



Transport & Mobility Forum

Cork City Council

Roads & Transportation Directorate
Roads Design & Construction Division
City Hall
Cork

Via online consultation portal

Transport and Mobility Forum, Cork
www.transportandmobilityforum.com
tmfcork@gmail.com

c/o Cork Environmental Forum
Bernadette Connolly
Mount Carmel, Kilcolman
Enniskeane, Co. Cork
P47 C578

16th March 2020

PART 8 Public Consultation - Response

Horgan's Quay Improvement Scheme

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Transport and Mobility Forum, Cork (TMF) is a representative group of organisations who have a common interest in sustainable travel *. The TMF fully supports sustainable modes of travel measures and policies. Sustainable and Active Travel helps reduce congestion on roads, improve air quality, supports a low carbon economy, reduces noise pollution and improves public health.

We welcome and support the proposed installation of a dedicated and protected cycle route from the Lower Glanmire Road via Water Street and Horgan's Quay towards Penrose Wharf, particularly the protected cycle lane along Horgan's Quay.

While the proposed scheme only caters for west (city)bound cycle traffic, we notice that no information is given on what infrastructure shall be provided for eastbound travelling cyclists, who at present need to use the Lower Glanmire Road as an eastbound one-way between Kent Station and Water Street, with no safe cycling infrastructure in place to date.

Observations

Relating to the proposed scheme, we want to share some critical observations.



Transport & Mobility Forum

We particularly want to mention the positive aspect of protecting the on-road cycle lanes on the Lower Glanmire Rd (eastern approach) and Horgan's Quay (most parts) by bollards and thus providing segregation from motor traffic.

Junction Lower Glanmire Road / Water Street

Passing the junction for westbound travelling cyclists will involve changing sides from the left of motor traffic to the right (in Water Street). The plans propose a protected crossing by traffic signals. As this design is not obvious to cyclists, appropriate signage must be in place to clarify how to proceed through the junction. The proposed "Cycle Track ends" sign we do not consider as being sufficient. Further it sends the wrong message that there is no continuous cycling infrastructure.

An alternative way for cyclists passing through this junction should be provided by merging with motor traffic before the junction and leaving the general traffic lane thereafter towards the shared path to the right in Water Street.

Shared path along Water Street

We are critical towards the design approach of a shared walking and cycling path on Water Street, as shared paths result in a lower quality of service for both cyclists and pedestrians. Given, however, the present low footfall of Water Street, this design might be acceptable as an interim design, given the forthcoming large scale development of the entire area (see further down).

Corner Water Street / Horgan's Quay

Given the high walls and the subsequently very restricted sight lines at this corner, we do not see the proposed design as being safe. A separating between cyclists and pedestrians through clear marking or changed surface materials must be in place to avoid collisions between east bound pedestrians and west bound cyclists. The hatched area on the carriageway right before the corner should be used to widen the path near the corner and improve sight lines.

East bound cycle traffic

The proposed scheme only caters for westbound cycle traffic. No information is given to planned facilities for east bound cycling from the Penrose Wharf / Kent Station area towards Silver Springs / Tivoli, which presently has to use the Lower Glanmire Road (one-way in its western part) with no dedicated infrastructure for cycling. As the entire Horgan's Quay area is subject to substantial transformation and new developments, we expect that along with progressing development a concise plan for a high-quality, fully segregated active travel infrastructure (walking and cycling) in both directions will be established and implemented as development in the area progresses. We hence regard the present proposals as a short term interim solution and only support it as such.



Transport & Mobility Forum

We trust that our observations will be considered in the present public consultation process.
Should you require any clarifications, please email me at tmfcork@gmail.com.

Kind regards

Stephan Koch

Transport and Mobility Forum - Chair

Note: *The comments within this submission are solely the view of the Transport and Mobility Forum (TMF) as a whole and not the opinion or view of any individual partner of the TMF.*

*) A full list of partners in the Transport and Mobility Forum can be found at
<https://transportandmobilityforum.com/partners/>