

1. What is the Cork Line Level Crossings Project?

Iarnród Éireann is undertaking the Cork Line Level Crossing Project to identify the best approach to removing/upgrading seven level crossings located along the main Cork to Dublin line. These level crossings are currently operated by full-time members of Iarnród Éireann staff on the ground. These level crossings are being removed/upgraded to provide a safer environment for those living near the rail line and a more efficient service for all Iarnród Éireann customers.

2. Why is the project needed?

On June 6th, 2019 Iarnród Éireann took part in International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) which aims to highlight the dangers of level crossings and to provide education on acting safely at level crossings to the public. In the first six months of 2019, Iarnród Éireann reported 51 incidents at level crossings nationally, an increase of 82% on the same period in 2018. This figure includes cars and HGVs colliding with barriers and near-misses between vehicles and trains.

It is Iarnród Éireann's policy to close level crossings where possible and practicable. The removal of the level crossings in conjunction with providing alternative routes for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will remove the potential for accidents. Any location where there is an interface between rail and road traffic has the potential for an accident, including cars getting stuck, pedestrians being hit by a train or vehicles making risky manoeuvres so that they clear a level crossing in time before a barrier closes.

3. How many level crossings are being assessed?

There are currently seven manned public road level crossings in operation on the Cork to Dublin line between Limerick Junction and Mallow stations in Counties Cork and Limerick. The crossings are located within a 24km section of the line between the Cork and Limerick county boundary.

4. Where are the level crossings located?

The crossings are located at Fantstown, Thomastown, Ballyhay, Newtown, Ballycoskery, Shinanagh and Buttevant.

5. How can I find information on the proposals for each of the level crossings?

You can find information on Iarnród Éireann's proposals for each of the level crossings in the Preliminary Design Report which can be found at www.IrishRail.ie/CorkLineLevelCrossings

6. What is happening now?

A feasibility study was completed in early 2019 that identified the best approach to removing each level crossing under consideration. The next step is to design the solution for each of the seven level crossings. This work is being carried out in Q4 2019. A Preliminary Design Report has been published which outlines the proposed design solution for each of the level crossings and is now going through a period of non-statutory public consultation.

Stakeholder and landowner engagement will be ongoing throughout the project. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be produced in Q2 2020. This will detail the findings of the surveys and EIA scoping activities. The EIAR, Preliminary Design Report and stakeholder and landowner engagement all form part of the Railway Order application. It is expected that the application will be submitted for all seven line level crossings to An Bord Pleanála in 2020.

Railway Orders are similar to planning permissions for strategic infrastructure development. Iarnród Éireann must apply directly to An Bord Pleanála for a Railway Order.

7. How can I make a submission to the public consultation and when does it close?

Iarnród Éireann has published a Preliminary Design Report which shows the proposed solutions for each of the seven line level crossings. We are seeking feedback on the Preliminary Design Report

and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening & Scoping Report and any other comments or observations on the Cork Line Level Crossings Project.

Public consultation will be undertaken for ten weeks from **Tuesday 12 November 2019** until **Tuesday 21 January 2020**.

Consultation Questions

Iarnród Éireann is inviting feedback on the following consultation questions:

1. Do you have any comments or additional information in relation to the Cork Line Level Crossings Project that you would like us to be aware of as the project progresses?
2. Do you have any comments on the proposed solutions for the seven level crossings as outlined through Chapters 4 to 10 of the Preliminary Design Report?
3. Appendix D of the Preliminary Design Report includes the Route Options Report. Do you have any comments on the Route Options Report?
4. Do you have any comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening & Scoping Report?
5. How would you like Iarnród Éireann to communicate with you as the project develops?

8. What happens after the public consultation?

All submissions and feedback received during the public consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the ongoing design development on each of the seven level crossings. Relevant feedback will be incorporated into the final design for the Cork Line Level Crossings Project and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Submissions from individuals will be reported anonymously and feedback from organisations will be attributed to them. Submissions will not be individually responded to but will be summarised in a consultation report which will be published on www.irishrail.ie/CorkLineLevelCrossings.

The Cork Line Level Crossings Project will submit a Railway Order planning application to An Bord Pleanála for its independent assessment in 2020.

The consultation roadmap illustrates the opportunities to give feedback on the project as it develops and can be viewed below.

CORK LINE LEVEL CROSSINGS ROADMAP

