

Our Ref: HA0026/KA0015

The County Manager
Meath County Council
County Hall
Navan
County Meath

Date: 17th May, 2010

Re: N2 Slane Bypass Scheme

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned proposed road development.

In accordance with section 51(4) of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, the Board requires you to furnish the following additional information in order to clarify certain points in the Environmental Impact Statement and assist the Board's assessment of the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development:

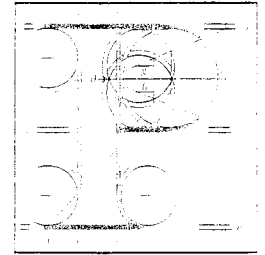
1. It is indicated in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 of Volume 1 and Fig. 4.3 of Volume 2 of the EIS that the route selection and design for the N2 Slane Bypass has been influenced by its potential for future inclusion in a longer route between Ashbourne and Ardee. Please describe the measures which would be required to provide for the upgrading of the proposed road to the status of a type 1 dual carriageway or motorway.
2. Submit details of any alternative route for the road examined to the west of Slane village, having regard to the Route Selection Report 2005 and Constraints Study 2002. If such a route has not been examined, a desktop study and drawings are required of a potential route to the west of Slane to the same level of detail as the routes examined (but not chosen) in the route selection process. The contents of paragraph 4.2.1 of Volume 1 of the EIS regarding the environmental factors of such a route are noted.
3. Submit details (with drawings as appropriate) of alternative designs examined for the bridge crossing the River Boyne.



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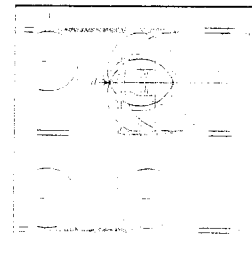
4. Submit noise measurements and predicted future noise levels for years 2012 and 2027, similar to those provided in section 7.4 of Volume 1 of the EIS, for the Knowth prehistoric site and two other selected locations within the World Heritage Site.
5. It is considered that the photomontages presented in Section 8.4 of Volume 1 of the EIS are not of sufficient scale to enable the Board to fully assess the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. The applicant is requested to provide the following additional information:
 - (i) High quality photomontages of existing and future landscape views for all of the viewpoints shown on fig. 8.3 in Volume 2 of the EIS, with the exception of Slane Castle, Bru na Bóinne Visitor Centre and Slane Village but including Hill of Slane looking east (Viewpoint 1A), at a minimum size of A3 (existing and proposed landscapes each to occupy a separate sheet). The montages should provide for the effects of large vehicles and the effects of proposed planting at a date approximately seven years from the year of opening.
 - (ii) In the case of the Knowth prehistoric site separate montages should be made for ground level and the top of the monument.
 - (iii) The view from Rossnaree Road should be broadened to include the entirety of the proposed bridge in the proposed view.
 - (iv) Existing and proposed views should be presented from one further viewpoint on the river valley/canal towpath located approximately 300 metres east of the bridge site in order to provide a broader perspective of the proposed bridge in its landscape context.
6. In parallel the applicant is requested to utilise wireframe modelling to demonstrate the proposed development in topographical context. Presentation of the wireframe image may be incorporated in the corner of each photomontage of the proposed development.
7. The applicant is requested to present a set of four A3 views of the river crossing from selected viewing points with the four different bridge height options clearly marked. The viewing points in question are Knowth (ground level and roof level), the Hill of Slane, the Battle of the Boyne crossing point at Rossnaree, a typical point within the Buffer Zone, Ledwidge's Cottage Museum, Slane Bridge and a typical residential receptor near the bridge.
8. It is stated in paragraph 8.3.5 of Volume 1 of the EIS that a digital assessment was made of the potential visibility of the road and bridge. Details of this should be submitted to the Board.



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9. The identification of 44 sites within 500m of the proposed Bypass, as described in paragraph 10.2.5 of Volume 1 of the EIS, is stated to have resulted from desktop assessment and field survey during the N2 Slane Bypass Constraint Study, the Route Selection Study and through further assessment for the environment impact assessment. The EIS refers to the recent geophysical and archaeological investigations undertaken namely GSB2005/87, 2006/03; CRDS 06E0341, GSB 2008. The applicant is requested to provide a synthesis report of all geophysical and archaeological investigations carried out for the purpose of route selection and impact identification. The above should provide clarification of the extent of land subject to geophysical surveying, field walking and excavation.
10. A selection of photographs of the essential features of those architectural heritage sites identified in Table 10.3.1 of Volume 1 of the EIS as being likely to experience significant, moderate or slight negative effects should be submitted.
11. The non-technical summary of the EIS should be expanded to include an illustration of the proposed bridge, a map showing alternative routes considered for the road and a map/aerial photograph of the wider area showing the route of the proposed development in relation to the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site and associated buffer zone.
12. Figures 1-12 and Plates 1-12 are omitted from Appendix 10.2.10 of Volume 1 of the EIS. Full colour copies of appropriate scale should be provided.

In relation to the additional information requested, please be advised that, should the Board consider the additional information furnished in accordance with this request contains significant additional data in relation to the effects on the environment of the proposed road development, it will require you at that stage to:

(a) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area in which the proposed road development would take place a notice stating that significant additional information in relation to the said effects has been furnished to the Board, that the additional information will be available, for inspection or for purchase (on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy), at a specified place and at specified times during a specified period, and that submissions or observations in relation to the additional information may be made in writing to the Board before a specified date, and

(b) send notice of the furnishing to the Board of significant additional information, and a copy of the additional information, to the bodies and persons and the authority (where appropriate) referred to in sections (3)(b) and (c) of section 51 of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, and to indicate to



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An Bord Pleanála



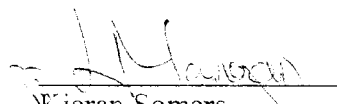
such bodies and persons and the authority (where appropriate) that submissions or observations in relation to the additional information may be made in writing to the Board before a specified date.

Your response to this letter (in respect of the additional information sought) should be received not later than **5.30 p.m. on Monday, 21st June 2010.**

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Kieran Somers
Executive Officer

Registered Post



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