



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

Our Ref: 0073_07_00079

30th September 2020

Mr Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

**RE: FOYNES TO LIMERICK ROAD (INCLUDING ADARE BYPASS)
FURTHER INFORMATION REQUEST REF: ABP-306146-19**

Dear Mr Somers

I refer to the further information request from An Bord Pleanála, in respect of ABP-306146-19, dated 15th July 2020.

I wish to thank the Board for the opportunity to respond to the items raised in the correspondence, and for affording the team the necessary time to prepare a comprehensive reply to each of the fifteen items raised therein. In this regard, I attach document reference number 14.131 RFI prepared by our consultant team led by Roughan & O'Donovan-AECOM, which provides a detailed response to all matters raised.

The provision of a high quality road to serve the Tier 1 Port of Foynes is a key priority, not just for Limerick City and County Council, but also for the entire Region and Country and is an objective and obligation under the TEN-T (Trans European Transport Network – Transport) Core Network. The proposed development will also provide a much-needed bypass for the village of Adare and a necklace of four other villages situated along the N69. The village of Adare, chosen to host the Ryder Cup golf competition in 2027, is a notorious traffic bottleneck and is subject to very significant traffic delays on a daily basis. This long overdue bypass will remove congestion and greatly enhance the quality of life of this popular heritage village and of the other affected villages along the N69.

Furthermore, the proposed development provides for a single combined 35Km long route comprising part of both the TENT Core and Comprehensive networks, compared to two separate routes having an aggregate length of approximately 57km. The combined route was initially proposed to avoid a proliferation of local environmental constraints but also has the added benefits of requiring fewer materials and being much more carbon efficient.

As set out in various sections in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, we would remind the Board that the proposed development delivers many benefits including that it:

- meets the requirements of the EU Regulations relating to the TEN-T Network which will improve the integration of Ireland with the rest of the European Union;
- supports the Tier 1 status of Shannon – Foynes Port and provides an efficient and safe transport link to the national road network at Limerick;
- supports the integration objectives set out in European, National, Regional and Local Planning policies;
- provides a key transport link to achieve balanced regional development and supports the economic development of the wider region;
- supports the economic development of the Shannon Estuary and its resources and contributes to the realisation of the potential of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area;
- improves the quality of life of affected village communities along the existing N21 & N69 through reduced congestion and reduced exposure to noise and air pollution;
- provides safer road connections along the routes from Limerick to Kerry and to Shannon-Foynes Port with corresponding reductions in fatalities and serious life altering injuries;
- improves journey times and journey time reliability on the two TEN-T road network routes west of Limerick which will benefit the human population at a local, regional and national level and will also contribute to enhanced public transport services; and
- improves journey amenity for regional traffic and all modes of local traffic including cycling and walking through reduced traffic volumes, particularly HGV's, on existing roads.

We trust that the enclosed response document satisfactorily addresses the Board's Further Information request but should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Your sincerely



TIM FITZGERALD
SENIOR ENGINEER
LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Encl.