

 <p>The Member for Ireland of:</p> 	<p>Cyclist.ie - the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network</p> <p>The Tailors' Hall,</p> <p>Back Lane,</p> <p>Dublin, D08 X2A3.</p> <p>www.cyclist.ie</p> <p>RCN 20102029</p>
<p>Addressee: Limerick City & County Council</p>	
<p>Date: 28th September 2022</p>	
<p>Re: Ros Mór R512 Improvements</p>	

1 Introduction

[Cyclist.ie](http://cyclist.ie), the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network (ICAN), is the Federation of Cycling Advocacy Groups, Greenway Groups and Bike Festivals on the island of Ireland. We are the Irish member of the [European Cyclists' Federation](http://www.ecf.eu). Our vision is for an Ireland with a cycle friendly culture, where everyone has a real choice to cycle and is encouraged to experience the joy, convenience, health and environmental benefits of cycling.

This small proposal for improvement works to connect to the Ros Mór housing estate on the city's southern fringes and to facilitate a bus turning movement at a new terminus, while welcome, needs to be improved and extended, to ensure that the new housing estate and the increasing population is fully catered for. We make some suggestions and comments below.

2 General Comments

2.1 Scheme Extents

While understanding that this small scheme has been put forward to facilitate the extension and new terminus for a bus route, the proposal does not deal with the overall quality and design of the general infrastructure between this growing housing estate and the city centre. We recommend that this proposed scheme be extended to include the redesign of the R512 between RosMór and the city, to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, the consideration of the new bus terminus within the area of the actual Ros Mór housing estate, and an extension southwards along the R512 to beyond the Good Counsel nursing home and the nearby residences.

2.2 Junction/Roundabout Design

In general roundabouts are unsafe and discommoding for both pedestrians and cyclists. The proposal to introduce this roundabout, specifically to facilitate bus turning, rather than for general and more efficient traffic movement, needs to be reconsidered.

As suggested above, we recommend that an alternative bus terminus location and turning area be located within the Ros Mór estate, particularly as this estate is still undergoing construction in parts. The R512 junction should also be improved in line with DMURS recommendations, and straight through facilities across the junction along the R512 be provided for both pedestrians and cyclists.

2.3 Shared Facilities

In general, as outlined in the National Cycle Manual (NCM), shared pedestrian and cycling facilities '*should be avoided*' and leads to conflict - see Section 1.9.3 of the NCM. This proposed short 400 metre stretch of shared facility between Ros Mór and The Willows, while an improvement on the existing facility, should be reviewed, with the purpose of narrowing the main traffic lanes to the now standard 3metres, and increasing the space available for cyclists and pedestrians.

2.4 Speed Limit Extents

We note the present 50kph City speed limit ends just south of the Ros Mór junction on the R512. We suggest that the 50kph zone be extended to beyond the Good Counsel Nursing Home and the nearby houses along the R512. in the interests of good planning, and general road safety.

4 Summary/Conclusion

Cyclist.ie understands the thinking behind this minor scheme at the southern extremities of Limerick City, but recommends:

- The overall link between Ros Mór housing estate and the City be tackled as part of the project,
- The proposed roundabout be removed, and replaced with a standard DMURS compliant T junction
- The proposed bus turning area be facilitated within the Ros Mór housing estate.
- The 50kph speed limit zone be extended

We look forward to the Council's response, and are happy to engage at any stage with the scheme designers, and/or with Council officials.

Colm Ryder

Cyclist.ie Infrastructure Coordinator



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