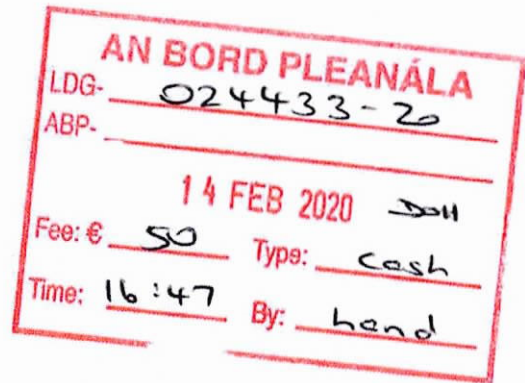


An Bord Pleanála  
Strategic Infrastructure Development Section  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

13 February 2020



**Ref: PL91.306146/PL91.306199 Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme (including Adare Bypass)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby wish to express Ibec's support for the Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme (including Adare Bypass) Planning Application.

Ibec is Ireland's largest lobby group, representing Irish business both domestically and internationally. We work with government and policymakers to shape business conditions and drive economic growth. To this end, Ibec's major campaign 'Better Lives Better Business' with a focus on delivering better quality of life, aims to make Ireland a better place to live and work. The delivery of critical infrastructure is a key pillar of the campaign.

Ibec is a national organisation with a very strong regional structure. The Ibec Mid-West Regional Executive Council (REC) comprises of senior leaders from businesses in the region. Members are from a broad range of sectors including tourism, food, other indigenous industries and leading FDI companies. The Ibec Mid-West Regional Executive Council (REC) is the representative voice of the wider Mid-West business community - small and large, indigenous and multinational.

The importance of upgrading the Foynes to Limerick Road (including the Adare Bypass) to the development of the Mid-West region has been previously highlighted in policy submissions by the Ibec Mid-West Regional Council, including to the National Planning Framework (NPF), the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

The Mid-West is a strong performing region for foreign direct investment. However, inadequate road infrastructure risks undermining the region's liveability and hence the ability of the region to attract and retain staff and compete for investment. If we want to continue to attract investment to Limerick and grow jobs and the regional economy, essential road upgrades such as the Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme (including Adare Bypass) must proceed without further delay.

Shannon Foynes Port is a Tier 1 Port of national significance under the National Ports Policy. This requires that the Port is served by a high-quality road, either a motorway or expressway. The N69 corridor is part of the TEN-T Core Network accessing the Tier 1 Shannon Foynes Port. However, the existing route does not meet TEN-T comprehensive network requirements. The infrastructure deficit is having a negative impact on the movement of people, goods and services in the wider Mid-West region. The proposed new road development would provide transport connectivity to a standard that fulfils the requirements of the TEN-T regulations.

In addition to providing high-quality access to Shannon-Foynes Port, the project will relieve major traffic congestion at Adare. Relief of the current major traffic congestion will reduce the journey times and significantly improve quality of life.

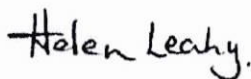
The scheme is included in Government's National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027. It will give effect to the overall economic and social aims of the National Planning Framework (NPF) - Project Ireland 2040 and support its implementation. It will provide key transportation links to support balanced regional development in line with national Government policy.

The project will lead to many direct and indirect benefits including increased commercial and business links (e.g. supply chains and cluster development), increased talent pool for businesses, effects on productivity, spatial pattern of economic development, more efficient and cost-effective movement of people and goods with safer and shorter journey times. It will also support the growth potential of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and the economic growth of the Shannon Estuary. Improved accessibility will also help future-proof the region from potential impacts of Brexit.

This is a key national infrastructure project and a key growth enabler for the region. It will facilitate the sustainable growth of tourism, employment and population in the region. The Ibec Mid-West Regional Executive Council fully supports the scheme.

We sincerely hope the application for planning will be looked upon favourably.

Yours faithfully,



Helen Leahy  
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Senior Regional Policy Executive  
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