

# Depot Access Road Option Selection



# What is Cork Area Commuter Rail



The Cork Area Commuter Rail (CACR) Programme represents the largest-ever investment in Cork's rail network and a key part of the Cork Metropolitan Area Strategy (CMATS) 2040, designed to deliver more trains, better connections, and a greener future.

The works are being delivered in Phases:

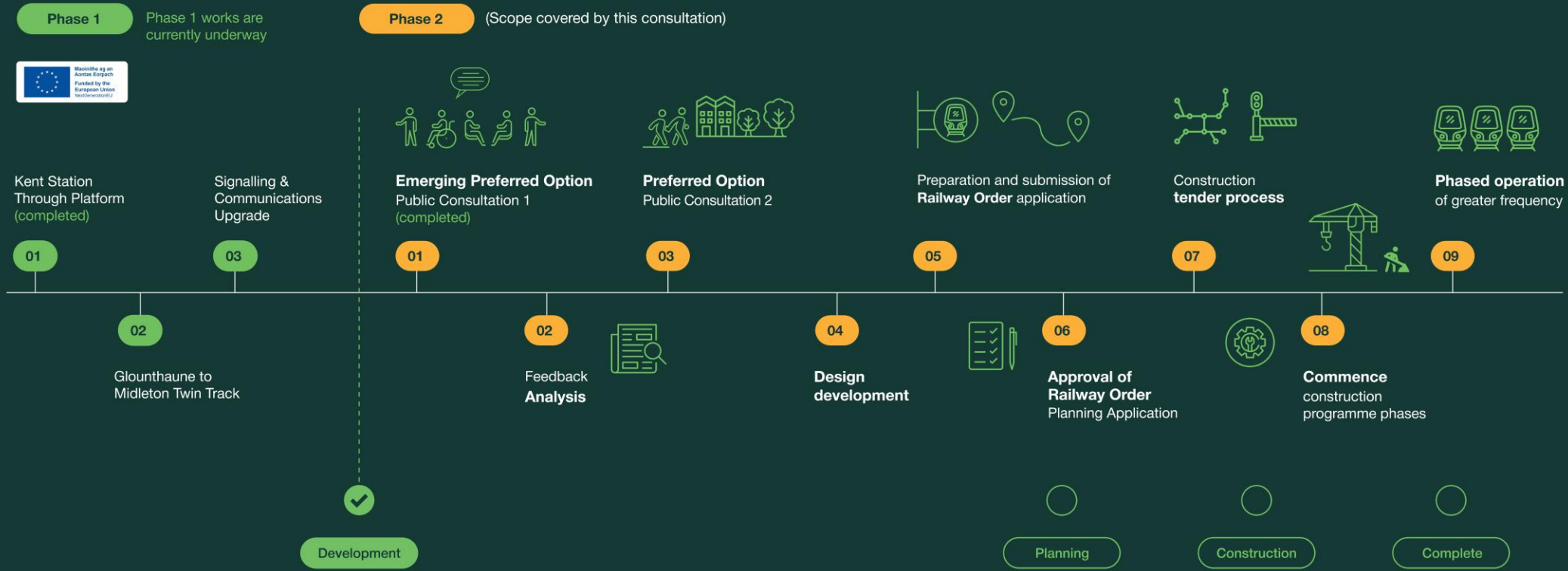
## **Phase 1:**

- Kent Station Through Platform
- Twin tracking between Glounthaune and Midleton
- Comprehensive Signalling and Communications Upgrade.

## **Phase 2:**

- New Stations
- Upgrades to Existing Stations
- New Depot
- Electrification of CACR Programme Rail Network

# Timeline



Phase 1

Phase 1 works are currently underway

Phase 2

(Scope covered by this consultation)



Kent Station Through Platform (completed)

Signalling & Communications Upgrade

Emerging Preferred Option  
Public Consultation 1 (completed)

Preferred Option  
Public Consultation 2

Preparation and submission of  
Railway Order application

Construction tender process

Phased operation of greater frequency

01

02

Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track

03

01

02

Feedback Analysis

03

04

Design development

05

06

Approval of Railway Order  
Planning Application

07

08

Commence construction programme phases

09

Development

Planning

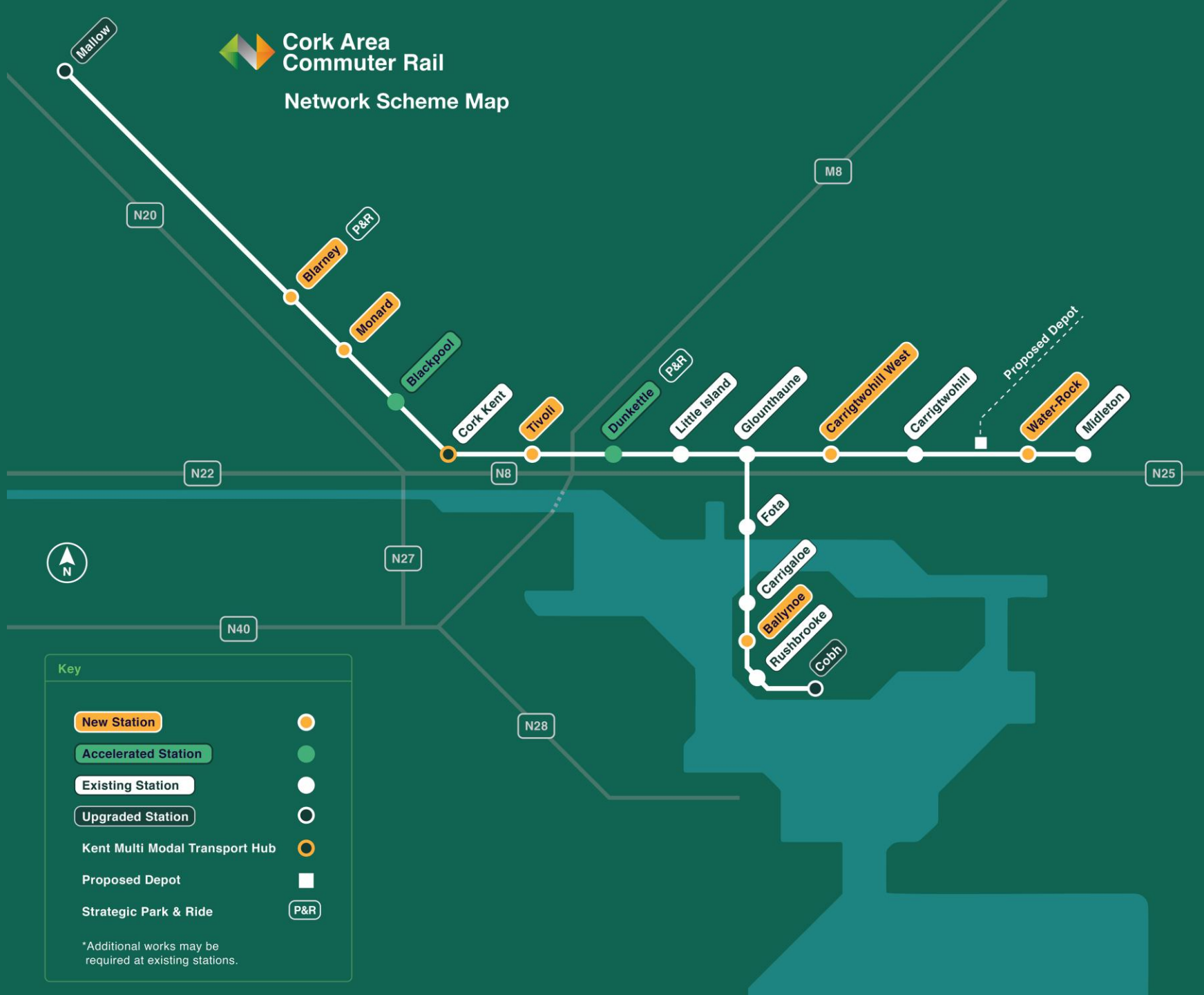
Construction

Complete



# Cork Area Commuter Rail

## Network Scheme Map



### Key

New Station



Accelerated Station



Existing Station



Upgraded Station



Kent Multi Modal Transport Hub



Proposed Depot



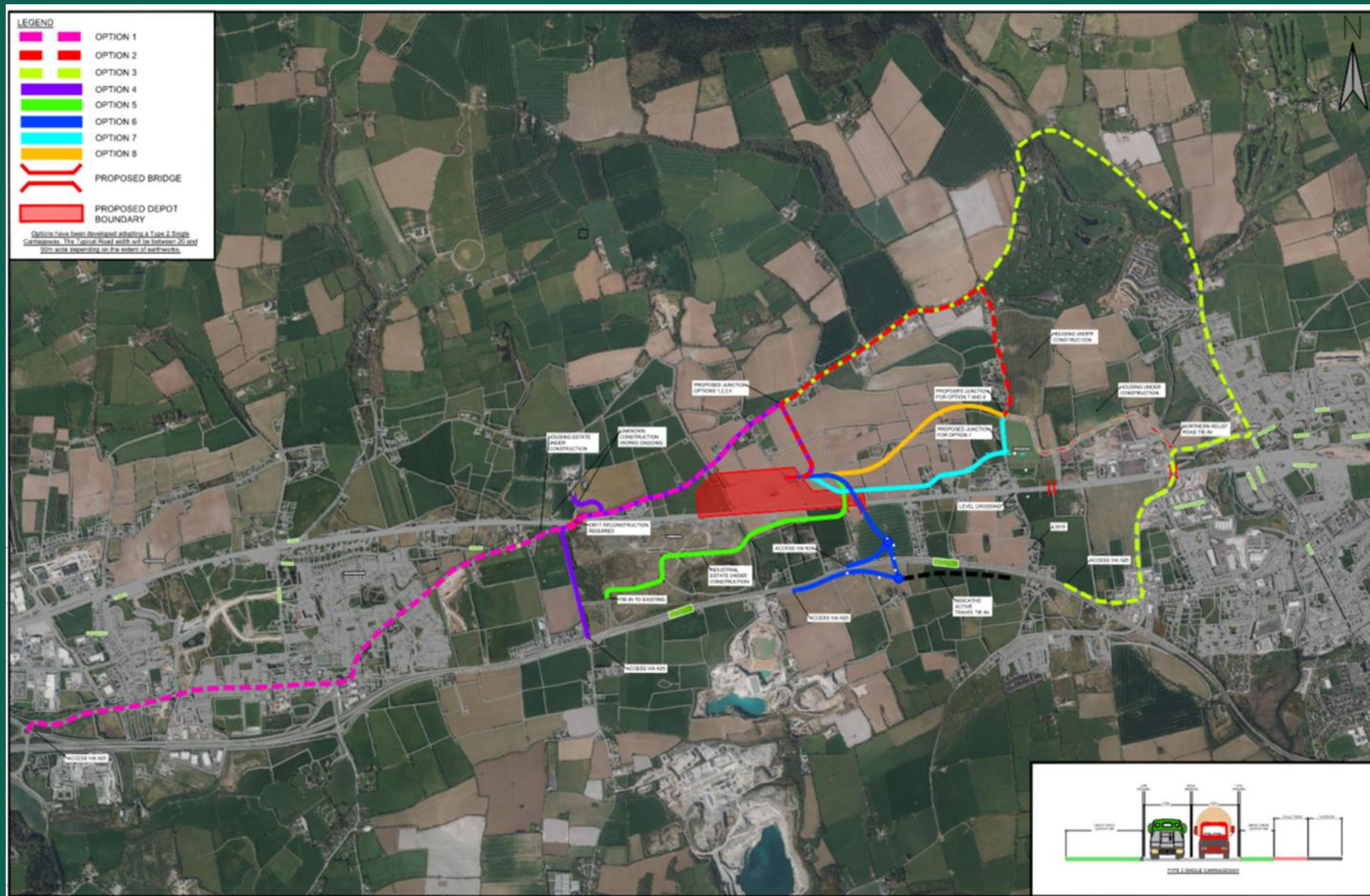
Strategic Park & Ride



\*Additional works may be required at existing stations.

# Depot Access Road Overview

- The access road to the depot was not included in the first round of public consultation (PC1) in June 2025. The project team developed eight possible depot access route options, which were presented during the second round of public consultation (PC2) in 2026.
- Public consultation events were well attended, with strong participation from local communities.
- Many residents expressed concern that this was the first opportunity they had to review and provide feedback on the depot access route options.
- Feedback was received on the methodology, and process used to assess and compare the route options.
- A community-led website was established to advocate for changes to the preferred access route (Option 7). A large number of petitions were submitted regarding the preferred depot access route.
- Community members also contacted the project team directly to share concerns about the preferred route, seek clarification on the assessment process, and request further information on submissions.
- In response to the feedback received, the project team committed to reviewing both the assessment process and the depot access route options. This review has been progressed.



# PC02 Emerging Preferred Option – Option 7

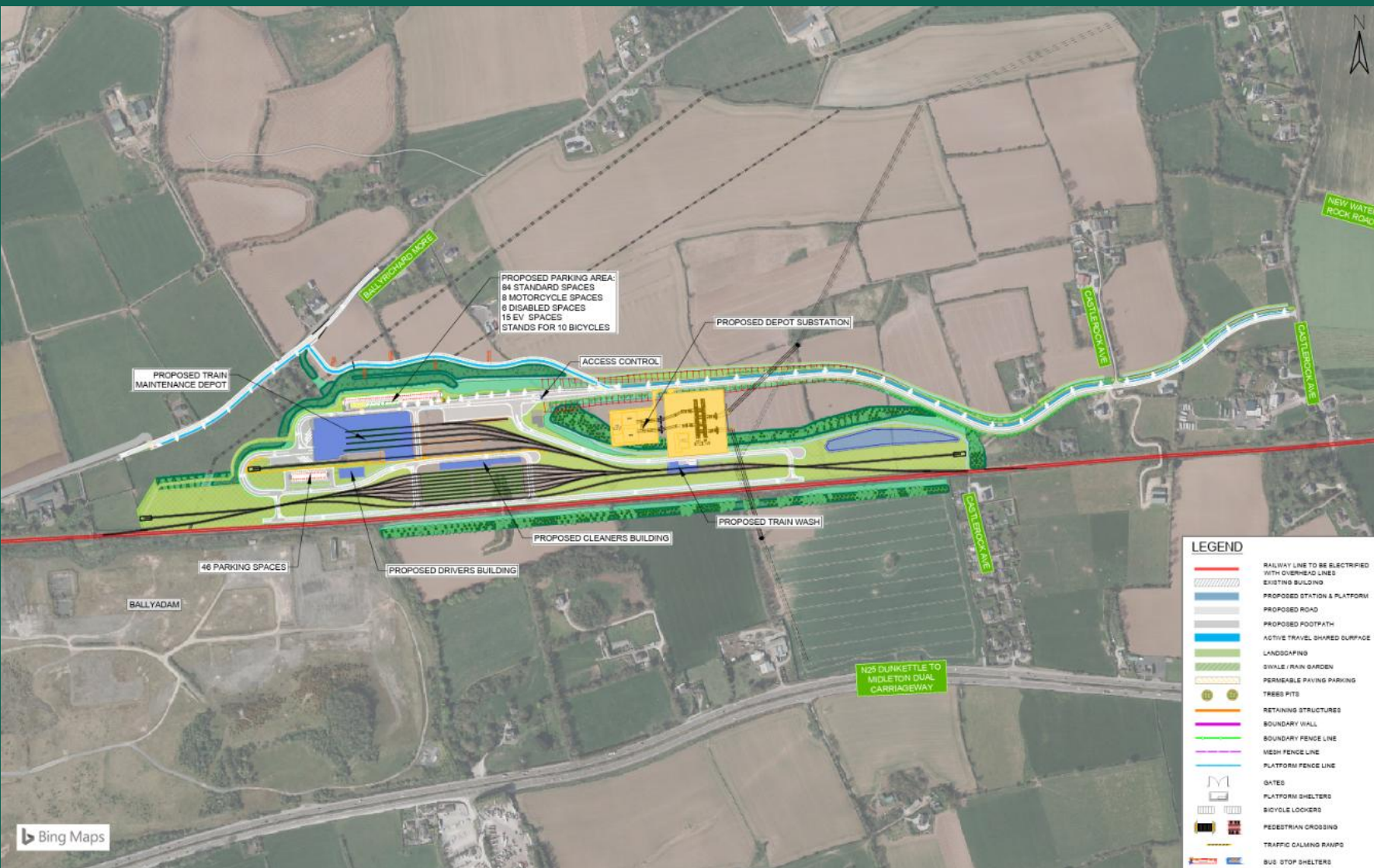
## Option 7 Details:

- 500m of existing road widening and realignment.
- 750m of new road construction
- Access via the N25, Midleton Northern Relief Road and Water-Rock Distributor Road.

## Community Feedback:

Key themes raised during consultation included:

- Increased construction and operational traffic near residential areas.
- Potential impacts on the local road network during construction.
- Road safety and traffic congestion.
- Flood risk and drainage.
- Effects on trees, landscaping and nearby properties.
- The overall environmental and community impacts of the proposed access road.



# Updated Options Assessment



# Updated Options Assessment

## Additional Information that informed revised options:

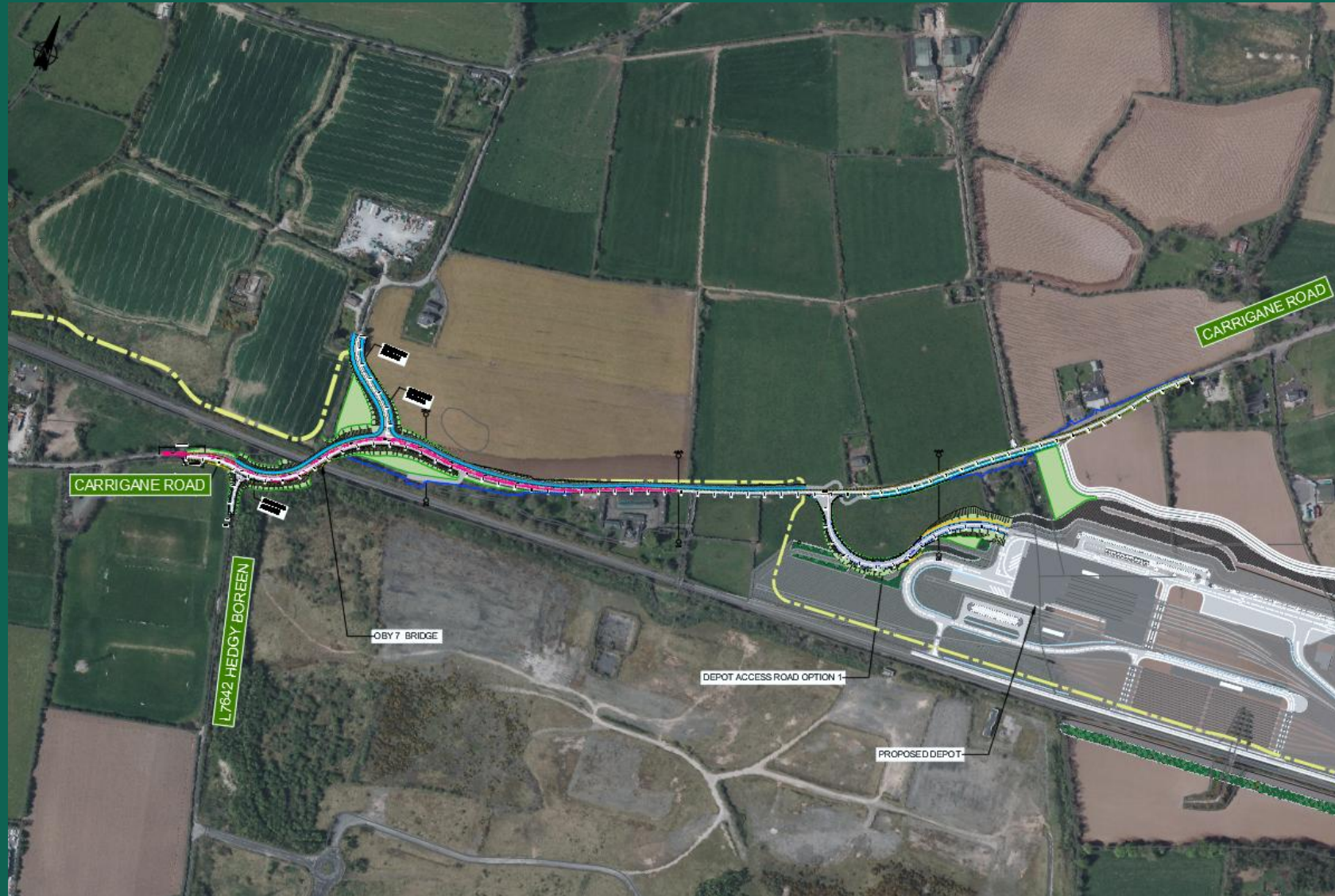
- Updated flood risk information.
- Local access road characteristics.
- Ongoing environmental survey findings.
- Confirmation of Water-Rock Level Crossing arrangements.
- Opportunity to use the Ballyadam (Amgen) site for construction access from the N25.



# Revised Option 1A

### Option 1A Principal Characteristics

- Day to day access is provided from the N25 via Junction 3, through Carrigtwohill Main Street and east along Carrigane Road.
- The depot is accessed from Carrigane Road via a short dedicated access road.
- OBY7 Bridge is widened to safely accommodate the approximately 105 specialist rail vehicle deliveries required during the introduction of the CACR fleet.
- A section of the Cork Co Co URDF scheme is implemented as part of the option with enhancements to pedestrian and cycle facilities and to road safety in the vicinity of OBY7.
- A section of the approved Carrigtwohill to Midleton Active Travel Route is realigned around the northern boundary of the depot site.



# Revised MCA (TAF) – Option 1A Preferred Option

Compared with the other options assessed, Option 1A offers a number of key benefits:

- Improves road safety and active travel facilities on the eastern side of Carrigtwohill.
- Enhances access for pedestrians and cyclists, including connection to nearby sports facilities.
- Supports local planning objectives by incorporating part of the approved URDF scheme and contributing to the delivery of the Inter Urban Route (IU1).
- Provides direct depot access from the N25 for staff and operational vehicles.
- Addresses existing road safety issues at OBY7 and along its eastern approach.

|   | Sub-Criteria Consolidation                         | Option 1A | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 | Option 6 | Option 7 | Option 8 |
|---|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Transport User Benefits and Other Economic Impacts |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 2 | Accessibility Impacts                              |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 3 | Social Impacts                                     |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 4 | Land Use Impacts                                   |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 5 | Safety Impacts                                     |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 6 | Climate Change Impacts                             |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 7 | Local Environment Impacts                          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|   | Criteria Consolidation                             |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|   | Overall Rating                                     | 4.5       | 3.2      | 2.7      | 3.7      | 3.4      | 3.2      | 2.8      | 3.2      |
|   | Progress To Stage 2                                | Yes       | No       | No       | No       | No       | No       | No       | No       |

# Local Consultation Process

## Public Participation

Public input is a vital part of the CACR Programme.

Local Consultation on the Revised Preferred Option for the Depot Access Road.

Three-week consultation period from 19<sup>th</sup> August to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026 .

In person public consultation event will be hosted on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in My Place, Midleton from **4:00pm – 8:00pm.**

# How to Engage



The consultation period is now open. Full details, including submission deadlines, are available on the project website.

You can contact the project team through the following channels:

Website: [www.irishrail.ie/CACR](http://www.irishrail.ie/CACR)

Email: [CACR@irishrail.ie](mailto:CACR@irishrail.ie)

Phone Number: 087-673-3387

Postal Address:

If you would prefer to write to us, please send it or any correspondence to:

CACR Community Liaison Officer,  
Iarnród Éireann,  
1 Horgan's Quay,  
Waterfront Square,  
Cork  
T23 PPT8

# Next Steps

## Public Participation

Analyse feedback from PC 2 and this localised consultation and complete Public Consultation Feedback Report.

Use the information to inform the developing design and the draft Railway Order documentation.

Complete surveys to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Continue engagement with directly affected landowners.

Lodge draft Railway Order with An Coimisiún Pleanála. (Winter 2026/27)

# Thank you!

Please share the local consultation details with your network and constituents to help ensure local knowledge and insights inform the final design and service delivery.

[www.irishrail.ie/CACR](http://www.irishrail.ie/CACR)