Chapter 6  Public Consultation No.2

6.1 Introduction

Public Consultation No. 2 was undertaken between September 2009 and October 2009 with the public consultation exhibitions being held on the 9th and 10th of September 2009 in the Landmark Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon. The objectives of the consultation were to:

- Present the route corridor options to the public;
- Inform the public of the process and programme for the project;
- Invite submissions on these route corridor options; and
- Gather local information, which may not be known to the design team.

This chapter records the consultation process and presents an analysis of the responses received.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 Publicity

A publicity campaign was undertaken by Leitrim County Council prior to the consultation. The consultation was advertised in the following papers (See Appendix 6.1):

- The Roscommon Herald on 1st September 2009; and
- The Leitrim Observer on 4th September 2009.

Advertisements were also broadcast on Mid-West radio from 4th September 2009 to 10th September 2009.

6.2.2 Public Exhibition

As stated above the public exhibition was held in the Landmark Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon on the 9th and 10th of September 2009 from 2pm to 9pm each evening. Prior to the public exhibition a preview was held for the locally elected representatives on two separate occasions.

The displays consisted of background information on the scheme, the project programme and the Route Corridor Options on Discovery Series and Aerial Photographic mapping. Aerial photography with the Route Corridors displayed was also available at larger scale and these drawings were used to collect land ownership information from affected landowners. The Draft Constraints Study Report was also available for inspection at the exhibition. These displays were attended by members of Leitrim County Council, Roscommon NRDO and Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers.

Following the exhibitions, the exhibition material was put on display at the Leitrim County Council Offices in Carrick-on-Shannon from 11th September to 8th October 2009. A set of large scale drawings showing the route corridor options were on display at Boyle Area Office for the same period. These displays were available for inspection, but not attended by the project team.
6.2.3 Attendance

A total of 112 people attended the consultation exhibitions over the two days. The highest number (62) attended on the second evening 10\textsuperscript{th} September with 50 attending on the 9\textsuperscript{th} September. All attendees were asked for their name and address as they entered the venue and were handed the information brochure and questionnaire. The brochure and questionnaire are included in Appendix 6.1.
6.2.4 Feedback and Information

Throughout the consultation process the staff at the exhibitions endeavoured to obtain as much local information as possible. One of the key pieces of information gathered at the consultation was that of agricultural holdings, whereby boundaries were marked on the aerial photography and the landowner’s details were also recorded. The information gathered at the consultation was reviewed and distributed to the relevant specialist or design team member.

6.2.5 Questionnaire Responses and Submissions

The closing date for receipt of submissions was 8th October 2008. However all submissions received were recorded and taken into consideration if possible. A total of 133 responses were received. A small number of the responses received were accompanied by letters and further information. Of these 133 responses, not all included completed questionnaires while some included individual letters and submissions from action groups.

6.3 Analysis of Responses

All individual submissions received were evaluated and the information they contained was recorded. Where letters were received without questionnaires the details were recorded including all comments made.

As stated above, while 133 responses were received not all questions were answered by all respondents, so the results have been calculated on the basis of the numbers of answers to each question.

As shown in Table 6.1 below the majority of responses received were not in favour of the proposed development. However on closer analysis of the submissions a large proportion of the negative submissions state that the reasons for not being in favour of the scheme is that their property or landholding is affected by one or more route corridor options.

Table 6.1 Are you in Favour of the Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No Response</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(52%)</td>
<td>(40%)</td>
<td>(8%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6.2 Preferred Route Corridor or Combination of Route Corridors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>1.1</th>
<th>1.2</th>
<th>1.3</th>
<th>1.4</th>
<th>1.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 2</th>
<th>2.1</th>
<th>2.2</th>
<th>2.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Section 1, the results show a clear preference for a northern bypass of Carrick-on-Shannon with 81% of responses preferring Route Corridor Options 1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 over a southern bypass (1.4/1.5). Of the northern bypass options Route Corridor Option 1.2 was the preferred route corridor with 1.1 a close second and 1.3 which was the previously protected route for a Carrick-on-Shannon Bypass as third choice. In Section 2 all three options received a very similar number of votes with Route Corridor Option 2.3 just slightly ahead of eastern bypass of Aghamore (2.2) and Route Corridor Option 2.1 in third.

Responses were also received from the following groups or from individuals representing clubs:

- Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce
- Carrick Town FC
- Annaduff GFC
- Annaduff National School

A number of businesses also made submissions. At PC2 a meeting was held with representatives of Shannon Gaels GFC although no separate submission was received.
Appendix 6.1

Newspaper Advertisement

Public Consultation Brochure and Questionnaire
N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project
Route Corridor Options Public Exhibition

Leitrim County Council in conjunction with Roscommon County Council and National Roads Authority (NRA) would welcome your comments in relation to the route corridor options under consideration for the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project.

Information on feasible route corridors will be on display at the locations below, where staff from Leitrim County Council, Roscommon NRDO and Roughan & O’Donovan Consulting Engineers will be available to answer questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrick-on-Shannon</td>
<td>The Landmark Hotel Carrick-on-Shannon Co. Leitrim</td>
<td>Wednesday 9th September 2009 &amp; Thursday 10th September 2009</td>
<td>2:00 pm to 9:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Route Selection Public Information Leaflet along with the above information will be on display at the following locations from Friday 11th September 2009 to Thursday 8th October 2009:

- Leitrim County Council Offices, Áras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim;

All interested groups or individuals are invited to attend the exhibition.

Also submissions and observations, in writing, are invited from interested groups or individuals regarding the route corridor options. All submissions should be clearly endorsed with the project’s name, N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project, and sent to the Project Liaison Engineer at the address given below, on or before Thursday 8th October 2009.

For further information contact:

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

**John McGuinness,**
Director of Services, Infrastructure,
Leitrim County Council, Park Lane House,
Áras an Chontae,
Carrick on Shannon,
Co. Leitrim

*This project is funded by the Irish Government under The National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2013 and part financed by the European Union.*
Scheme Objectives

The N4 runs through Carrick-on-Shannon / Cortober 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 flows on the N4 together with sections of poor alignment, 3 lane cross-section and frequent junctions with local road 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 Dromod Road Bypass, this study section has become a bottleneck for traffic passing through Carrick-on-Shannon.

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

Programme of Public Consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Consultations</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constraints Stage (PC1)</td>
<td>May/June 2009</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route Selection Stage (PC2)</td>
<td>September 2009</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Preferred Route (PC3)</td>
<td>November/December 2009</td>
<td>To be arranged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further Information

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

www.leitrimcoco.ie/Eng/Services_A-Z/Routes/National_Primary_Roads/

September 2009

Public Consultation No. 2 – Route Corridor Options

The purpose of the public consultation is to inform the public of the route corridor options under consideration and, in turn, to obtain the views of the public on any aspect of the proposals. A questionnaire is included with this information leaflet to assist you in making comment. All submissions will be recorded and considered during the Route Selection Study.
N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project

Section 1

Route Option 1.1
Route Option 1.1 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Route Option 1.2
Route Option 1.2 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Route Option 1.3
Route Option 1.3 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Route Option 1.4
Route Option 1.4 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Section 2

Route Option 2.1
Route Option 2.1 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Section 3

Route Option 3.1
Route Option 3.1 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Route Option 3.2
Route Option 3.2 follows the alignment of the existing Shannon Bypass and the townland of Clonfad before continuing along the existing route to the new Rooskey interchange.

Legend
- Section Key
- Constructive Study Area Outline

Notes:
1. Route corridors are shown in red. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
2. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
3. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
4. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
5. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
6. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
7. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
8. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
9. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.
10. Green corridors are shown in green. Green corridors will be developed as a green corridor.

Background to the Project
Leitrim 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 east of Carrick-on-Shannon/Knocknacragh in the townland of Oughteragh, Co-Roscommon to the northern terminus of the recently completed N4 Dromod Rooskey Bypass in the township of Faulty Co. Leitrim.

The scheme will comprise the improvement of approximately 18.5km of existing N4 National Primary Route and will include a bypass of Carrick-on-Shannon/Nearby and a new river Shannon crossing.

The planning stages of the project involve:
- The identification of a number of route options from which a preferred route will be selected;
- Environmental studies leading to the publication of an Environmental Impact Statement; and
- Completion of the statutory planning process including the publication of a Competency Purchase Order.

Public Consultation No. 1 was undertaken during May/June 2009 by means of an advertisement in the local newspaper. Public information kits were made available to the public at two locations: Leitrim County Council offices in Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon County Council offices in Boyle.

A Constraints Study has been completed which has identified areas unsuitable for locating the proposed road. This has assisted the design team in identifying a number of feasible route options. These route options are presented overleaf.

Need for the Scheme
The National Primary Route N4, Dublin to Sligo is a strategic corridor from Dublin to the northeast and border counties. The National Roads Needs Study (NRNS) in 1998 identified it as part of the East-West corridor from Dublin to the northwest and a bypass of Carrick-on-Shannon was recommended in the Phase 2 needs. The National Spatial Strategy has since recognised the route as a Strategic National Corridor and investment in the N4 has been supported by subsequent National Development Plans.

The Carrick-on-Shannon Bypass is also part of Transport 21 as seen below in reference to the N4 Dublin to Sligo route:

"This road is intended to provide a high quality link between Sligo and Dublin. Further improvements currently in planning stage include a bypass of Carrick-on-Shannon..."
N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Road Project Public Consultation No. 2 Questionnaire

We greatly appreciate your views on the proposed scheme and any additional information you would like considered in the selection of an emerging preferred route.

Please complete this form and return it to the undersigned before Thursday 08th October 2009:

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

Name
______________________________________________________________________

Home Address
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Telephone
______________________________________________________________________

1. Do you own, rent or occupy property within the study area?
Own    ☐    Rent    ☐    None of these    ☐
If so address of property: ___________________________________________________

2. Which Route Corridor affects you?: ________________________________

3. Are you in favour of the proposed scheme?
Yes    ☐    No    ☐
Reasons: __________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

4. Would you be a regular user of the proposed scheme?
Yes    ☐    No    ☐
Further Comment
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. Are there any areas or features you believe should be avoided in the selection of the preferred route?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

transport21
progress in motion
Department of Transport
NRA
NDP
Roughan & O’Donovan
Europ
6. What do you regard as the main advantages/disadvantages of the proposed scheme?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

7. In your opinion, how important in relation to this project are the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Least Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in traffic conditions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in road safety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact upon the community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Best value for money</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Effect on agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effect on business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effect on tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation of archaeology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of flora and fauna</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact on landscape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:…</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Indicate your Preferred Route Corridor or Combination of Route Corridors? ________________

Reasons: ____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

9. Please give comments on any one or more of the sections of route corridors within the study area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of Study Area</th>
<th>Route Corridors (e.g. 1.1, 2.1, etc.)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Please provide any other views or opinions.
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Continue on a separate sheet if required.