



Kilkenny
County
Council

CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL



NRA
National Roads Authority
An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta

For Release: Monday, 14th November 2005

Kilkenny and Carlow County Councils welcome decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission for southern section of new N9 / N10 High Quality Dual Carriageway

The decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission to the 64km southern section (Powerstown to Waterford) of the new N9 / N10 High Quality Dual Carriageway from Kilcullen to Waterford has today (Monday, 14th November) been welcomed by Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. It is expected that work on the construction of the new high quality dual carriageway will be completed by 2010.

Joe Gannon, Kilkenny County Council Project Co-ordinator, said that following on from the decision by An Bord Pleanála the next phase of the project will involve archaeological testing, resolution and the issue of tenders for the construction of the new inter-urban route.

“The decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission is a very welcome development and people in the South-East can be reassured that they will have a superior road infrastructure that will help to support employment in the Region by providing safer and faster access to national and international markets. Traffic congestion will be eased and road safety improved in towns and villages along the existing N9 and N10. In particular, Thomastown, Gowran, Paulstown, Stoneyford, Knocktopher, Ballyhale, and Mullinavat will see a dramatic decrease in non-local through traffic when the road is completed.”

The 64km route will have six new grade separated junctions and a total 87 bridges. In February 2005, the County Councils jointly published an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project, which identifies a number of measures to minimise disruption during the construction stage and mitigate any adverse effects of the scheme on the environment. The decision by An Bord Pleanála to approve the road proposal follows an Oral Hearing of approx 8 days in June 2005, which considered the EIS and CPO and issues and observations raised by third parties.

The new inter-urban route is one of the major interurban routes identified for improvement in the National Development Plan and also features in the Transport 21 investment plan recently published by the Department of Transport. The new route will be built to a high-quality dual carriageway standard and it will carry much of the long distance traffic and heavy goods vehicles using the existing Dublin-Waterford route. This will substantially reduce congestion, noise and traffic pollution and will improve road safety, travel times and air quality.

Mr Gannon concluded by saying that the two local authorities would now begin a process to address key issues and conditions arising from the An Bord Pleanála decision.

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An Bord Pleanála has already approved proposals for the northern section (Kilcullen to Powerstown) of the N9 / N10 Kilcullen to Waterford scheme. It is an objective of the National Roads Authority (NRA) to complete the route in its entirety by 2010.

Funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000- 2006 and part-funded by the European Union.

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