

N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme



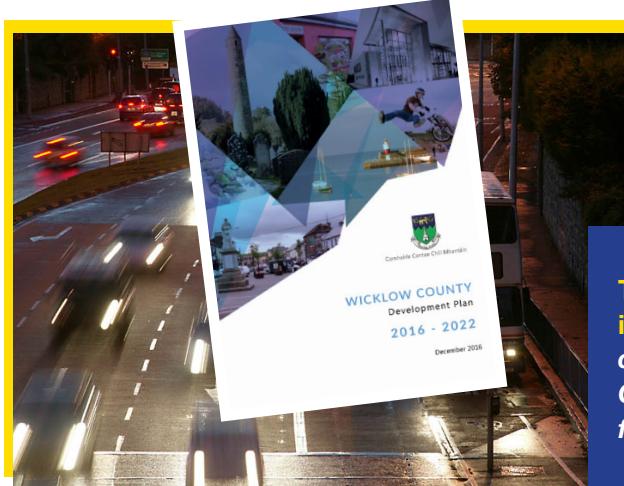
Bulletin #1 | October 2021

Introduction / Overview

The severity of traffic congestion issues on the N11/M11, particularly at peak travel times, in conjunction with public feedback, requires an early intervention to start addressing the problems on the corridor. Accordingly, a project to assess the feasibility of providing bus lanes on the N11/M11 corridor is progressing. If feasible, bus lanes could offer a practicable interim solution in advance of the main N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme.

This separate project, entitled the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, is progressing as a multi-authority project involving the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Wicklow County Council and Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme aims to deliver bus priority measures on the N11/M11 national road in the form of a dedicated lane that can be used by buses/coaches during peak periods to avoid congested traffic lanes.



Scheme Need / Policy Context

As part of Project Ireland 2040, the National Development Plan 2021-2030 identifies the protection and renewal of the national road network as a key sectoral priority. This includes the provision for greater use of sections of the national road network by public transport (e.g. bus lanes) to improve overall efficiency and capacity.

The N11/M11 is identified as a regional corridor forming part of the Core Bus Network within the National Transport Authority's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035. In order to develop an efficient, reliable and effective bus system, the core bus network should be developed to achieve:

- Continuous priority, where possible, for bus movement on the portions of the Core Bus Network;
- Enhanced bus lane provision on these corridors;
- Removal of current delays on the bus network, enabling the bus to provide a faster alternative to car traffic along these routes; and

A more efficient core bus system with faster bus journeys means that more people can be moved with the same level of vehicle and driver resources.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 includes the specific objective to, “improve the capacity of the N11 / M11 from Rathnew to the County boundary at Bray in a manner capable of facilitating greater free flow of public transport.”

Scheme Overview / Extent

The N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme is examining the feasibility of providing dedicated bus lanes on the existing N11/M11 route from Loughlinstown roundabout in the north to Junction 9 (Glenview) in the south. While it is desirable that the lanes would be continuous, some level of discontinuity may be considered where the costs or implications of providing full continuity are considered excessive or disproportionate in the context of an interim scheme.



What are the Objectives of the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme?



Work to Date / Current Status



Following completion of an initial engineering feasibility study, the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme is being implemented as a major project in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines.

The project is currently in Phase 2 (Option Selection) and work is progressing on the development of design options for the provision of bus lanes along the existing N11/M11 route. These assessments will consider both the optimum location for a bus lane within the existing carriageway, the extent of any road widening necessary to accommodate the bus lane and the final extent of bus lanes to be delivered. The design and assessment of options will consider the presence of existing physical constraints (e.g. junctions, bridges, utilities), environmental constraints and community impacts.

It is expected that a preferred option for the scheme will be identified and recommended in early 2022.

Additional Information & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items and project reports can be found on the N11/M11 website.

Website:



www.n11m11.ie

Email:



n11m11@arup.com

Telephone

Arup Land Liaison Officer

Christopher Bradish
086 7901803

Wicklow County Council Liaison Officer

Deirdre Forde
0404 20100 (ext. 4283)

Post Address:

N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town
A67 FW96