

Irish Infrastructure Prospects

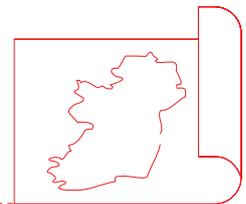


The Irish Government recently announced the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund as part of the Budget 2024, which demonstrates firm political and financial support for infrastructure investment in Ireland. Ireland’s Major Infrastructure Project Pipeline 2024 was also recently published and highlights the substantial number of major projects planned for transport, housing, education, healthcare, energy and climate amongst others.

Some key highlights of particular relevance to infrastructure industry stakeholders are summarised below.

Budget 2024

- Establishment of the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund which will receive €2 billion in funding each year until 2030 inclusive, totalling €14 billion. The objective of this fund is to ensure the availability of finances to provide funding for infrastructure investment even during economic downturns, giving greater certainty to those in the infrastructure supply chain. Initial contribution of €2 billion will be made to the fund following the dissolution of the National Reserve Fund. Exact projects or mechanisms through which the funding will filter through to investments have not been set out in the budget. A proposed new law underpinning the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund is set to be published soon.
- €1.159 billion was allocated to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to progress projects such as the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme and the Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project.
- €3.5 billion was allocated to the Department of Transport to progress major capital projects such as the MetroLink and DART+ programme. Funding is also available for projects such as electric vehicle infrastructure, pedestrian infrastructure and carbon reduction programmes.
- €6.9 billion was allocated to The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This includes funding for over 9300 new-build social homes and 6400 affordable and cost rental homes. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland was allocated €380 million to fund their community and residential energy upgrades schemes in 2024.

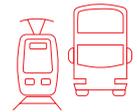


Ireland’s Major Infrastructure Pipeline: 2024 and Beyond



1. Social Infrastructure

- The Social Housing Public Private Partnership (“PPP”) programme will be particularly active in the next couple of years. The programme has delivered 1000 homes so far and there are more than 2500 new homes in the pipeline. The programme is being delivered in ‘bundles’, with the current Bundle 3 set to deliver 486 units, Bundles 4 and 5 delivering 1600 combined, and Bundle 6 delivering 500. Procurement timeline is Q3 2024 – Q4 2025.
- Mixed tenure housing projects such as the Donore Project, Shanganagh Castle, Oscar Traynor Road and Emmet Road have a combined budget of up to €1.5 billion and are anticipated to be completed by 2027 (with some private sector / private finance participation expected).
- Dublin Family Courts (Hammond Lane) will be delivered via PPP and is anticipated to cost €100 million – €250 million. The project involves the construction of a 5 storey purpose-built courthouse and the planning application is due to be lodged later in 2023.
- The Cork City Docklands Project now has a total of €471 million in funding for the regeneration of 146 hectares in Cork city, in what will be Ireland’s largest ever regeneration project. The Cork Docklands Delivery Office will lead the project, which involves the development of thousands of homes and a new urban centre to encourage international investment into Cork city. Construction timeline is 2024-2031.
- A number of construction and renewal projects are planned in relation to Higher Education institutes and universities. The projects are anticipated to cost up to €600 million and have construction timelines of 2024-2031.
- Several projects are planned in relation to health services and hospital infrastructure, with anticipated costs of almost €3 billion. This includes funding for projects such as the National Maternity Hospital and elective hospitals in Cork, Dublin and Galway. Construction timelines are 2024-2028.



2. Transport

- The MetroLink Project is the development of an urban railway service connecting key areas of Dublin city along a 19km route. It is expected to cost approximately €12 billion and much of the project will be procured as a single PPP package. A Railway Order application was lodged in Q3 2022 and the construction timeline is 2025 – early 2030s.
- The DART+ programme aims to improve upon the current DART system in Ireland by tripling the network size from 50km to 150km through various infrastructure investments. The

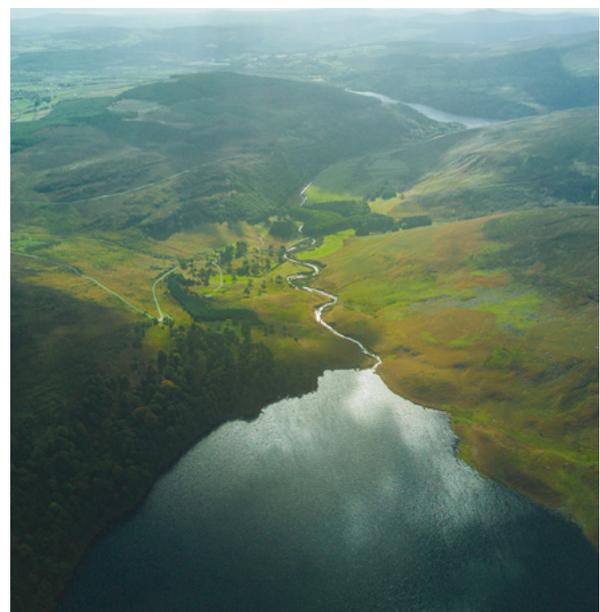
project is expected to cost €2.1 billion - €3.2 billion and has a construction timeline of 2024 – 2030.

- Substantial number of road development projects due to begin and complete construction before 2030, including the N/M20 Cork to Limerick (which may be a PPP), Galway City Ring Road, N21/N69 Limerick to Adare/Foynes, M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Road, N2 and N52 bypasses, N72-N73 Mallow Relief Road.



3. Energy, Environment and Climate

- Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project will aim to extract water from the River Shannon and pipe it 170km to a reservoir in Dublin in an effort to meet increasing Dublin Region water demand. The project is anticipated to cost €1 billion+ and has a construction timeline of 2028 – 2032.
- A number of other water projects with anticipated costs of up to €2.5 billion are planned. This includes funding for Flood Relief Scheme projects in Arklow, Cork, Clare and Limerick, along with the Greater Dublin Drainage project which is anticipated to cost up to €1 billion.
- It is anticipated that the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund will support a wide range of investment in sustainable energy and other climate positive projects. Over €3 billion of this fund will be invested in climate and nature projects to help reach Ireland’s carbon targets.



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