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Department of Transport



# N17 ATLANTIC ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

## KNOCK TO COLLOONEY

### [PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO. 03]:

### Public Information Note



Report By:



To enhance regional accessibility, connectivity and safety between key centres of economy and population along the linear region of the Atlantic Economic Corridor



[Sligo National Roads Project Office]





## **Phase 2, Stage 2; The Refinement of Feasible**

### **Options**

The following Public Information Note has been prepared to provide a brief update on progress since Public Consultation No. 02 which concluded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 and which related to the ‘Feasible Options’.

For clarity within this note: The initial **Feasible Options** represent an initial Long List of Options; and, the **refined Feasible Options** represent a Short List of Options which have been established following a Preliminary Options Assessment.

**A complete overview of the options selection process will be presented in a comprehensive Options Selection Report which will be published at the end of this phase, i.e. once a Preferred Option has been established.**

### **Introduction**

The N17 Knock to Collooney [Atlantic Economic Corridor] Project is currently at Phase 2 (Options Selection) of Transport Infrastructure Ireland’s (TII) Project Management Guidelines. The purpose of Phase 2 is to examine alternative options in order to determine a preferred option.

The Communication’s section at the end of this note will provide the public with specific details as to:

- ✓ How information can be obtained;
- ✓ How the project team can be contacted; and
- ✓ How feedback can be provided to the Road Authority.

The project specific website is being used as the **main platform to communicate information & updates to the public. This can be accessed through [www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie).**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> display of Information to the public; the last display related to the previous publication of the ‘Feasible Options’ and the Public Consultation which followed.

### **Useful Links**

The following is a very brief overview of the publicly available information on the various pages of the [www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie) website:

#### HOME Page

- ❖ Progress Updates will be published here. An overview of the Study Area is also provided.

#### CURRENT STAGE

- ❖ Provides a broad outline of what Phase 2, Options Selection entails;

#### NEWS, PUBLICATION & SUBMISSIONS

- ❖ All Press Release’s;
- ❖ All publicly available information;
- ❖ Details of how to make submissions;

#### COMMUNICATION & CONTACT US

- ❖ Information is provided on the best way to contact and engage with the Project Team.

### **What has happened since Public Consultation No. 02?**

In very simple terms, following a ‘Preliminary Options Assessment’; the ‘Feasible Options’ have been shortlisted to a smaller number of options, which are now referred to as the ‘**refined Feasible Options**’. The project team have established that these options have better capacity to achieve the project objectives than those options which have not made it to the short list.

### **The Preliminary Options Assessment**

Preliminary Options Assessment was conducted on the ‘Feasible Options’; the analysis was conducted under 3 main headings of **Engineering, Economy** and



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**Environment.** These headings were further subdivided under a wide range of specific disciplines which included: Transport, Safety, General Engineering, Aeronautical, Economics, Socio-Economics & Population, Air Quality, Climate Change, Noise & Vibration, Biodiversity, Property, Agriculture, Landscape & Visual, Archaeology, Architecture & Cultural Heritage, Hydrology & Hydrogeology, Soils & Geology, etc. These studies were conducted by 13 different expert teams; collaboration formed an important component of the assessment process and was facilitated in principal by 22 different workshop days (in addition to a range of other meetings).

### **Iterative Design**

Opportunities were established to optimise and improve certain options, this has resulted in minor variations to some initial Feasible Options and the creation of some new additional amalgamated options.

### **Corridors & Detail**

The corridors at this stage are 500 meters wide; this is much wider than what will be required for the final project form but provides the necessary scope to move and amend the design as the process evolves. This corridor will be narrowed down, once a preferred option is established and the project has moved through the next more detailed phase of design and environmental evaluation (2022 & 2023) which will also further examine aspects such as modal opportunities, geometry, junctions, road type, access requirements, ancillary infrastructure etc.

## **Have the project extents been confirmed?**

### **‘Knock’ to ‘Ireland West Airport’**

Between Knock and Ireland West Airport there is a likelihood that the existing network could offer some

upgrade potential. In this respect, more detailed analysis is required on this section prior to confirming the project extents to the south and the likely timing of intervention required. This additional analysis may include for example:

- Further examination of traffic projections (and patterns) arising out of the future expansion of Ireland West Airport; and
- Safety issues arising from the proliferation of direct accesses along this section.

A range of online upgrade scenarios will continue to be considered for this southern section, these include:

- (1) Do-Minimum Option;** Such as minor maintenance improvements constituting for example: sightline improvements, road marking, road signage, drainage, etc.;
- (2) Traffic Management Option:** Such as targeted safety measures including for example the grouping together (via parallel links) of existing direct accesses.

This may also extend in places to a more extensive online upgrade option; such as the consideration of lane segregation and compact grade separated junctions at key locations.

This is also in addition to a number of offline options which remain as refined Feasible Options.

### **‘Ireland West Airport’ to ‘Collooney’**

In terms of the necessary upgrade required, it has been established that there is a conclusive need for a full-scale intervention (predominately offline improvement) between Ireland West Airport and Collooney (with the existing alignment to be utilised as much as possible between Cloonacurra townland and Collooney).



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## Road Type

The road type **has not yet been formally confirmed**; however, at this stage, based on the current traffic projections it has been deemed appropriate to apply the design principles more in line with a Type 2 Dual Carriageway than a Standard Single Carriageway. This is particularly appropriate for that section occurring between Ireland West Airport and Collooney. It is unlikely that the road type will be fully confirmed until the end of Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation); further analysis will be undertaken on the selected preferred option following the completion of this Phase (Options Selection).

Some benefits of the Type 2 Dual Carriageway, over a Standard Single Carriageway (with hard shoulders) is that for a minor increase in road width it provides:

- Significant additional safety benefits (via lane segregation);
- Greater overtaking opportunity; and,
- Greater flexibility to move and bend the alignment in both the horizontal and vertical plane.

A Type 2 Dual Carriageway is not a traditional Dual Carriageway, but one which has been actively introduced to Ireland over the course of the past circa 15-20 years and which is derived from similar road types in Scandinavian countries. The sample photo which follows, is taken from the newly constructed N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Development.

**Figure 1: Sample Cross Section photo from N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Development**



## Public Consultation Submissions

Initial ‘Feasible Options’ were released for public information on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2020; a non-statutory public consultation period extended from this date to the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In total 500 submissions were received during this period; each submission was reviewed in detail and where certain aspects were deemed to be relevant to a certain discipline (e.g. Community, Agricultural, Property, Biodiversity, Water, etc.) these were specifically referred to each of the relevant experts undertaking the options assessment.

The professional judgement of the various experts has been applied to determine whether aspects of the submissions would influence the assessment process; where deemed appropriate this has been factored into the comparison process.

Although it is not possible to respond to each submission individually, a generic response document identifying common themes has been prepared and will be made available as part of this public consultation process (to be published on [www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie)).



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## What Happens Next?

The refined Feasible Options, together with new localised amalgamated versions will progress to a more detailed appraisal (Project Appraisal) to be conducted under the 6 headings of: **Economy, Safety, Accessibility & Social Inclusion, Integration (Policy), Environment, and Physical Activity**. These headings will also be subdivided into a range of sub-disciplines similar to those described for the Preliminary Options Assessment.

## Timelines

Subject to the successful completion of certain onsite activities (e.g. Site Investigation and additional surveys relating to Biodiversity etc.), it is hoped that a preferred option may be established towards the end of 2021; however, certain procedures are required to take place prior to its confirmation and release for public information. This includes for example a Peer Review process with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

In this respect, it is more likely that the preferred option will be displayed for public information (and Public Consultation) towards the beginning of March 2022; the more detailed design and environmental evaluation process (Phase 3) will then commence with a view to seeking various approvals and statutory consent. Updates on progress will be broadcast on the website and through the e-mailing list.

## Communication & Information: What's different from Public Consultation No. 02?

The following are some key changes with regard to Communication and Information for this stage of the Options Selection process:

- Electronic communication (by way of an update) will issue to all individuals who have contacted the Sligo Project Office during Public Consultation Number 02;
- The Sligo Project Office will write to every property registered within the corridors of the refined Feasible Options. This communication will be in the form of a postal advice note;
- It should be noted that the website ([www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie)) will still provide all available information on the process and on the options developed;
- For those who cannot access digital information; paper maps and other information will be provided at the following collection points:
  - Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, The Mall Castlebar, Co. Mayo F23 WF90;
  - Mayo County Council, Claremorris Area Office, Kilcolman Rd, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, F12 P383;
  - Sligo County Council County Hall, Riverside Sligo, Ireland F91 Y763;
  - Sligo County Council, Teach Laigne, Humbert Street, Tobercurry, Co Sligo. Ireland, F91 Y328.

**Prior to collection taking place contact should be made with the Project Office at 071 91 11990. Please also note that it is not possible to post maps at this time.**

## Communication

The following is the mechanism for the various communication channels which will be available during the Public Consultation period and beyond.

**Telephone Call Back:** Scheduled between 9.30am to 4.30pm on:

- **Wednesday** the 25<sup>th</sup> & **Friday** the 27<sup>th</sup> August;
- **Monday** the 30<sup>th</sup> August, **Wednesday** the 01<sup>st</sup> September & **Friday** the 03<sup>rd</sup> September;



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- **Every Monday & Thursday from the 06<sup>th</sup> of September.**

**APPOINTMENT THROUGH: Online Booking Form:**  
([www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie)), or Phone to: 071 91 11990 (Maximum 15-minute slots)

**Group Meetings:** Available on request and scheduled subject to availability. Meetings will take place using Web Facilities where possible. Physical Meetings will be accommodated where necessary.

Group attendees will strictly be limited to a maximum of 3 individuals per group.

Physical meetings will also be restricted to a maximum of 3 people per group, reduced as appropriate to comply with COVID-19 guidance which may be current at any particular time.

**Email to:** [n17knockcollooney@sligococo.ie](mailto:n17knockcollooney@sligococo.ie), or **Phone to:** 071 91 11990 (30-minute Slots)

**Hotel Display:** For those unable to utilise the foregoing; or, for those who specifically wish to meet with the project team, 2 no. dates have been arranged where the design team will be available to further discuss the process and options (**please note that pre-booking is essential for these meetings**). These include:

**Mc William Park Hotel (Claremorris, Co. Mayo):** Available between 1pm and 7pm on:

- **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September;**

**Sligo Park Hotel (Pearse Road, Sligo):** Available between 1pm and 7pm on:

- **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

These events will be carried out in strict accordance with COVID-19 Government Guidelines. \*Due to COVID-19 restrictions which continue to apply, **please consult the website** ([www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie))

**prior to the Hotel Display's** as these dates may change in accordance with Government health advice prevalent at that time (the wearing of face masks will be mandatory)\*.

**Booking only available from the 06<sup>th</sup> of September through: Phone to: 071 91 11990 (20-minute Slots).**

**Planning Queries:**

**Email to:** [n17knockcollooney@sligococo.ie](mailto:n17knockcollooney@sligococo.ie), or

**Phone to: 071 91 11990**

**How to Make a Submission:**

- (1) All Submissions already made during Public Consultation No. 02 have been retained and will be reviewed once again during the Stage 2 appraisal which will now occur on the 'refined Feasible Options';

**Further submissions may also be made through the following channels:**

- (2) A comments sheet is available for completion on the project website: [www.n17knockcollooney.ie](http://www.n17knockcollooney.ie); Comments/Submissions can also be issued via email to: [n17knockcollooney@sligococo.ie](mailto:n17knockcollooney@sligococo.ie) or By postage to:

**FREPOST**, The 'N17 Knock to Collooney [AEC] Public Consultation No. 03', TII Project Office, Sligo County Council, Market Yard, Sligo, F91WV7R

Submissions should be made before **5pm on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.**

**Sligo County Council would like to thank you for your valuable contributions to the project thus far and the project team look forward to engaging with you further as this project progresses.**



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