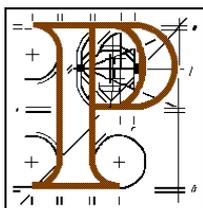


An Bord Pleanála



Inspector's Report.

Case Ref. No:	03. PC0194
Issue:	SID Pre-application – whether project is or is not strategic infrastructure development.
Proposed Development:	Proposed extension of covered pedestrian walkway and diversion and reinstatement of footpaths.
Location:	Shannon Airport, Rineanna South Shannon, Co Clare.
Applicants:	Shannon Airport Authority Ltd.
Planning Authority:	Clare County Council.
Inspector:	Philip Green.

1.0 Proposed Development.

1.1 Shannon Airport Authority proposes to construct the following:

- **Covered walkway:** Proposed to extend a covered pedestrian walkway on the footpath in front of the airport terminal building and beside the public traffic set down area for a distance of approx. 61 metres. This will provide protection for passengers from the weather.
- **Diversion and reinstatement of footpaths:** Due to above it will be necessary to alter and reinstate a number of footpaths in and around the covered walkway including minor landscaping works.

1.2 Site location, site layout, plans and elevations and perspective drawings for the above are submitted with the request.

2.0 Applicant's case.

2.1 Although passenger numbers are below the two million instances of passenger use per annum the Airport is advised by local authority that it is the capacity capability that is relevant (up to 4.5 million terminal passengers). The Airport therefore is a facility as defined in the Act and is required to enter into pre application discussions.

2.2 Development required in the interests of public safety, enhancing airport security and providing better customer experience. Many airports worldwide have had to curtail access to roads in front of terminal buildings for security and public safety reasons and to deter indiscriminate parking leading to congestion.

2.3 No new critical infrastructure is proposed. The proposed development comprises operational efficiencies to airport infrastructure that is already in existence. It is not considered that these operational efficiencies would in isolation be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or region or contribute substantially to the fulfilment of objectives in the National Spatial Strategy, Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 or the Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.

2.4 In isolation the proposed development will not have a significant effect on more than one planning authority.

2.5 Consultation made under provisions of s. 37(B) of the Act. It is not considered that any new critical infrastructure will be provided as part of the proposed development and the proposed development would comprise operational efficiencies to existing infrastructure.

3.0 Legal Provisions.

- 3.1** Of relevance is the following class of development in the Seventh Schedule inserted into the Planning and Development Act 2000 by section 5 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006:

Transport Infrastructure

2. Development comprising or for the purposes of any of the following:

An airport (with not less than 2 million instances of passenger use per annum) or any runway, taxiway, pier, car park, terminal or other facility or installation related to it (whether as regards passenger traffic or cargo traffic).

- 3.2** Section 37A(1) says that an application for permission for any development specified in the Seventh Schedule shall, if the following condition is satisfied, be made to the Board under section 37E and not to a planning authority. Section 37A (2) says

That condition is that, following consultation under section 37B, the Board serves on the prospective applicant a notice in writing that, in the opinion of the Board, the proposed development would, if carried out, fall within one or more of the following paragraphs, namely –

- (a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,*
- (b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Spatial Strategy or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which the development would be situate,*
- (c) the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.*

4.0 Assessment.

- 4.1** I refer the Board to previous cases at Shannon including cases 03. PC144, 03.PC0160, 03.PC0163 and 03.PC0164, 03. PC0167, 03. PC0173, 03. PC0183 and 03. PC0193. In all those pre application consultation cases despite falling passenger numbers it was accepted by the Board that Shannon Airport would constitute an airport for the purposes of definition under the Seventh Schedule.
- 4.2** I consider that the minor works proposed and described can be classified as developments comprising or for the purposes of a facility or installation associated with an airport with not less than 2 million instances of passenger use per annum. The relatively small-scale nature and extent of the proposed developments would facilitate the

overall efficiency and functioning of the airport facility. I do not however consider that the proposed developments would satisfy any of the conditions contained in section 37A (2) (a), (b) or (c) of the Act. Therefore I conclude that this proposed development does not constitute a strategic infrastructure development.

5.0 Recommendation.

- 5.1** I recommend that the Shannon Airport Authority Ltd. be informed that the proposed development at Shannon Airport consisting of the proposed extension of covered pedestrian walkway and diversion and reinstatement of footpaths as described on the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanala on 9th February 2015 does not fall within one or more of the paragraphs specified in the condition contained in section 37A (2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and consequently does not constitute strategic infrastructure development. A planning application should be made in the first instance to Clare County Council.

Philip Green,
Assistant Director of Planning.
20th February 2015