



FAO: Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála

### **N6 Galway City Ring Road/Protected Road/Motorway Scheme**

On behalf of the committee I wish to submit an observation regarding the above scheme and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). I request that an oral hearing be held into the EIAR and the associated scheme. I enclose a postal order to cover the observation fee.

We have concerns in the following areas.

- Reasonable alternatives/the requirement for the road: Galway City is widely recognised as an example of planned or imposed car dependency. We question whether building a new road is correct as a main response to imposed car dependency. There are various ways by which car dependency might be addressed that are curiously and systematically absent in policies, plans and actions in Galway. We feel it might be useful to explore why little effort has been made to pursue these before proposing the new road.
- Traffic impacts: The current proposals suggest there will be increased traffic directed to use various roads in the city. We require assurances this is suitable and consistent with the proper function of these roads. In particular we are concerned that insufficient consideration has been given to the impact on areas with high numbers of vulnerable road users.
- Ring road function: On consideration of aspects of the proposed road design, we are unclear how the design is consistent with the stated purpose as a ring road.
- Junction treatments: On consideration of the junction treatments associated with proposed link roads we find features that are not consistent with best practice and are hostile to the safety of vulnerable roads users.
- Road geometry: We have concerns about the proposed road geometry in areas of the scheme
- Induced traffic: We find evidence that suggests the scheme as planned will act to induce growth in private motor traffic and require assurances on this point.

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- Walking and cycling: We feel the proposals themselves could do more to support walking and cycling rather than treat this as a separate issue.
  - Human impacts and community severance: We have concerns that the analysis of these issues in the EIAR is not complete. In particular the analysis on the impact of increased traffic on the safety of vulnerable road users travelling to nearby schools appears inadequate. We also believe that the proposed route places the health of schoolchildren proximal to the route at increased health risks. In terms of health inequality and community integrity, those who are closest to the road are likely to see the least benefit and suffer the greatest cost.
  - Urban sprawl: We note with concern the proposed expanded metropolitan foot print for Galway circulated by the North Western Regional Assembly (Attached). This suggests this road is intended and designed to support further unsustainable urban sprawl rather than support the sustainable development of Galway City. This would also undermine the ability of the proposed route to function as a ring road.

An oral hearing is the best way to explore these concerns and establish the correctness of the proposals being made by the applicant.

Yours Faithfully,

Shane Foran

*S.P. Shane Foran*