

National Cycle Network Funding Scheme 2012/13 – Application Form

Section 1: Project Outline	
Name and Address of Local Authority	Mayo County Council, Aras an Chontae, Castlebar
Contact Person/Proposed Project Manager	Mr Seamus Granahan, Director of Services and Town Manager Mayo County Council
Telephone	0949024444
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Planned Route start and end Detailed map to be included appendix	Castlebar to Turlough (National Museum of Ireland)
Proposed Route Distance (km)	8.8km
Estimated total project delivery cost(€)	€1,450,000
Total Grant funding being sought(€)	€725,000
Planned duration of project/works (months)	11 months
Planned start date and completion date	May 2012 (phase 1 commencement) Oct 2013 (phase 2 completed)
Brief Outline of proposed Project	<p>This application seeks part funding to construct an off road greenway along the banks of the Castlebar River from Newtown, Castlebar through the town centre and east to Turlough village and to the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life which is located in Turlough Park.</p> <p>The project lies within a greater cycle network planned between Westport / Castlebar / Ballina and it will connect into a 3km Lough Lannagh Greenway west of Castlebar (which has recently been completed and which is part of the Castlebar/Westport NCN).</p> <p>The Greenway will attract a range of users and in particular daily commuters and students from an adjacent catchment of over 4600 persons (46% of Castlebar’s urban population). The Greenway will also attract significant numbers of domestic and overseas visitors and will provide scale and continuity to the existing Mayo Cycle Network – two key requirements to attract many more international cycling visitors to Ireland.</p>

Section 2: Project Detail	
Briefly Outline how this route aligns with the corridors identified in the NCN scoping study, or links into or between the identified corridors	The proposed project lies on the corridor of the proposed Westport Castlebar/ Ballina NCN. The project links into a 3km Lough Lannagh Greenway located West of Castlebar on the proposed Castlebar/Westport NCN.
Is the project proposal for a stand alone route, or is it a single phase of a longer proposed route	The project is a single section of a greater greenway planned to connect Castlebar and Ballina. However the project has been divided to suit funding / construction purposes. Part funding is sought to develop a section from Castlebar to Turlough and this has been split into two phases which can be independently constructed of each other.
What type of route will be delivered (i.e. on road or off road, usage of exiting infrastructure)	Off road Greenway along the banks of the Castlebar river
Is the land necessary to develop the proposed route currently in public ownership? Are there any land ownership issues along an section of the proposed route, and if yes how is it planned to address them?	All the land required in phase 1 was acquired by Castlebar Town Council in 2007. Lands for phase 2 are privately owned (other than Turlough Park, which is owned by Mayo County Council). Permissive Access consents have been agreed in principal with the landowners and the Council is currently formalising written agreements.
Are there any outstanding issues which could impact on deliverability of the proposed route (eg Statutory requirements)?	No
What is the proposed width of the route (metres)	3 metres
What is the proposed surfacing type for the route?	Macadam surface in urban area (Phase 1 of Project) Rolled fine limestone dust in rural area (Phase 2 of Project)

Section 3: Project Costs**PHASE 1**

Key Costs/Works	Est. Costs (€) (incl VAT)	Requested Contribution (€)	Planned Drawdown date (eg Sept 2012)
Clearance	4,500	2250	Sept 12
Drainage	28,000	14000	Sept 12
Public lighting	45,500	22750	Sept 12
Kerbing	48,000	24000	Sept 12
Path surfacing	291,000	145,500	Sept 12
Adjoining Works	57,000	28500	Sept 12
Bridge	73,500	36750	Sept 12
Junction Skid Resistance	14,000	7000	Sept 12
Fencing	13,000	6500	Oct 12
Decorative Railing	55,500	27750	Sept 12
Signage	5,000	2500	Oct 12
Totals	635,000	317,500	

Section 3: Project Costs**PHASE 2**

Key Costs/Works	Est. Costs (€) (Inc VAT)	Requested Contribution (€)	Planned Drawdown date (eg Sept 2012)
Clearance	17,000	8500	Sept 13
Drainage	38,000	19,000	Sept 13
Geotextile	22,000	11,000	Sept 13
Cycle Path Foundation	169,000	84,500	Sept 13
Cycle Path build up & Surfacing	198,000	99,000	Sept 13
Fencing	73,000	36,500	Oct 13
Signage	7,000	3,500	Oct 13
Boundary Crossings	26,000	13,000	Oct13
Adjoining Works	148,000	74,000	Sept 13
Lateral River Rock Armour	56,000	28,000	Sept 13
Road Crossings	61,000	30,500	Sept 13
Total	815,000	407,500	

Section 4: Demand & Benefit Assessment

Demand & Benefit Assessment of the proposed Riverside Greenway is detailed in section 5 of attached submission.

In brief, the proposed Greenway, located on the proposed NCN between Castlebar and Ballina will draw significant users from its adjacent greenway catchment area. The Greenway is directly linked with all 6 Castlebar schools and as a transportation spline which will run through urban Castlebar it has great potential to attract working and students who are currently using non sustainable travel modes.

In particular the Greenway has the potential to attract a calculated 1920 students and 1203 workers on a daily basis. An estimated 350 recreational users a day are expected on the Greenway judging by the popularity of other Mayo Greenways with this group.

The proposed Greenway will significantly reduce peak hour traffic congestion in Castlebar, especially at Schools. Analysis of census reports indicate that, from the adjacent greenway catchment, there is potential 2030 persons (walkers and cyclists) who could make a switch from car to sustainable travel modes. Assuming 78% of this group (1575 people) switch travel preference to sustainable modes then the annual tonnage of CO2 avoided will be 551tonnes per annum. Avoided Car journeys for 1575 people, assuming two trips per day, is 819,000 journeys avoided.

The proposed Greenway will connect into the Great Western Greenway and indeed the wider Mayo Network and brings additional scale and continuity which is required to attract overseas cycling visitors to come to Ireland.

The following tourism related demand is anticipated

Estimated Domestic (not Mayo) visitors	45,000 p.a (123 visitors or 246 trips/day)
Estimated Overseas Visitors	12,000 p.a (32 visitors or 64 trips /day)
Total Potential Visitors	67,000 p.a (153 visitors/day)

Accordingly the projected local economic impact of the proposed Greenway is €3.75 million (of which €0.55 million relates to overseas visitor spend).

Job opportunities will be similar to that on the Great Western Greenway project. The proposed Greenway will connect into the Great Western Greenway via a Castlebar / Westport cycle route (currently due to commence construction).

In particular an estimated 10 jobs will be created over the 12 month construction period for phases 1 and 2.

An estimated 25 FTE jobs will be created through such business services as bike hire/repair, shuttle transport, tours, trail maintenance, customer services/ green patrol, accommodation and food services.

Section 5: Outline (1) Alignment with other Transport, Tourism & Sport Programmes/locations

(2) Route Management & Promotion Plans

(3) Planned Route User Monitoring

(1) Alignment with other Transport, Tourism & Sport Programmes/locations

The Greenway will pass beside, through or directly link into the following facilities:

- Proposed Castlebar / Westport Cycle Route
- Lough Lannagh Greenway, Recreational Park
- Lough Lannagh Playground, Multi Games Area & Outdoor Gym
- Walks Network at Turlough Park
- Castlebar International 4 Day Walks
- Castlebar Town Park including MUGA, Playground, Skateboard and Outdoor Gym (currently under construction at Knockthomas, Castlebar)
- Castlebar Tennis Grounds
- Sports Grounds and Gyms at Lough Lannagh, St Gerald's College and Davitt College
- Proposed Aqua Centre, Lough Lannagh
- Lough Lannagh Holiday Village & Caravan Park
- Turlough Park
- National Museum of Ireland-Country Life
- Greenschools – All 6 schools in Castlebar and Parke School are participating in the Greenschools Programme. Four schools are in the process of attaining their 4th (travel) Flag.

(2) Route Management & Promotion Plans

Product development and promotion will focus on the delivery of a world class walking and cycling product, in particular with the delivery of the additional services, information, structures and marketing required to compliment the provision of the physical multipurpose trail. Castlebar Town Council and Mayo County Council will take the lead role in the development and promotion of the Greenway in partnership with other stakeholders including Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, Failte Ireland, Clew Bay Tourism Network, National Museum of Ireland, Turlough Futures Group, Greenschools, Smart Travel Castlebar, Iompair Mhaigh Eo, Castlebar Cycling Club and An Garda Siochana.

The Greenway will be extensively marketed and promoted by the County Council and through the work of the Mayo Walking/ Cycling Development Officer. The Council will develop Marketing & Promotion objectives aimed at attracting local users, domestic and international visitors. The Council will work in partnership with the Failte Ireland, National Museum of Ireland, Ireland West Airport, Mayo Sports Partnership and the Walking/Cycling Partnership group to achieve these objectives.

The focus will be on the following target groups:

- National and Secondary students

- People working in the Castlebar/Turlough/ Ballyvary Area
- People living in the adjacent residential developments
- Local youth and adult Cycling Clubs
- Cycling Visitors

The Councils Road Safety Officer will play a key role in promoting the Greenway to students. The Road Safety Officer will work with schools the Castlebar/Turlough area. This will be achieved through Road safety initiatives such as coordination of a walking school bus, cycle training, cycle champions and through co-operation with the County Green Schools Development Officer Eva Gannon and An Garda Siochana.

The Greenway will be marketed through promotional brochures, competitions, leaflets and local media. Permanent Greenway Advertisement signs as well as promotional VDS signs will be erected at strategic locations in Castlebar including residential areas.

The web will play a pivotal part in the marketing and promotion of the cycling product in Castlebar and County Mayo. The Greenway will be included on the following websites:

www.Greenway.ie
www.Irishtrails.ie
www.MayoTrails.ie
www.Museum.ie

The Greenway will be linked to Social media streams, iPhone App applications and will be QR code compatible. The Council will seek to broadcast and print media opportunities. The proposed Greenway will be included in the European Association of Greenways.

Good quality guidebooks/leaflets will be published by Mayo County Council for the new Greenway. Guidebooks will include accurate maps of the route as well as safety information; there will also be additional information on the routes heritage, health benefits, flora and fauna.

A series of high profile adventure activities including a Greenway 10k Run and Womens Mini Marathon will be organised annually by Mayo Sports Partnership and included in the Mayo Adventure & Activity Calendar of Events.

A Management Committee, comprising local landowners, Mayo County Council Walking/ Cycling Officer and local Rural Recreational Officer will be established similar to that of the Great Western Greenway. This committee will primarily ensure the smooth running of the Greenway, address any difficulties and provide for the overall promotion of the facility.

(3) Planned Route User Monitoring

Mayo County Council will agree a measurement, monitoring and evaluation programme with the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport prior to the commencement of works. A range of suitable data sources to generate indicators that

gauge the impact of the Greenway will be utilised. The Council will robustly measure walking and cycling activity on the Greenway using the following methods:

- Quarterly Manual Classified Counts (12 hours) at four locations including the Greenway and adjacent schools.
- Continuous automated cycle/pedestrian counters – count data to be collated for total monthly usage
- Counts of parked bicycles at Castlebar/Turlough schools and at the National Museum of Country Life visitor centre.
- Route user surveys will be undertaken to find out how often they use the Greenway, origin/destination etc.
- Attitude Surveys from representative sample of adjacent residents on modes of transport used, frequency of usage of greenway.