



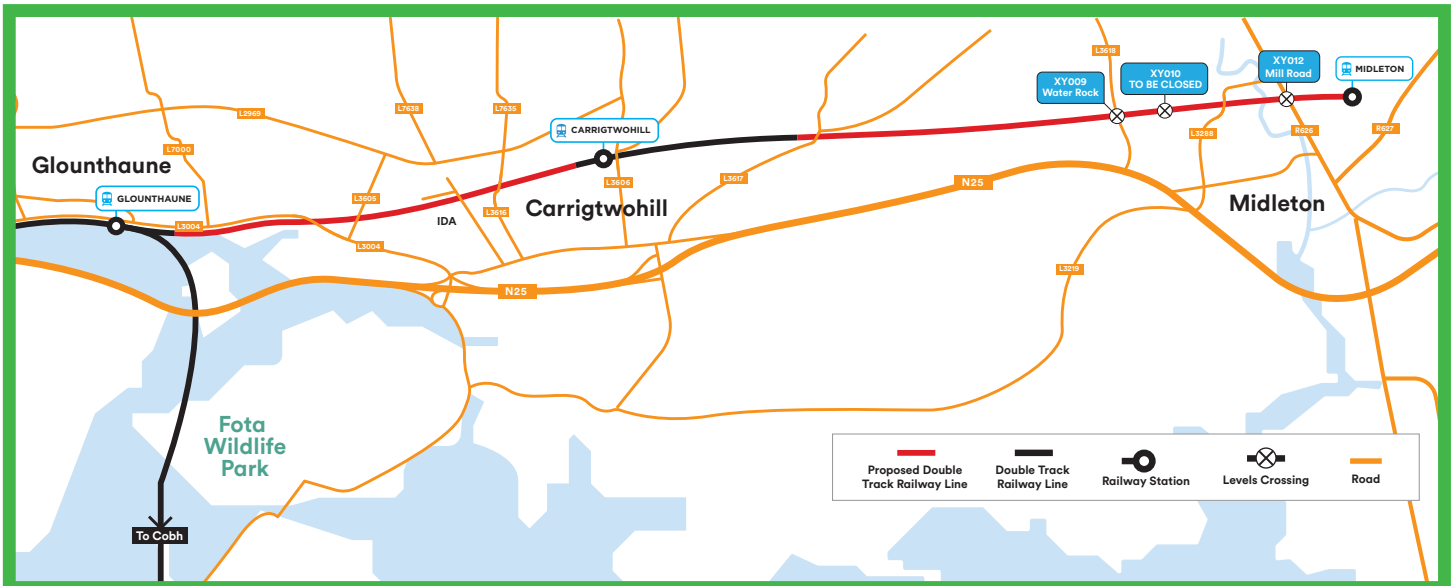
Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track Project

Public Consultation | 26 July - 16 August 2022

Iarnród Éireann plans to upgrade the existing rail line between Glounthaune and Midleton to enhance commuter services to and from Cork City.




The Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track project covers the area of the rail network from Cobh Junction to Midleton Station, a total distance of approximately 10km, and will see the upgrading of the existing line to twin track over its entire length. The Twin Tracking of the Glounthaune to Midleton railway will be part of a wider programme of works to be undertaken by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Iarnród Éireann to deliver the commuter rail vision set out in the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) 2040.

Along with the completion of the new Kent Station Through Platform, the Proposed Signalling and Communications upgrades and the delivery of a new fleet, Twin Tracking between Glounthaune and Midleton will facilitate a tripling of service frequency along the line, while also ensuring a more reliable service for commuters and other rail users to and from the city.



What are the benefits for rail users?

This project will facilitate:

-  ▶ Operation of a higher frequency service up to a 10-minute service from the current 30-minute service
-  ▶ Increased capacity, better connectivity, and enhanced reliability of the suburban rail network
-  ▶ Shorter wait times



What works are required?

The main element of the Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track project consists of the provision of a second track over the full extent of the line. These works will largely be contained within the existing railway corridor and will include the following:

- ▶ Addition of second track over the full extent of the line;
- ▶ Addition of sidings/turn back facilities at Midleton;
- ▶ Modification of bridges and level crossings to facilitate the twin tracking;
- ▶ Associated signalling upgrades and alterations;
- ▶ All associated civil works (retaining walls, boundary treatments, etc.).

All works completed as part of the project will be compatible with future electrification of the Cork Area Commuter Rail network.

While there will be some disruption to services during construction of the new track, this will be kept to a minimum.

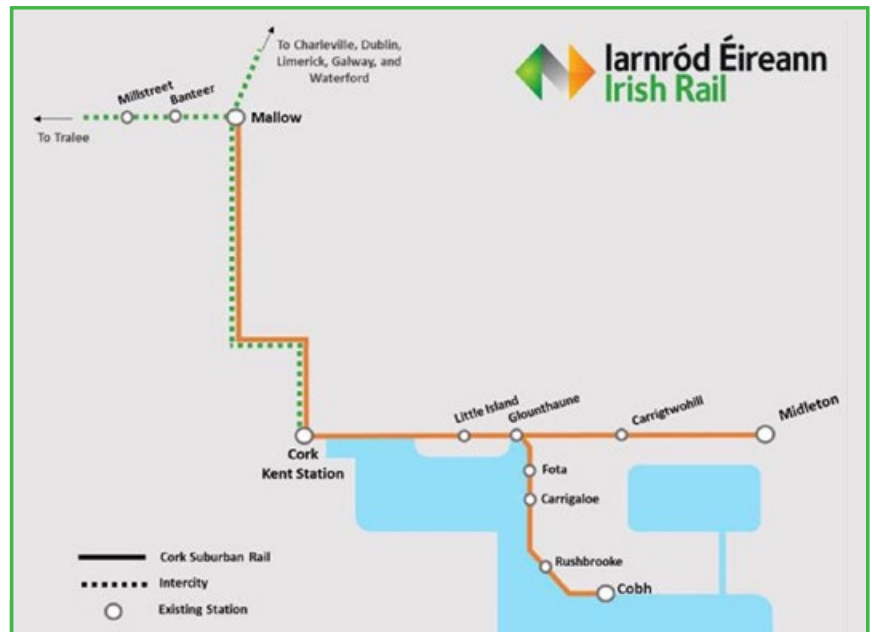


Figure 1: Existing Rail Network in Cork

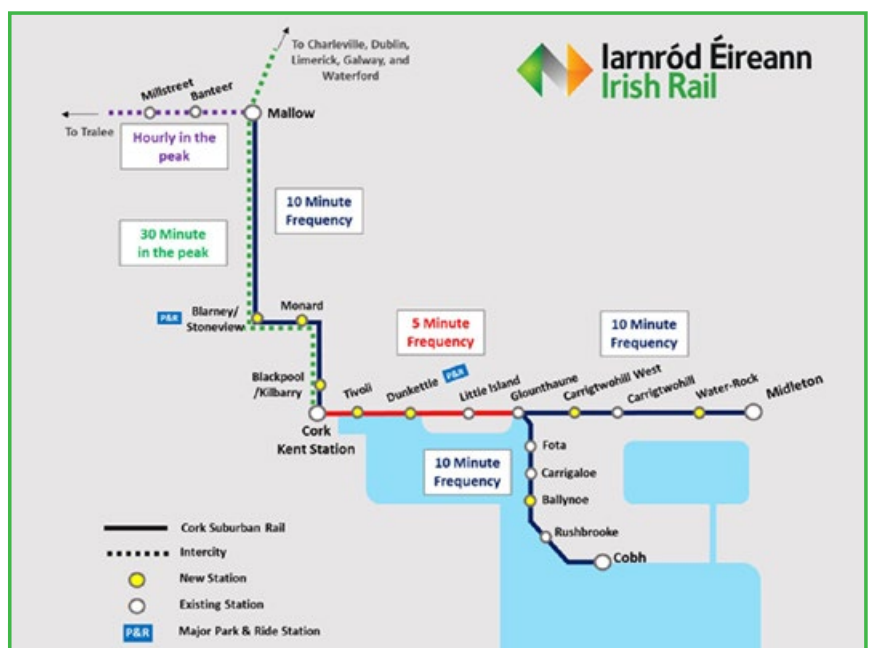


Figure 2: CACR Programme Extents



Public Consultation Now Live

The public consultation on the Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track Project is taking place from **26 July - 16 August**. During this time, members of the public, interested stakeholders, landowners and prescribed bodies are invited to submit observations on the proposed project.

All submissions and feedback received during the public consultation will be reviewed and considered by the design team, and feedback incorporated as appropriate into the design and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

You are invited to attend one of our public information days to learn more about the project and meet with members of the design team.

MyPlace Midleton, Main Hall

3 August 2022 1pm – 8pm

Glounthaune Community Centre

4 August 2022 1pm – 8pm



Further information

Visit the project website for additional materials and downloads including the project route map, technical drawings and environmental impact assessment details to date.

www.irishrail.ie/gmtt

How to make a submission

This consultation is our way of asking you, as users of the service or those likely to be affected by its development, for your views. All feedback and submissions received will be reviewed and assessed. Following a full appraisal of the feedback, a public consultation findings report will be prepared and presented as part of the Railway Order Application. It is expected that we will lodge the Railway Order in September 2022.

You can provide feedback by email or by post;



Email the project team using **GMTT@irishrail.ie**.

or

Post us your feedback to



Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track Consultation

**Iarnród Éireann,
1, Horgan's Quay,
Waterfront Square,
Cork.**

T23 PPT8

Railway Order Process

The application to An Bord Pleanála for a Railway Order is broadly similar to the planning process.

The Railway Order application process is set out in the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (as amended) and the application will be made to An Bord Pleanála. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will detail the nature and extent of the proposed project and identify and describe the impacts on the environment. It will also detail measures which will be taken to avoid, reduce and/or monitor these impacts.

Following the submission of the Railway Order application to An Bord Pleanála, the public will be invited to make submissions which will be duly considered by An Bord Pleanála as part of the decision-making process. Any person or body may make a submission or observation in writing to the Board in relation to the Railway Order application including the EIAR and the Compulsory Purchase land requirements.

Further information is available on An Bord Pleanála's website – www.pleanala.ie.

Cork Area Commuter Rail

In early 2020, the National Transport Authority (NTA), in partnership with both Cork City and County Councils and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), finalised the ambitious Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) 2040. The heavy rail network is a central component of this strategic vision which will ensure an integrated local and regional transport network for the future of Cork city and its surrounds. CMATS will support compact urban growth in a more sustainable way, facilitating modal shift out of the private car and on to public transport. A more efficient, sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient heavy rail network will reduce road congestion and support Ireland's transition to a low emissions transport system helping us achieve emission reduction targets.

The strategy for heavy rail includes the following:

- ▶ Development of the three existing railway corridors in the Cork area providing a high frequency north-east connection through the city;
- ▶ Multi-modal integrated transport hub at Kent Station to promote modal shift from the private car;
- ▶ Additional rolling stock to meet existing and future demand;
- ▶ New stations and Park & Ride interchange points.



Planning for Future Needs



Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme

The Cork Area Commuter Rail (CACR) programme is the heavy rail element of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) 2040 and is a transformative rail improvement programme for the Cork Rail Network. Delivering increased train capacity and frequency, providing for more connected communities and a more sustainable transport network, the project represents the largest ever investment in the Cork Rail Network.

The programme involves developments and enhancements to the rail network from Mallow through Cork to Cobh and Midleton and will include the delivery of new rail infrastructure and electrification and re-signalling across the 3 main lines of Mallow, Cobh and Glounthaune to Midleton.

The CACR Programme is being progressed through a number of separate but interrelated projects.

▶ Kent Station Through Platform

The construction of a new platform at Kent Station to facilitate through running services from Mallow to Cobh/Midleton. This will provide for increases in capacity and frequency across the CACR network. The project is currently in preliminary design and is expected to progress to construction in early 2023.

▶ Signalling and Communications Upgrade

Signalling and Communications Upgrade to facilitate the proposed capacity and service frequency increases across the CACR network. The preliminary design of the project is well advanced, and the implementation stage is scheduled to commence in 2023.





▶ **Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track**

Upgrading of the Glounthaune to Midleton line to a twin track configuration. Public Consultation is now live for this project and more information can be viewed on irishrail.com/GMTT. The consultation is live until 17:00hrs Tuesday 16 August and feedback from the public is invited at this time.

▶ **New Stations, Track Works, Civils & Structures**

Additional works to support the planned increased services including track reconfigurations, station upgrades and proposed new stations at Blarney/Stoneview, Monard, Blackpool/Kilbarry, Tivoli, Dunkettle, Carrigtwohill West, Water Rock, and Ballynoe. Some of the new stations will also incorporate Park and Ride facilities to accommodate growing passenger demand. This project is at an early design stage and will be developed further in the coming years.

▶ **New Fleet Depot**

A new train stabling and maintenance depot to cater for an electrified fleet will be built. This project is at an early design stage and will be developed further in the coming years.

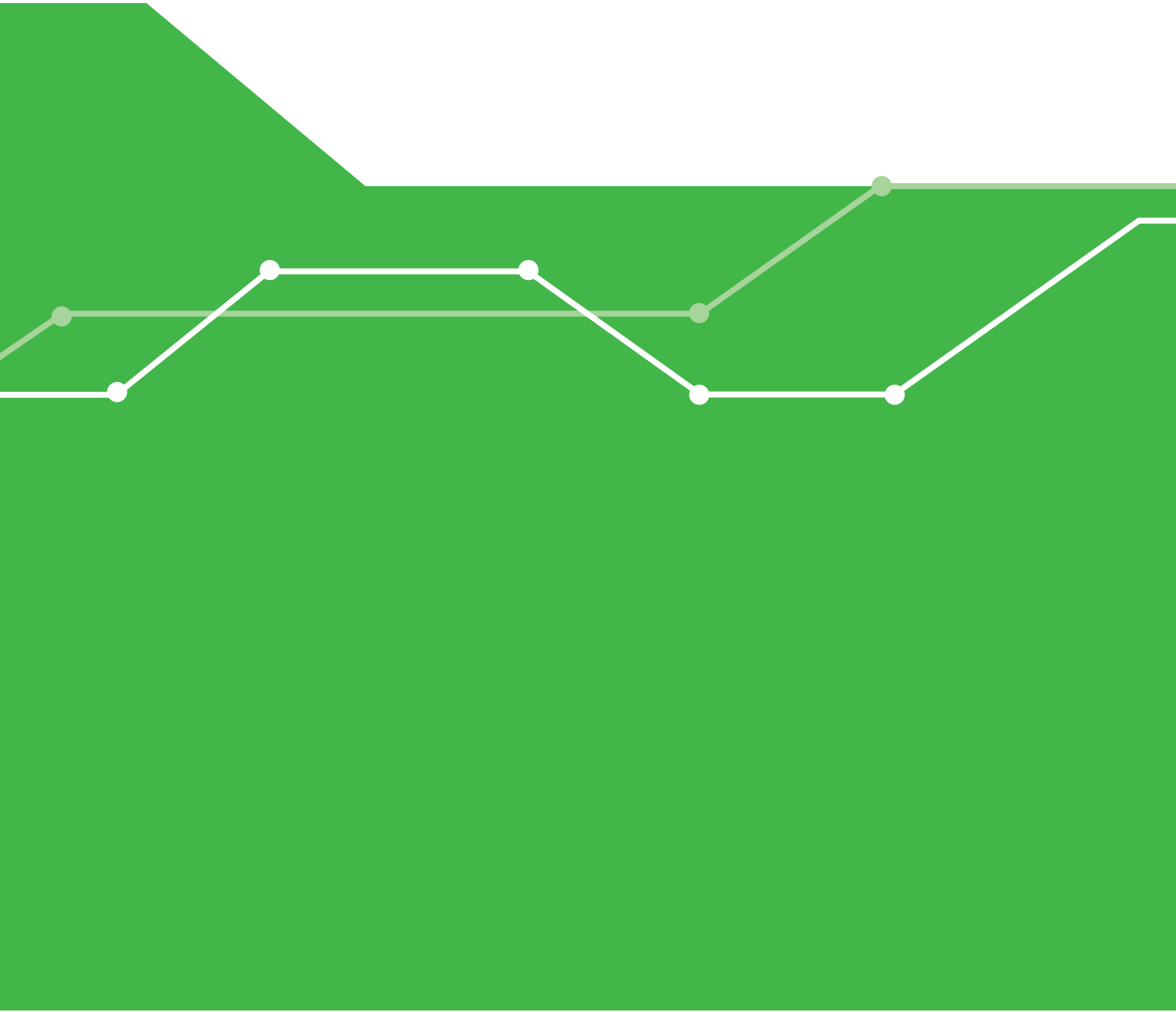
▶ **Electrification**

The CACR network will be electrified. This project is at an early design stage and will be developed further in the coming years.

▶ **Rolling Stock**

A new fleet will be required to provide the planned increase in train services. This project is at an early design stage and will be developed further in the coming years.

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) 2021 has prioritised the Kent Station Through Platform, Signalling and Communications Upgrade, Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track projects for immediate progress via the EU Recovery and the Resilience Facility. These are currently being progressed in tandem by the project team.



Iarnród Éireann
Irish Rail

