

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of Meeting
ABP-307462-20

Case Reference / Description	Ten-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal which improves vital improvements to three sections of the National Road Network - Section 1: N13/N15 Ballybofey Stranorlar Bypass, Section 2: N13/N14/N56 Letterkenny Bypass and Dual Carriageway to Manorcunningham, Section 3: N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	7 th Meeting		
Date	09/12/25	Start Time	10:00 a.m.
Location	Virtually by Microsoft Teams	End Time	10:50 a.m.

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála		
Staff Members		
Ciara Kellett, Director of Planning (Chair)		
Stephen Rhys Thomas, (Reporting Inspector)		
Finbarr Quigley, Inspectorate		
Maeve Flynn, Inspectorate		
Aisling Reilly, Executive Officer	a.reilly@pleanala.ie	01-8737131
Breda Ingle, Executive Officer	breda.ingle@pleanala.ie	01-8737291
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Damian McDermott – Senior Engineer – Donegal County Council		
Áine McHugh – Senior Executive Engineer – Donegal County Council		
Brien Reid – Land Liaison Manager – Senior Executive Engineer – Donegal County Council		

Rodney Irwin – Executive Engineer – Donegal County Council
Graham Diamond – A/Senior Executive Planner – Donegal County Council
John McFeely – Executive Engineer – Donegal County Council
Patrick Duffy – Executive Engineer – Donegal County Council
Gareth McElhinney – Environmental Project Manager – RPS Egis
Eamon Cox – Project Manager - RPS Egis
Eamon Daly – Project Manager – RPS Egis

Introduction

- This was the seventh pre-application consultation meeting for the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal. The meeting provided project updates, technical clarifications, and briefed the Commission’s representatives on changes since the last meeting in July, 2025.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant

- The prospective applicant requested minor amendments/additions to the Record of Meeting Number 6, and it was agreed these would be placed on the file.
- The prospective applicant also stated that the project was in its final stages; preparations for printing were underway with the aim of publication by the end of January 2026.

Discussion

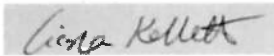
The following matters were discussed

- Public consultation scheduling was discussed, taking bank holidays and Easter into account, and there was consensus to close consultation just after Easter for optimal timing.
- Submission periods and the application lodgement process were discussed.
- Methods for accepting submissions and the submission fee were discussed - the submission fee would be €50, except for certain prescribed bodies, and that members of the public may lodge submissions via online portal, by hand, or by post.

- Transboundary consultation procedures were clarified. It was noted that the bridge crossing into Northern Ireland may be constructed separately, depending on the A5 project, and this was confirmed to be included in the documentation.
- MAC approval would be included in the documentation.
- Document delivery preferences for prescribed bodies were outlined.
- Post – publication procedures were discussed, including that an inspector or team of Inspectors would be appointed. Assessment procedures were noted as aiming to align with Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, although the project will likely proceed under the Planning and Development Act 2000 Act, as amended and the Roads Act.
- Further Information procedures if required were discussed.
- Environmental and technical compliance was discussed, including the submission process for NPWS Bat derogation licences (with reference numbers and links to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, along with ongoing monitoring of expiration dates). Emphasis was placed on robust engagement with prescribed bodies to prevent delays and on the need to fully address climate obligations and the Water Framework Directive within documentation.
- It was noted that the project area was not classified as a Gaeltacht area; however, the notices would be published in both English and Irish.
- It was noted that should the prospective applicant have any further administrative queries, these may be submitted to an Executive Officer in the SIDS/LAPS Section prior to lodging the formal application.
- It was also noted that draft public notices may be submitted to the SID/LAPS Section for review and comment in advance of the formal application being lodged.

Conclusion

- The onus is on the prospective applicant to request the formal closure of the pre-application consultation process.
- The Commission's representatives advised that the record of the meeting will issue shortly, and the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing.



Ciara Kellett

Director of Planning