

Oifig an Aire

44 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

Office of the Minister

44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.



**An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**



Tel: +353 1 670 7444 Local: 1890 443311 Fax: +353 1 604 1183 Web: www.dttas.ie Email: minister@dtas.ie

MLVC11.2600

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Bypass Slane Campaign,
Slane,
County Meath

Dear

I refer to your recent correspondence concerning the Slane Bypass.

As the Minister for Transport, I have responsibility for overall policy and funding in relation to the national road programme. The construction, improvement and maintenance of individual national roads is a statutory matter for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007 in conjunction with the local authorities concerned.

It is important to note that within the 4 year plan approved by the previous Fianna Fáil led government in late 2010, there was no funds provided for the construction of new roads projects in 2012, 2013 or 2014. Currently a comprehensive review of capital spending is now underway, the results of which will form the basis for a new National Development Plan. The review will also take account of new funding realities which have worsened since the 4 year plan was published. A major priority will be to ensure funding to protect and maintain investment made to date and to maintain safety standards. It is clear that there will be little scope to advance in the short to medium term many of the infrastructural projects currently in planning. Those projects, if any, which can be advanced, will be those which are the most affordable and which can deliver the best safety and economic return.

As highlighted above, the NRA are the responsible body for the construction of roads projects. They have advised my office previously that the N2 Slane Bypass is an important project that they will seek to advance if and when funding becomes available.

However, the key to that is the outcome of the current An Bord Pleanála hearing which I understand will be made shortly. Contrary to some recent media reports it is

not my intention to withdraw the proposed by-pass from the planning process though I have done this for other projects.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Varadkar', written in a cursive style.

Leo Varadkar T.D.
Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport