

River Suir Bridge Works Underway

Construction of Waterford's City second river crossing is finally underway after many years of planning. The first of many piles of the bridge foundation was installed on the 11th of May 2007. This milestone event was witnessed by former Minister for Transport, Martin Cullen and by both the Mayor of Waterford, Cllr. Cha O'Neil and the Mayor of Waterford County Council, Cllr Mary Greene. This cable stayed bridge will not only be seen as a landmark for Waterford, but will bring much needed relief to the city centre and local community from traffic congestion with the current average daily traffic flow across the existing "Rice" bridge in the region of 36,000 vehicles a day. Construction of the bridge shall continue over the coming months and years and shall be open to traffic in 2010.

Picture shows Structure S16 – Suir Bridge



CELTIC ROADS GROUP WATERFORD



Volume 1, Issue 3

June 2007

THE N25 WATERFORD BYPASS PPP SCHEME

Construction Progress

With the arrival of summer and the onset of the good weather works have accelerated in all areas. The route of the proposed road is now clearly visible winding its way across the landscape with the advanced construction of both the earthworks and structures marking its path. Below we present a brief update of the progress of the works:

MILESTONES FOR THE PPP SCHEME	
Contract Award	April 21st 2006
Design & Construction Commencement	April 21st 2006
Design & Construction Period	42 months
Target Completion Date	August 2010

The Team

The Authority

 An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta

The PPP Company

 CELTIC ROADS GROUP WATERFORD LTD.

The Construction

 WATERFORD JOINT VENTURE

The Design

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Designed & printed by Advantage Graphic Design. Tel: 051 376405

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Earthworks

Bulk Earthworks have progressed rapidly with the aid of the relatively dry months. Topsoil stripping and site clearance has continued with a few remaining areas to be finished which include a number of side road crossings.

The cuttings and embankments at Airmount, Killaspy and Mullinabro along the mainline are close to completion and the scale of work involved and machinery required to move and place material in such quantities and in a short time scale has been impressive. Due to the existence of rock in some areas blasting was necessary to help with its extraction. Some of this rock is currently being crushed for reuse in the road construction.

The increase of activity at Grannagh has become noticeable to those driving on the N9 (Dublin Rd) and N24 (Limerick Rd) with work on the largest interchange of the Project starting. Work on the Newrath link road from Grannagh into Waterford city has also continued.

To the south of the River Suir the story is similar with the good progress on the Western Link Interchange and mainline earthworks being maintained.



Mullinabro Overbridge

Structures

Work on the structures have also proceeded at a good pace. There are a wide variety of structures included in the project and all have a unique method of construction which requires advanced planning and design long before work can commence on site.

The side road overbridges, Structure 26 (Mullinabro Rd) and Structure 28 (Ballyrobin Rd) have the pre-cast beams in place and the concrete decks poured. Structure 9 (Western Link Junction) has also its deck completed.

The two pre-cast arch structures (Structure 13 and Structure 25) which will carry the new carriageway over the Tourist Railway and Smartcastle Stream are also nearing completion.

A number of culverts and underpasses are also now in place along the mainline and side roads.

Work on the main River Suir Bridge reached a critical point with the first of the foundations micro-piles that will support the Pylon being installed during May 2007

Side Road Construction

A significant highlight of the project was reached with the first of many kilometres of road pavement being laid on the new, realigned Nicholastown road. Traffic is due to be diverted shortly on to this new section to allow for the construction of the Airmount road overbridge to commence.

Work is also ongoing on the Mullinabro Road with the approaches to the new overbridge continuing towards completion. This bridge should be open to traffic in the coming months which will permit the removal of the existing road during the mainline construction.



1. Nicholastown Road
 2. Structure S38 – N9 Link Kilmacow Road Underbridge
 3. Structure S13 – Tourist Railway Underbridge

2.

3.



Traffic Management & Temporary Diversions

We have initiated a number of traffic management measures installed along the route. These are summarised below. These measures are a necessary part of the construction works, we have kept their impact to a minimum.

ROAD	MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Mullinabro Road plant crossing	Flagmen
Mullinabro Road realignment	Traffic lights & flagmen
Cloone Road plant crossing	Flagmen
Ballyrobin Road plant crossing	Flagmen
Ballyrobin Road temporary diversion & plant crossing	Flagmen
Cloone Road 1 - 2 plant crossing	Flagmen
Cloone Road plant crossing	Flagmen
Airmount plant crossing	Flagmen
Airmount temporary diversion plant crossing	Flagmen
Newrath Link 2 plant crossing	Flagmen
Newrath Area 5C site access	Flagmen (8:30 - 17:00)
Newrath Area 5B site access	Flagmen
Nicholastown Road tie in	Temporary diversion
N25 New Ross Road tie in	Lane changes
Slieverue link lane changes	Temporary diversion Traffic lights
Port Road tie in	Lane changes
Ballyrobin temporary diversion	Opening Ballyrobin temporary diversion
Airmount temporary diversion	Opening Airmount temporary diversion
Nicholastown Road	Opening Nicholastown Road temporary diversion
Nicholastown Road	Opened May 2007
Dunkitt Road	Opening Dunkitt Road temporary diversion (N9)
N9 Realignment	Flagmen
N25 To Waterford	Flagmen
Newrath Crossing with N9	Flagmen

Where traffic measures are in place we ask for your co-operation with the operators and thank you for your understanding.

Upcoming Works

Over the next coming months it is anticipated that the good progress of all aspects of the design and construction of the project will be maintained on into Autumn.

To the west of the River Suir work shall continue with the structures, drainage and earthworks of both the Western Link Road and the mainline. Work shall also commence on the remaining section of the mainline from the Western Link Road to Kilmeadan. With the tunnel of the toll plaza complete focus shall now be directed towards the administration building of the facility.

On the eastern side there will be a push to complete a number of structures including Kilmacow road underbridge (Structure 26), Mullinabro road (Structure 26) and Ballyrobin road (Structure 28) overbridges. In parallel work will also continue on the new approaches to these structures which will allow traffic to pass over or under these new bridges along their new permanent alignment. Earthwork, drainage and accommodation works will also continue throughout the eastern area.