

**Statement from Shane McEntee TD, Minister of State at the
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

**Minister of State Shane McEntee welcomes the NRA's confirmation of the
importance of the Slane Bypass**

19 July, 2011

Shane McEntee TD, Minister of State and Fine Gael Deputy for Meath East has welcomed the confirmation by the National Roads Authority of the importance of the Slane Bypass and the safety considerations attaching to the scheme.

The Authority has worked closely with Meath County Council in advancing the bypass scheme to its present state of development and has provided an allocation of over €2m this year to the Council to progress planning and design work on the scheme.

Minister of State McEntee said:

“I am still positive that Slane will benefit from NRA funding provided an Bord Pleanala give a favourable decision. I intend to take the funding issue up with my Government colleague, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Leo Varadkar TD.”

Funding available to the National Roads Authority has been substantially reduced from the levels that were envisaged under the National Development Plan and Transport 21. As a result of this it will only be possible for the Authority to commence a small number of major national road improvement schemes over the next few years. Minister McEntee said:

“The amount of funding available will be directed towards the provision of safety measures and it is within this context that the funding to progress the N2 Slane Bypass will be considered if An Bord Pleanala give the go ahead. The advancement of the Bypass to construction and the provision for funding for that purpose will only be considered by the NRA on the basis of this decision.”

Meath County Council is currently awaiting a complete report which is to be returned to the Bord by the Inspector in charge of the case. It is hoped the Slane Bypass will be one of the projects funded this year.

ENDS