

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
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D01 V902

20th December 2018
Ref: Galway City Ring Road

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
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American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
6 Wilton Place, Dublin 2, Ireland

www.amcham.ie

Dear Secretary,

The American Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Galway City Ring Road within the wider Galway City Transportation Plan which aims to encourage greater use of public transport, cycling and walking throughout the city. The American Chamber's priority is that Ireland remains a unique transatlantic trade and investment gateway and a location of choice for US inward investment. In Galway, US firms employ 15,000 people forming a strategic part of the region's medical technology, software and thriving digital clusters.

The American Chamber believes that the delivery of the Galway City Ring Road within a defined timeframe is a vital component in developing the city as a regional centre of scale for the West in which it is great to live and work in. The quality of physical connectivity in and around Galway is essential for retaining and attracting inward investment and employment. The city's transport infrastructure must enable east-west orbital linkages between residential, retail and industrial catchments, with connections to the social, cultural and emerging entrepreneurial heart of Galway's vibrant city centre.

The American Chamber is of the view that this a project of national significance. The development of Galway as laid out in the Protect Ireland 2040 plan will be restrained significantly without the provision of such key infrastructure as the Galway City Ring Road. Its delivery will have a positive impact on the quality of life for workers and citizens, reduce the cost of living and for supply chains, enhance balanced economic development of the entire city-region and widen the catchment area for accessing talent in the region for enterprises. In particular, the American Chamber supports the inclusion of high capacity direct access into the Parkmore Business Park, seeking to eliminate one of the greatest single source of commuter pain in the city. Although very welcome, recent mitigation measures have resulted in only marginal improvements to congestion hot spots.

Galway has the recognised potential to be a greater nexus of economic growth for Ireland offering a unique, and complimentary value proposition to Ireland's other urban centres of scale. To realise this potential, the American Chamber strongly supports the delivery of the Galway City Ring Road as part of the central architecture of the Galway City Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,



Mark Redmond
Chief Executive