

Sutton To Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway (S2S)

The Dublin Regional Authority (DRA), the authority responsible for promoting co-ordination, co-operation and joint action among the public services and local authorities in the Dublin region, Dublin City Council (DCC) and Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) undertook studies into the possibility of developing a single cycleway and promenade along the coast of Dublin Bay from Sutton to Sandycove.

The total length of the proposed promenade and cycleway will be approximately 22 kilometres in length from Sutton to Sandycove. The scheme proposes to upgrade and join up various existing sections of the promenade and cycleway to form a continuous route along the seafront of Dublin Bay. In the northern section of the development much of the facility already exists and simply either requires upgrade, improvement or to be joined together by “missing gaps”.

Project Vision

The distinctive sweep of Dublin Bay from Howth Head in the north to Bray Head in the south forms one of the most attractive coastal amenities available to any Capital city. The citizens of Dublin and Ireland are justly proud of such amenities as Howth, Dollymount Strand, Bull Island, Sandymount Strand, Seapoint and Dun Laoghaire, which stretch along the necklace of Dublin Bay.

It is recognised there is a need to provide greater access to the bay, both for the people of Dublin and for visitors to the City, and to encourage them to take advantage of this superb natural amenity, while respecting the unique environment.

The vision of S2S is to provide a continuous promenade and cycleway approximately 22 kilometres in length, around Dublin Bay from Sutton to Sandycove linking existing and proposed cycle and walking routes. The proposed route for S2S is contained within the boundaries of Fingal County Council, the Dublin Docklands Development Authority, Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The environment of Dublin Bay is of tremendous national and international importance and large sections of it are designated as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas under the Habitats and Birds Directives respectively, as well as other designations. The S2S Project will seek to balance the requirement to protect these designated areas with the provision of an enhanced accessibility to the coastal area and a world-class amenity.

S2S is seen as a great opportunity to display information on the environment and ecology of Dublin Bay and to allow controlled access for individuals and groups in order to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the importance of the environment and heritage that is Dublin Bay. In the long term, protection of the environment of Dublin Bay depends on the appreciation, by the residents of Dublin City and by visitors to the City, of the importance and sensitivity of the Bay.

The completed project will provide a major recreational and leisure facility readily accessible by all age groups with the potential to become a significant tourist attraction within the Dublin Region, especially as the route commands unparalleled views of Dublin Bay and, when completed, would be one of the longest such coastal promenades in Europe.

As a major public amenity the route is blessed with a number of natural and cultural resources, which can be developed to provide a range of educational opportunities for young and older children. The promotion of the route as a commuter and recreational facility and the holding of specially organised events, such as fun runs or triathlons will ensure that S2S can contribute in a significant way to the promotion of active living and healthier lifestyles.

The completion of the S2S Project has been included as an objective of the current Development Plans for Dublin City Council, and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and has also been included in the Dublin Docklands Development Authority’s Masterplan and

the Dublin Transportation Office's Platform for Change. The completion of S2S is also a policy within the Governments' Cycle Policy Framework 2009.

The Four Dublin Local Authorities, under the aegis of the Dublin Regional Authority commissioned a report in 2006 as to how the S2S Project could be delivered. It was recognised that there were already in place sections of promenade and cycleway that formed part of the S2S route, albeit not necessarily to the desired standard. It was, therefore, felt that efforts should be concentrated on those areas where there were no such facilities.

Flood Protection

The design life for the proposed promenade will be 120 years. However, for the design of coastal protection structures a national design standard of a return period of 200 years should be adopted for the design. The extreme high water level (based on Dublin Port) for a return period of 200 years is predicted at a level of +3.13mOD (Malin) for a base year of 2005. According to Dublin Coastal Flood Protection Plan (DCFPP) climate change / sea level rise recommendations, an annual sea level rise of 4.15mm/year should be included in all future designs for flood defence or other structures. This includes an allowance of 0.3mm/year for land subsidence.

Indicative proposals of such defences have been included on the preliminary design drawings.

Sandymount Promenade & Flood Protection Project – S2S Phase 2

The Feasibility Report was completed by Scott Wilson in September 2007. The purpose of the study was to examine the feasibility of constructing a 8.5km long combined promenade and cycleway, approximately 6.5 metres wide, along the land sea boundary between Sean Moore Park and East Pier, Dun Laoghaire. The Preliminary Design stage was completed in 2009.

Flood Protection

Flood protection is to be a primary function of the proposed new facility and a minimum standard of flood protection based on a 1 in 200 year return period was adopted in line with the current recommendation of the Office of Public Works.