

Session 3 : Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road Scheme

Learnings from the Road Less Travelled

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An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City
& County Council



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Department of Transport

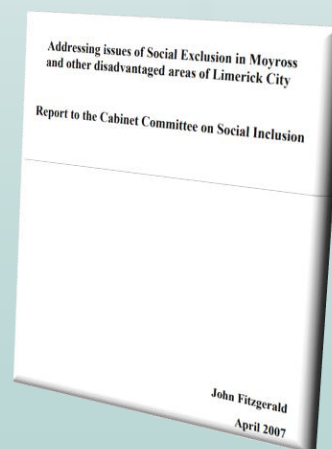


RSTG ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2025
20TH-21ST MAY | MULLINGAR PARK HOTEL, CO. WESTMEATH

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

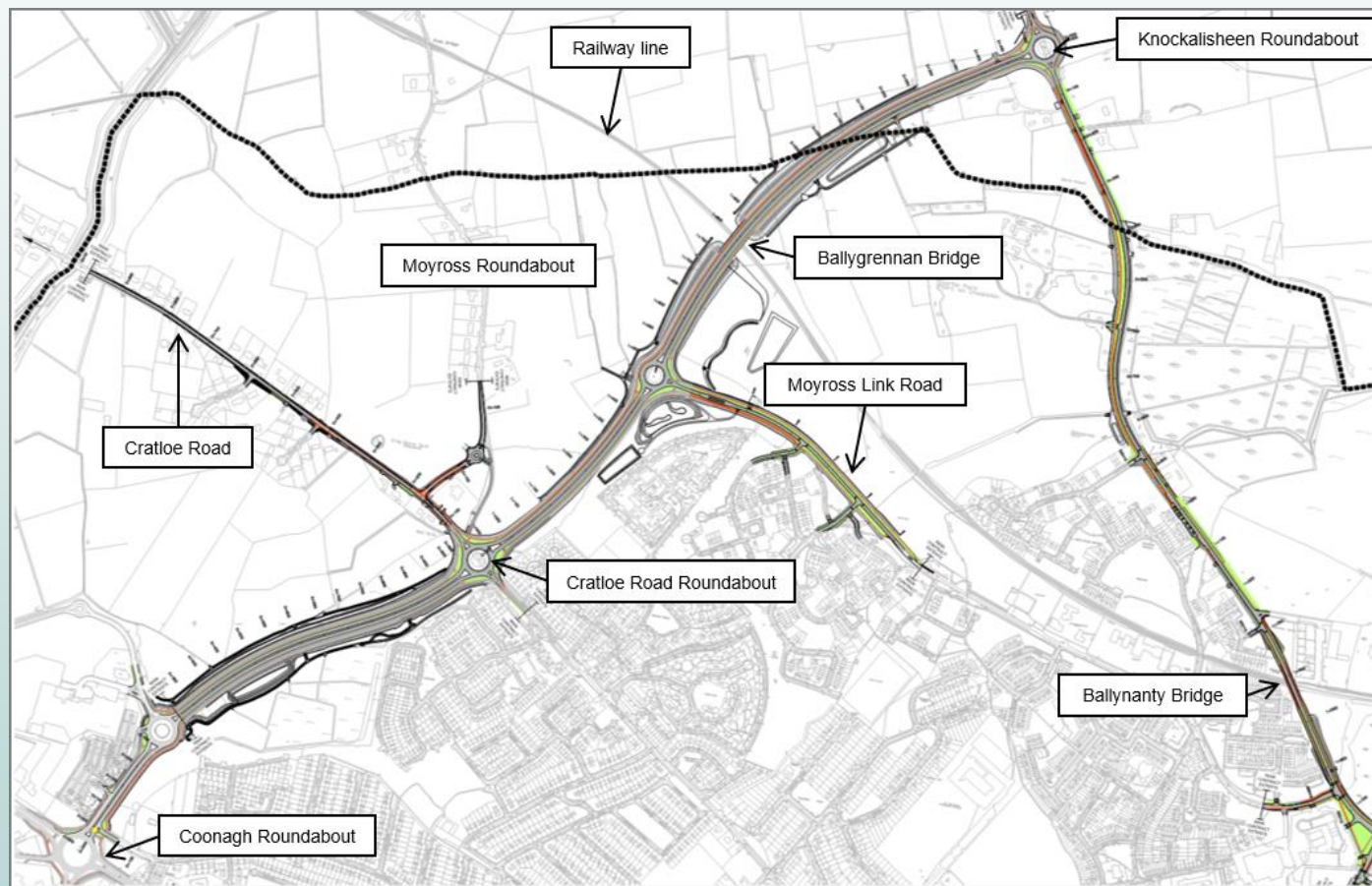
Background

- Scheme first conceived in early 2000s as part of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)
- Moyross Regeneration- 2007 Fitzgerald Report
- Delayed by political priorities, funding, COVID-19, Contractor insolvency and procurement challenge's
- 2025- Finally broke ground for the second time!



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Project Overview



- 2.2km new urban dual carriageway road with footways, cycleways, verges and embankment construction works.
- 0.6km of new urban single carriageway road with footways, cycleways and verges.
- 2.0km of major improvements to an existing urban single carriageway road with footways, cycleways and verges.
- 1.0km of minor improvements to existing rural single carriageway roads.
- 2 road over railway bridges.
- 3 new roundabouts.
- 2 Traffic Signal Controlled Junctions.

Technical Advisors



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Sustainable Transport Modes

The proposed Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Project provides sustainable transport benefits by:

Walking

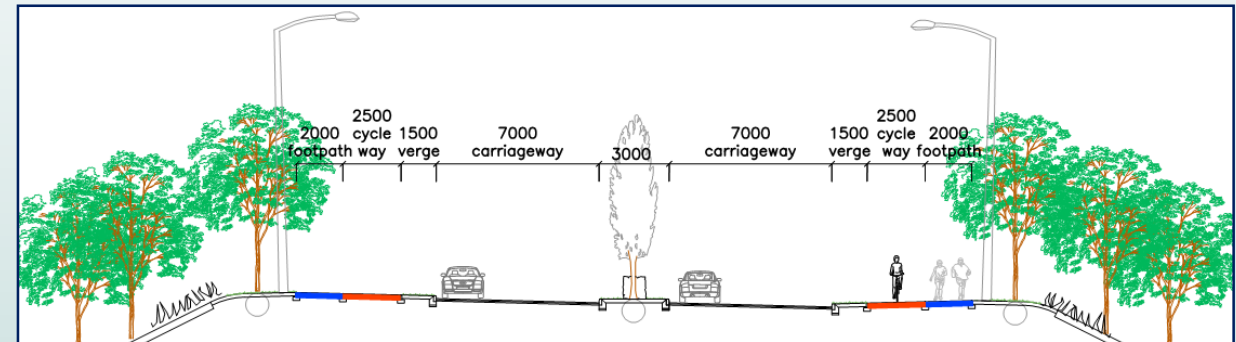
- Improving facilities for pedestrians by creating a fully accessible, safe, and attractive environment suitable for all ages and abilities.

Cycling

- Providing segregated footway/cycleways linking the retail/education centres at Coonagh to the residential areas at Cratloe Road, Moyross and Knockalisheen Rd
- Enhancing connectivity between TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) campuses at Moylish and Coonagh and future connectivity to the City Centre, Mary Immaculate College UL and UHL

Bus

- Enhancing proposals for BusConnects within Limerick City as identified in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040 (LSMATS).



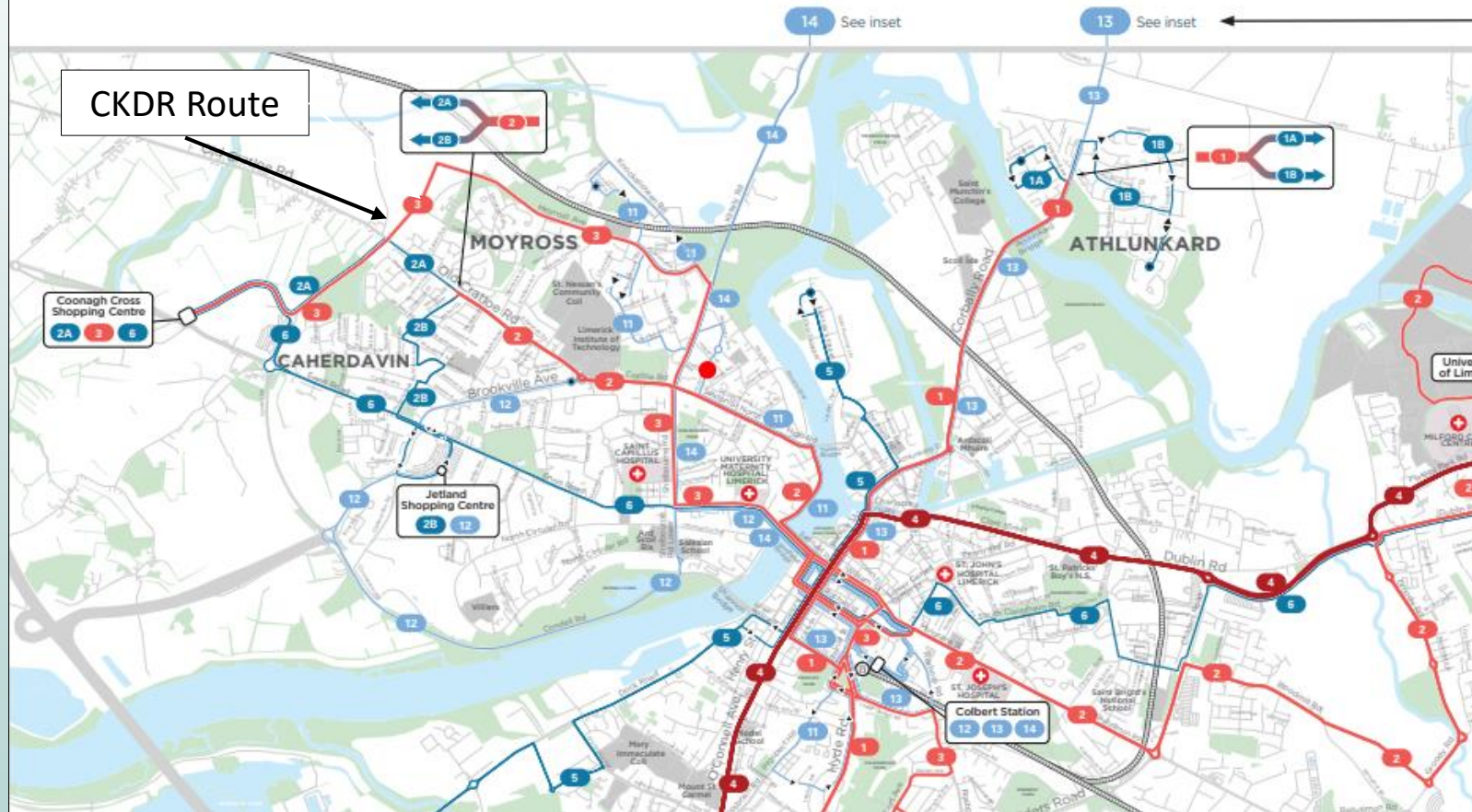
Dual Carriageway - Typical Cross Section



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Limerick Network Map

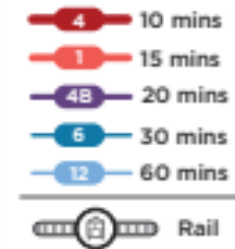
- How BusConnects gets you to where you want to go.



BusConnects Limerick

Draft New Bus Network

Route Frequency at Midday on Weekdays



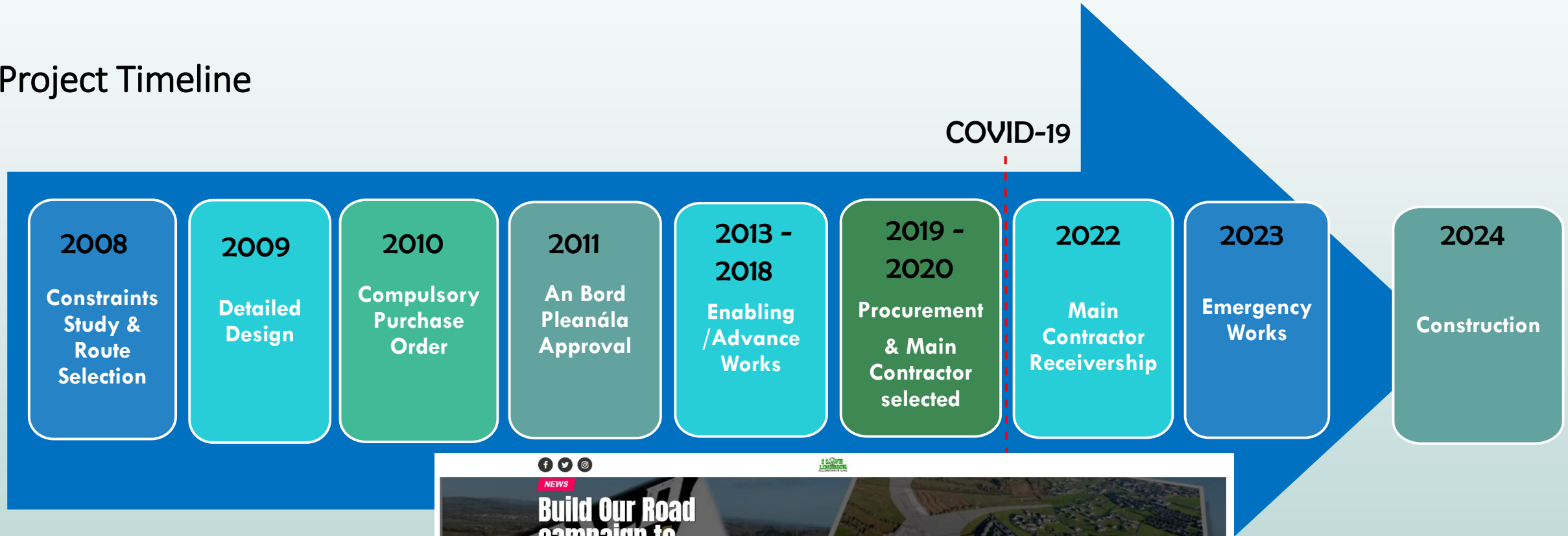
What does it mean when two branches split on the map?



Route branches continue at lower frequency

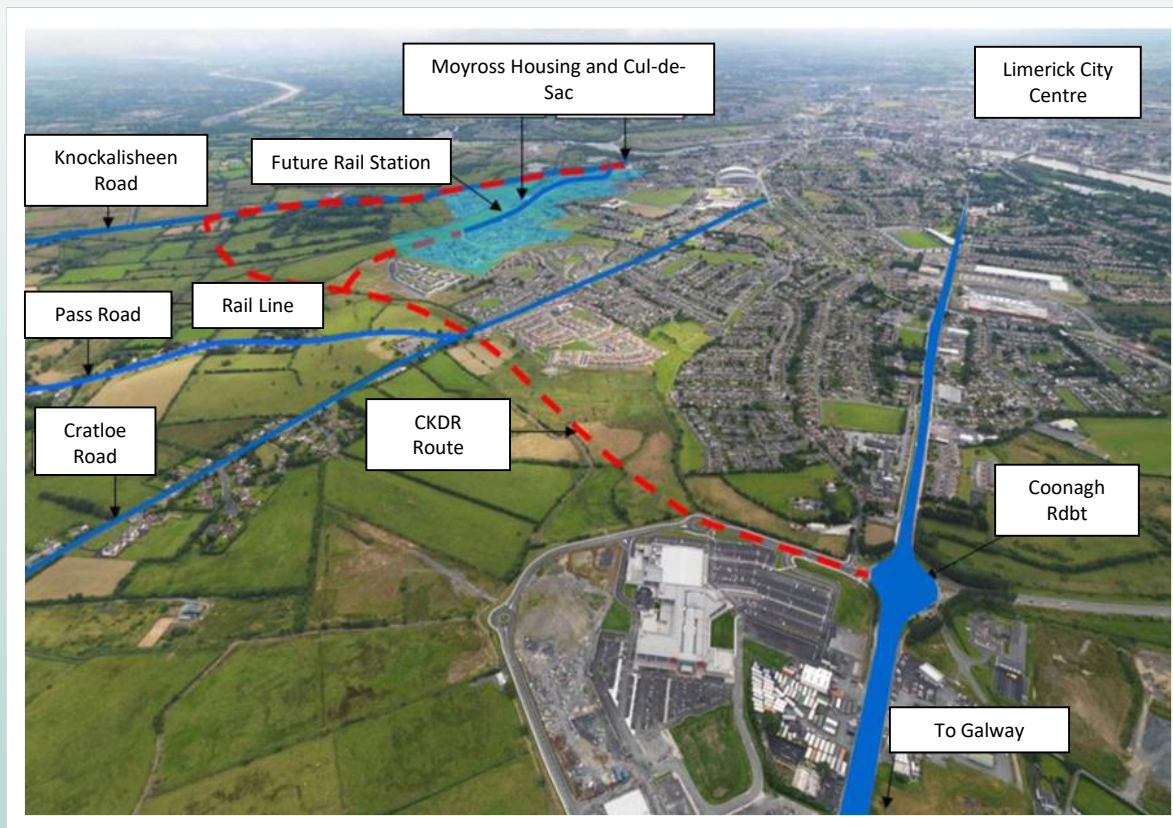
Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Project Timeline



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

CKDR Scheme Benefits



Supporting Moyross Regeneration

The CKDR plays a critical role in the transformation of Moyross, one of Limerick's most disadvantaged communities, by providing a vital link to the strategic road network improving access and catering for improved policing

Benefits Realisation Plan:

- Support proposals for Regeneration
- Reduce social exclusion of the Moyross area
- Improve local connectivity for residents of Moyross
- Improved connectivity to the strategic road network
- Promote balanced regional development
- Provide a framework for the future development for the Limerick Northern Distributor road

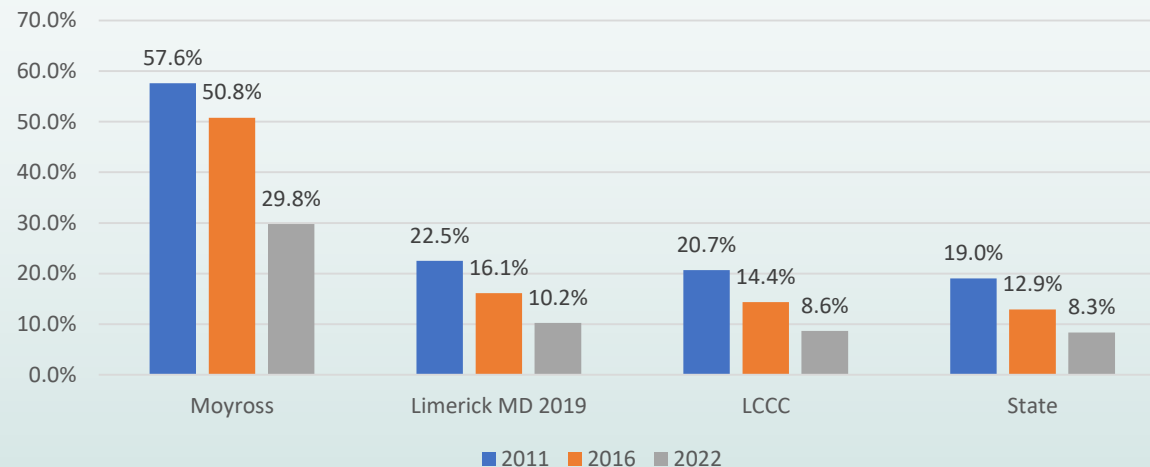


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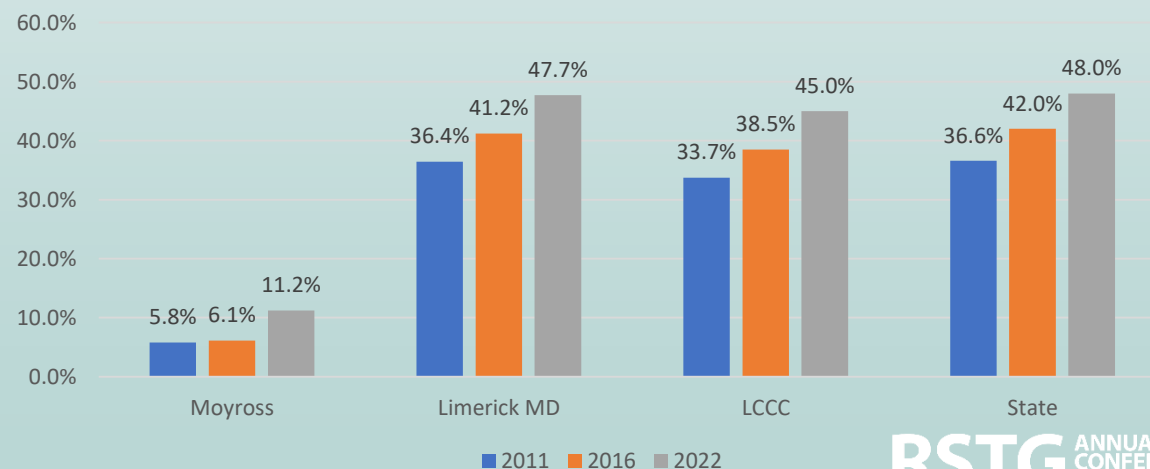
Moyross Social Context

- HP Deprivation Index: Extremely Disadvantaged
- Growing population: up 3.9% to 2,040 between 2016 and 2022
- Potential impact of CKDR
 - Work in the area during construction
 - Access to employment, etc. via road (currently only one entrance to the community)
 - Inclusion in the city and reduction of stigma

Unemployment Rates (CSO Small Area Data)



Third Level Completion (CSO Small Area)



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Economic Regional Growth



▲ Ambulatory Medical Facility



▲ Moyross Station Project



- ▲ Phase 1 – 99 residential units
- Phase 2 – 86 residential units
- Phase 3 – 98 residential units
- Phase 4 – 54 residential units
- Creche

Key Learning:
New Infrastructure Paved The Way for Growth
The new road is instrumental in unlocking development opportunities, acting as a catalyst for economic expansion.



Key Learning:
Local Development Waits for No One
Adjacent developments often progress independently, sometimes clashing with infrastructure plans. Stay proactive and coordinate with other developers.



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Photomontages



BEFORE



AFTER

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Photomontages



BEFORE

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Photomontages



AFTER

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Roadbridge Works – 2021 - 2022



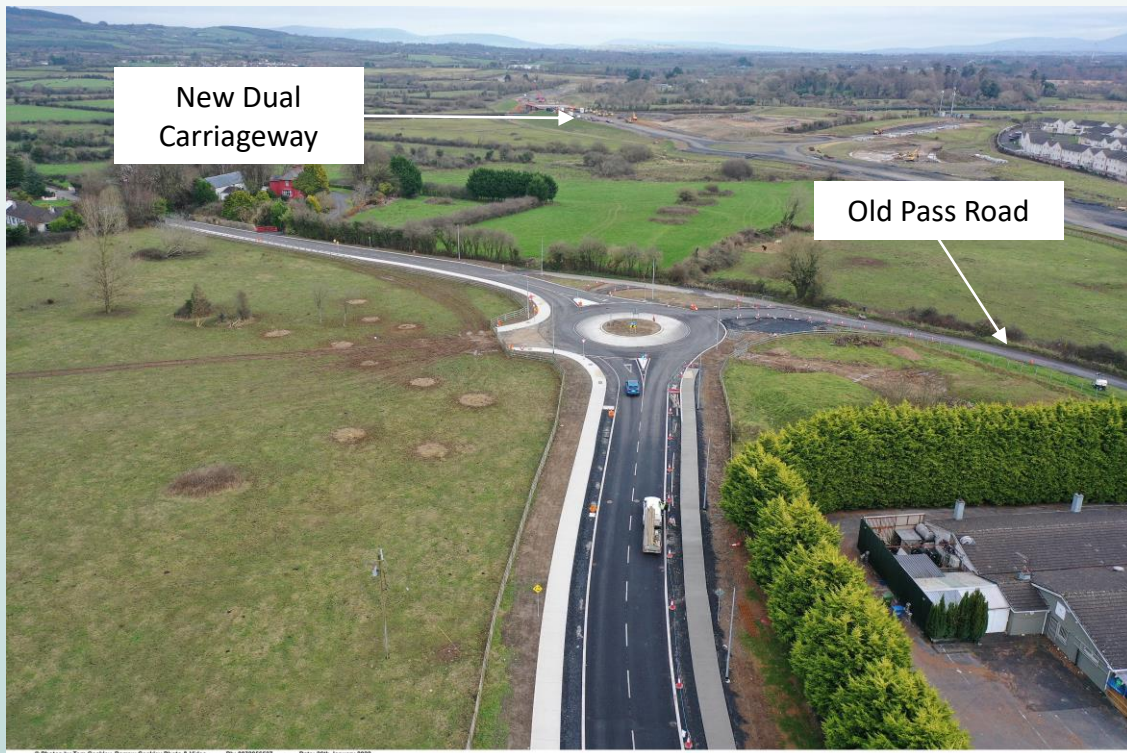
Mainline Earthworks - Excavation & Placement of Fill



Ballygrennan Rail Overbridge – Abutment and pier construction over the Galway–Limerick railway

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Roadbridge Works – 2021 - 2022



Completed – Pass Road Diversion



Completed - Watch House Cross Junction

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Roadbridge Receivership



- Main Contractor receivership in March 2022
- Immediate site security actions
- Strong on-Site team performance/knowledge

Key Learning:

Expect the Unexpected – and Plan for It

External shocks like contractor insolvency can derail even the best-laid plans. Flexibility and contingency planning are crucial.

LIMERICK LEADER
BREAKING: Limerick-based
construction firm enters receivership

irish construction news
MAGAZINE • DIGITAL • SOCIAL
Roadbridge announces it is to go into
receivership

The Clare Champion
Roadbridge receivership end of
Coonagh-Knockalisheen Road?

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Post-Roadbridge Receivership – Next Steps

- Termination - Clause 12 PWC
- Emergency Works Contracts:
 - Fencing Contract – PW-CF6 - €180k
 - Cratloe Road Reinstatement- PW-CF6 - €450k
 - Ballygrennan Bridge – PW-CF3 - €1.8M

Live95 News

Limerick road project will continue despite Roadbridge receivership

Irish Examiner

Limerick road 'to be completed' despite Roadbridge receivership

The road is seen as a vital project for the community of Moyross

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Emergency Works Contracts – 2022 - 2023



BEFORE



AFTER

BAM Civil Ltd
Ballygrennan Railway Overbridge Contract
PW-CF3 - €1.8M

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Post-Roadbridge Receivership – Next Steps

- Redesign of Main Works and Preparation of Tender & Contract Documents
- Procurement – A masterclass in patience

Key Learning:

A transparent and well-managed procurement process is essential—challenges may arise, but procedural integrity ensures a successful and defensible outcome.

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Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Project Status – May 2025

- Main Works resumed – Contract Award – December 2024 – Wills Bros Ltd
- Works Ongoing - Earthworks, utilities, kerbs and footways, surfacing and landscaping
- Expected completion: Q4 2026



Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Site Life – Managing the Unplanned and Uninvited

- **Illegal parking** – often inventive, rarely helpful
- **Resident horses** – uninvited but clearly at home
- **Burnt-out cars** – serving as unintended ‘landmarks’
- **Fly tipping** – the gift that keeps on dumping



Key Learning:

Inactive sites attract unwanted activity—strong security and regular oversight are essential to maintain safety and control

Coonagh to Knockalisheen Distributor Road

Key Learnings

- **Expect the Unexpected – and Plan for It**

External shocks like contractor insolvency can derail even the best-laid plans. Flexibility and contingency planning are crucial.

- **Strong Stakeholder Relationships Are Everything**

Collaborative, sustained engagement with residents, utility providers, local authorities, and politicians is essential.

- **Even the Toughest Roads Lead Somewhere Better**

Long, complex projects can feel thankless, but the long-term community and infrastructure benefits make the effort worthwhile.

- **Ensuring Success Through Transparent and Accountable Procurement**

A transparent and well-managed procurement process is essential—challenges may arise, but procedural integrity ensures a successful and defensible outcome.

- **New Infrastructure Paves The Way for Growth**

The new road is instrumental in unlocking development opportunities, acting as a catalyst for economic expansion and regeneration of Moyross.

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THANK YOU

**Join the Q&A session at
Slido.com and enter 3873601
or via the QR Code.
Questions must include name
and associated Local Authority
to be considered by the panel.**

