this route and will examine two areas: route selection analysis and the production of design standards for interurban cycle lanes in Ireland.
Outputs	The outputs of the project include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Route selection report 2. Design standards report 3. Final project report 4. Additional academic papers