



Unique Reference Number: MYO-C37-40

Author: Moira Philbin

Status: Submitted

Submission: East Mayo Greenway

Consultation:

Material Amendments to Draft Mayo County Development Plan
2021-2027

Cover Letter

Moira Philbin - interested in a greenway to be established from Charlestown to Claremorris

Observations:

Greenway - build it and Easy Mayo will thrive

Chapter: Volume 2: Development Management
Standards

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The Mayo County Council asked for submissions to the county plan previously. Submissions were made and many of them - approximately 1200 - were made in support of a greenway being established. These have been completely disregarded.

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Sligo County Council are currently at an advanced stage with the Sligo Greenway which will run along the route of the western transport corridor from Collooney to Charlestown at the Sligo/Mayo.

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Jim Meade the CEO of Irish Rail said this at an Oireachtas Transport committee meeting in February 2021:

“We always support greenways and there is a caveat on any greenway license we have out there that if there is a requirement there from the department.” Mr Meade continued “the greenway is a win win I think for both because it keeps the asset in state ownership, it keeps the asset utilized and then if there is a decision at some time in the future that it has to go back into public transport mode, the

licensing arrangement is such that it can do so.”

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Transcripts from that committee meeting can be downloaded from the link below.

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https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/joint_committee_on_transport_and_communications_networks/2021-02-16/

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A video clip from the relevant section of the meeting can be viewed here;

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOX9RnpVyKQ

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Irish Rail Submission to the Draft Mayo County Plan (myo-c11-696)

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8. Greenway Development

Iarnród Éireann notes that the Council aim to support and facilitate the EuroVelo rail project on the Western Rail Corridor as an interim use for the rail line pending its reopening for passenger and rail freight. Iarnród Éireann will continue to provide conditional support for the development of a greenways in locations where the railway does not have a short to medium term viable business case for reintroduction of services. In terms of the Western Rail Corridor, this conditional support is subject to the section north of Claremorris. Greenways help to keep the asset in state ownership and keep the asset utilised, and then if there is a decision at some time in the future that it should go back to railway use, the licensing arrangement is such that it can do so.

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Department of Transport Submission to the Draft Mayo County Plan (MYO-C11-1027)

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The Department welcomes the commitment to Greenways in the draft plan. However we do note that all the planned Greenways are in the west of the county. The aim of the Strategy For The Future Development of National and Regional Greenways is to increase the number and regional spread of greenway around the country. We would welcome future examination of Greenway options in the east of the county. To that end we would welcome protection of the western rail corridor as a "Transport Corridor" rather than solely as a railway line as the goals laid out in the previous paragraph. This minor change would not prohibit the reinstatement of the railway line but it would also ensure consideration could be given at a future time for the construction of a Greenway on or beside the alignment of the railway line. This would be particularly welcomed for phase IV of the western rail corridor from Claremorris to Charlestown.

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Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport & Communications Meeting 8th March 2022.

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<p>

At the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications meeting on the 8th March 2022, stated that a greenway could go on or beside the line on the wrc. The meeting was attended by

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Representatives of West on Track • Colmán Ó Raghaltaigh • Peter Feeney • Mike Devane

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Representatives of the Western Rail Trail Greenway Campaign • John Mulligan

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Representatives of the North Tipperary Community Rail Partnership • Graham Lightfoot • Edward Kelly • Hassard Stacpoole Richard Logue, rail consultant.

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The Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Submission to the public consultation on the All Island Strategic Rail Review, which can be viewed here;
https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_transport_and_communications/reports/2022/2022-03-16_submission-to-the-public-consultation-on-the-all-island-strategic-rail-review_en.pdf on page 15 states that,

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3.3. Greenways

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The Committee supports both the establishment of greenways and the re-commissioning of disused rail lines once again as active rail lines. The Committee believes that this does not have to be a binary choice. Both options can and should be considered separately or in parallel, including constructing new greenways alongside existing rail lines.

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Therefore the amendments proposed to MTO 6 prejudices the All Island Strategic Rail Review. Precedence has already been made with the licencing agreement, which has been extended to 2027, between Mayo County Council and Irish Rail for the 12K section of the Western Transport Corridor at Kiltimagh for the Velorail amenity. There is no reason why a second licencing agreement can be entered into for the Greenway to be extended from Charlestown on to Swinford to connect with the Greenway at Turlough. Irish Rail are in favour of it, the Dept of Transport has funding for it, the Oireachtas Committee on Transport recommends that a Greenway can go on or alongside the route.

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I am asking WHY no support for a greenway in East Mayo along the Western Rail Corridor after all the support for one by the people in the area and the TII and Iarnród Éireann. Perception is everything. The Mayo Council have massively supported greenways in West Mayo. It's like there is a hidden agenda when it comes to the development of a greenway in East Mayo because nothing else can explain the ignoring of previous submissions and the seemingly opposition displayed by councillors to the idea. All will be revealed in the future I suppose.

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I have nothing against a railway being established if it ever becomes viable but for the meantime it is not. The railway and a greenway can run alongside each other. For once I am asking the Mayo County Council to support East Mayo as much as they support West Mayo.

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Moira Philbin

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Displaying 11 - 20 of 31

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Keywords: East Mayo
Greenway

Documents Attached: No

Boundaries Captured on No

Map: