Chapter 19  

Public Consultation No.3

19.1 Introduction

Following on from Public Consultation No. 2 (PC2) – Route Corridor Options and the Route Corridor Selection process which determined the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, Public Consultation No. 3 (PC3) was undertaken between July 2010 and August 2010, with the public consultation exhibitions being held on the 12th, 13th and 14th of July 2010.

The objectives of this consultation were to:

- Present the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor to the public;
- Further inform the public of the process and the programme for the project;
- Invite submissions on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor;
- Gather local information including land ownership, which may not be known to the design team;
- Answer questions from the public;
- Consider and review the information received.

This chapter records the consultation process and presents an analysis of the submissions received. Arising from the consultation a number of possible adjustments to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor have been investigated.

19.2 Methodology

19.2.1 Publicity

Prior to commencement of Public Consultation No. 3, a preview was held for the locally elected representatives in Leitrim County Council Offices on 5th July 2010.

A publicity campaign was undertaken by Leitrim County Council prior to the consultation. The consultation was advertised in the following papers:

- The Roscommon Herald on 6th July 2010; and
- The Leitrim Observer on 9th July 2010.

Advertisements were also broadcast on Shannonside Radio on the following dates:

- 1 slot on 9th July 2010
- 3 slots on 10th July 2010
- 3 slots on 11th July 2010
- 3 slots on 12th July 2010

Affected landowners and those who attended or submitted responses during Public Consultation No. 2 were notified by letter dated 6th July 2010. Landowners were given an appointment time for either the 12th July 2010 or the morning of the 13th July 2010. All others who were notified were invited to attend the public exhibition of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor on the 13th July and on the 14th July 2010 between 1400 – 2100 hours.

119 letters were issued to Landowners and 159 letters were issued to the interested parties from Public Consultation No. 2.
An information brochure & questionnaire was supplied to all who attended on 12th, 13th & 14th September 2010. The brochure & questionnaire are included in Appendix 19.1

19.2.2 Public Exhibition

The public exhibition was held at the Landmark Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon. The 3 days were split between affected landowners, who were seen on the 12th July and the morning of the 13th July and the general public who were seen in the afternoons of the 13th and 14th July.

The display information on the scheme consisted of the following.

- Aerial Photography for the scheme showing the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.
- Discovery Series Mapping showing the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.
- Plans showing the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor with known landownership Information for comment

The Work in Progress Route Corridor Selection Report and Drawings were available for inspection at the exhibition. The exhibition was attended by a number of staff from Roscommon National Roads Design Office, Leitrim County Council, and Roughan & O’Donovan.

The display material was relocated to Leitrim County Council Offices in Carrick-on-Shannon for the period from 15th July to Friday 13th August 2010. A set of large scale drawings showing the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor were available at the Boyle Area Office for the same period. These displays were available for inspection but were not attended by the project team. Brochures & questionnaires were available at both locations.

19.2.3 Attendance

A total of 250 attendees were registered at the public exhibition over the 3 days as shown in Table 19.1. All attendees were handed the information brochure and questionnaire.

Table 19.1 Attendance at Public Consultation No. 3 Exhibition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Registered attendees</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th July 2010</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Landowners only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th July 2010</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Landowners &amp; General Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th July 2010</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Landowners &amp; General Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19.2.4 Feedback and Information

Throughout the consultation process the staff at the exhibition endeavoured to obtain as much local information as possible. As with Public Consultation No. 2 one of the key pieces of information gathered, was that of agricultural holdings, whereby boundaries and landownership were marked on the landownership plans. The information gathered at the consultation was reviewed and distributed to the relevant design team member.
19.2.5 Submissions
Anyone wishing to make a written submission was requested to do so by the closing date of the 13th August 2010, however all submissions received were recorded and taken into consideration if possible.

19.3 Analysis of Individual Submission Responses
All individual submissions received were cross referenced with previous submissions, evaluated and the information recorded. All submissions were reviewed and analysed by the design team.

As part of the questionnaire the public were asked the following two questions
- Do you agree in principle with the proposed scheme?
- Would you be a regular user of the proposed scheme?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure or No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you agree in principle with the proposed scheme?</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure or No Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would you be a regular user of the proposed scheme?</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 70 individual responses were received, with many of the submissions dealing with similar issues. The main issues raised included the following:
- Impacts on agriculture including:
  - Accommodation works;
  - Severance of lands;
- Severance of community links and extra distances that would be required;
- Cross section of the current N4 Dromod-Roosky Bypass and desire that it not be extended:
  - The inclusion of hard shoulders;
  - Dislike of the “wire rope” barrier;
  - Turning radii for trucks at roundabouts;
- Impacts of road embankments on area when Shannon Floods;
- Concerns over affects of earthworks on existing homes and structures;
- Concerns over heights of embankments and layouts at junctions such as the R201 and Castlecarragh Road;
- Pedestrian and cyclist access to Annaduff GAA Grounds;
- Access for drawing water from Gortinty Lake;
- Environmental impacts on properties due to proximity of Route Corridor to residences—noise and air quality;
• Impact on community at Hartley and Cloonsheeveragh regarding potential increased road use & investigation of route options;
• Safety issues regarding children crossing dual carriageway when cycling and walking to school;
• Questions relating to the need for the scheme and sustainability of road transport;
• Impact on Annaduff NS and proposed extension to playing fields.
• Consideration of cultural heritage sites.
• Need for scheme east of Carrick on Shannon Bypass (Section 2)
• Loss of vegetative screening.
Appendix 19.1

Public Consultation Brochure and Questionnaire
Scheme Objectives

The N4 runs through Carrick-on-Shannon Corridor and provides access to the Midlands, West and North west regions from Dublin. It is recognised as being of particular importance in opening up some of the most peripheral areas in Leitrim and west of the Shannon.

The high traffic flow on the N4 together with sections of poor alignment, the 2 lane cross-section and frequent junctions with local roads and frontage access has resulted in a high number of accidents.

Being a national primary route and part of the strategic programme, significant lengths of the N4 have been improved/upgraded to dual carriageway cross-section over the past several years. With these upgrades, especially the opening of N4 Drumond Roskey Bypass, the study section has now become a bottleneck for traffic passing through Carrick-on-Shannon Corridor.

The fundamental objective of the scheme is, therefore, to provide a high quality link along the section of the N4.

It is proposed that the N4 be upgraded to a Type 2 Dual Carriageway along the retrofit sections, as illustrated below, providing two lanes in each direction with a central segregating barrier. All right turn movements directly off the dual carriageway would be eliminated and provided for by the introduction of grade separation systems and restricted left in an out arrangements. This type of Dual Carriageway would be a continuation of the N4 Drumond Roskey Bypass. Further study is required to determine the cross sections of the bypass.

Your Comments Are Important

This Public Information Leaflet along with drawings of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor will be on display at the following locations from Thursday 18th March to Friday 19th April 2010:

- Leitrim County Council Office, An Cheathrú, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
- Roscommon County Council Area Office, The Crescent, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

Please comment by completing the enclosed questionnaire and returning it by Friday 16th April 2010 10.

Project Engineer, N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project, Leitrim County Council Park Lane House Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim Phone: 071 983005 Email: sng@leitrimcoco.ie

What Happens Next

Following the Public Consultation period, an analysis of all views expressed and submissions received on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor will be undertaken.

If the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is adopted by Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils, the route corridor will be reserved for road planning. Any planning applications located on any of the other route options, that were previously deferred, will be released to progress through the planning process.

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor will be further developed into a preliminary design and adopted within the Environmental Impact Statement. The Statutory Order and the Environmental Impact Statement will be published prior to an Oral Hearing into the process to be conducted by An Bord Pleanála.

Further Information

For further information or updates on the progress of the project please refer to the websites below:

www.transport21.ie
www.csc.ie

N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project
Public Consultation No. 3
Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

March 2010

The purpose of this third public consultation is to inform the public of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and to seek formal submissions in respect of the proposals. A public meeting is scheduled with the information leaflet to assist you in making comments. All submissions will be recorded and considered during the development of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and we welcome the preliminary design of the proposed road development.
Background to the Project

Laois/Offaly County Council in conjunction with Roscommon County Council has commenced the planning process to advance the development of the N4 National Primary Route and associated infrastructure from west of Carrick-on-Shannon to the boundary of County Longford. The objective of the project is to provide a safe and efficient route to support the economic and social development of the area.

The scheme comprises the improvement of approximately 12km of existing N4 National Primary Route and includes a bypass of Carrick-on-Shannon and a new river Shannon crossing.

Public Consultation No. 1 Constraints Study was undertaken during May/June 2009 by means of an information sheet in the local newspapers. Public Information sessions were held in the area to discuss the project at nine locations in Laois/Offaly County Council and eight in Roscommon County Council Administrative Areas.

Public Consultation No. 2 Route Corridor Options was undertaken during September/October 2009 and consisted of two days of attended public exhibitions in Carrick-on-Shannon and at the Laois/Offaly Hotel. The site was then visited by the duty officers being available for inspection for those interested. Some information was also made available in Roscommon County Council offices in Roscommon Town.

These route corridor options, together with the feedback received from the public, have been carefully assessed and the Master Planning Document is being finalised with a view to commencing this project in the near future.

Need for the Scheme

The National Primary Route N4 Dublin to Sligo is a strategic corridor from Dublin to the northwest and border counties. The National Roads Needs Study (NRS) [2004] identifies the national corridor of the East West Corridor as an important regional route through Laois/Offaly/Longford. The route has a significant economic importance.

The National Spatial Strategy provides for the development of this route as part of the National Strategic Network Development Plan. The Sligo to Longford section of the route is included in the National Development Plan.

The Sligo to Longford section of the route has been identified as a strategic regional road and forms part of the National Transport Network. The need is to provide a high quality link between Sligo and Dublin. The NRS [2004] identifies a need for a new route from Sligo to Dublin in the medium term.

Public Consultation No. 3

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

1. THE EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS A RESULT OF FURTHER RASTERISATIONS INCLUDING URBAN/RURAL, LAND- USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS TOGETHER WITH REVIEW OF LOCAL SENSITIVITY AND ACCOMMODATION ISSUES.

3. MAPS ON DISPLAY: AN EXTRAORDINARY SURVEY OF IRELAND MAPPING BY PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT CROWN NUMBERS 1891/0/526926/185/10 AND 2000/0/0255/526926/185/10

NOTES:

- 1.1.3. THE EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS A RESULT OF FURTHER RASTERISATIONS INCLUDING URBAN/RURAL, LAND- USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS TOGETHER WITH REVIEW OF LOCAL SENSITIVITY AND ACCOMMODATION ISSUES.

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We greatly appreciate your views on the proposed scheme and any additional information you would like considered in the development of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Please complete this form and return it to the undersigned before Friday 13th August 2010:

Project Liaison Engineer,
N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project,
Leitrim County Council, Áras an Chontae,
Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
Phone: 071 9620005; Email: srynn@leitrimcoco.ie

Name
______________________________________________________________________

Address
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Telephone
E-mail
______________________________________________________________________

1. Do you own, rent or occupy property affected by the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor?
   Own     Rent     Occupy
If so townland of property: _______________________________________________________

2. Description of Property
   Residential     Farm     Commercial     Other

3. Do you agree in principle with the proposed scheme?
   Yes     No     Unsure
Reasons: ____________________________________________________________________

4. Would you be a regular user of the proposed scheme?
   Yes     No

Further Comment / Which Sections:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
5. Are there any areas or features you believe should be considered in the development of the Emerging preferred Route Corridor?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

6. What do you regard as the main advantages/disadvantages of the proposed scheme?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

7. Are there specific issues you feel should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement:

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

8. Please provide any other views or opinions.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
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____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Continue on a separate sheet if required.