

Press Release

New Metro West Liffey Valley Bridge Design

The Railway Procurement Agency is pleased to announce that a competition is to be held for the architectural and structural design of a bridge over the Liffey Valley to serve the new Metro West line. The RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland) is administering the competition on behalf of RPA.

Competitors will prepare a design for a new bridge, of outstanding design quality, crossing the Liffey Valley. The new bridge will carry the proposed Metro West line. RPA may subsequently proceed with the construction of a new bridge based on the winning entry.

Metro West, which is the subject of this Design Competition, is one of the Transport 21 projects.

Metro West will run from Tallaght to Dublin Airport, joining with the proposed Metro North line from north of the M50 motorway.

The proposed route crosses the Liffey Valley an area renowned for its wealth of ecological, archaeological and high amenity landscape value. Specifically, the Liffey Valley is designated as a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and is also covered by a Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO).

The proposed bridge would be designed to make a prominent, yet aesthetically pleasing addition to the Liffey Valley whilst enabling views across the Liffey to be maintained, as far as possible. Sympathetic use of appropriate materials and effective lighting once operational would minimise any potential adverse visual impact on the valley and the preserved views. Dealing with noise and vibration issues will also need to be taken into account. This landmark bridge has the potential to greatly enhance this designated site which spans both sides of the River Liffey in the proposed location for the crossing.

The Competition is open to candidates who can demonstrate an Architectural and an Engineering expertise.

Given the complexity of the project, entrants will either have experience of bridge design themselves or enter on a collaborative basis so as to have such expertise to hand. This should be identified in the Expression of Interest which can be downloaded from the RIAI website www.riai.ie

Each short listed competitor invited to participate in Stage 2 of the competition will be paid an honorarium of €50,000 for a valid Stage 2 submission. It is the intention of the promoters that the winning competition entry will receive a prize of €100,000.

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