

Construction Progress over the last three months

Since our previous Newsletter in July 2008, we have achieved significant advance in Construction while continuing to make the effort to minimise disruption to local residents. Bulk earthworks excavation is now over 90% complete on the project, and filling is now over 70% complete. 40 of the 56 structures have commenced onsite to date. Pavement Design is substantially complete and several sample areas of sub-base have now been laid.

MILESTONES FOR THE PPP SCHEME

Contract Award 4th April '07

Design & Construction Commencement 4th April '07

Design & Construction Period 33 months

Target D&C Completion Date 4th Jan. 2010

Operation & Maintenance Commencement 4th Jan. 2010

Contract Period 30 years

Tulrush Link Road

Road Pavement

Crushed Materials required for the motorway are going to be manufactured with our own on site plants. Pavement crews and machinery are already set up to start working on the pavement. Air Licenses have been granted by Galway County Council for each of the asphalt plants.

On the mainline, pavement foundation construction has already started in Section 1 (between Ch. 0+080 and 1+300).

Roadbase (CBM) will follow the Sub-base construction. This is expected to occur early in November 2008 in section 1.

During the first weekend of October, 1.2km of asphalt was laid in the Tulrush Link Road area (Section 4). This was done to facilitate work on the adjacent N6 Ballinasloe to Athlone road scheme.

Explanation of section breakdown		
	From	To
Section 1	Galway	Athenry
Section 2	Athenry	Carrowkeel
Section 3	Carrowkeel	Aughrim
Section 4	Aughrim	Ballinasloe



Asphalt Plant at Ch 42+000



Crushing Plant at Ch 42+000



Laying of Asphalt

*Placing Beams at
ST38 River Suck
Bridge*



*Pictured, overview of Piers and
Crossheads at ST38 River Suck Bridge*



Structures

Work has commenced on an additional seventeen structures, bringing the total number under construction to thirty nine. In sections 1 + 2 a total of twenty five structures are now underway. In sections 3 + 4, fourteen structures are underway.

Construction of the River Suck Bridge has advanced well. Three piers have been constructed, two on the island between the river and the canal and the third in the middle of the River Suck. The piers were then spanned with twenty four beams which are 27.350m long beams, weighing approximately 50tonne each. In order to install the beams, access was required onto the island by means of filling in the canal with rock fill. Waterways Ireland granted permission to close the canal provided that all works were completed within 39 hours. On the evening of Monday 15 September the canal was filled with rock. A 500tonne crane and trucks transporting the beams were driven onto the island. The beams were installed throughout the night and the following day. All work was completed ahead of schedule and the canal was re-opened in time.

Culvert Construction

The 1st of October heralds the introduction of the works restriction on all fish sensitive waters as determined by the Regional Fisheries Boards, until April 2009. There are 72 no. culverts in entirety of the project; 86% of these culverts are now substantially complete. There are 38 no. fish passable culverts on the project, 36 no. of these have now been opened up. The relevant fisheries boards were present for the opening up of all the fish passable culverts. Culverts C470A and C510 in Aughrim will be constructed next April when the works restriction is no longer in place.

Culvert C626 at Ch 54+390



*Culvert C515 Side Road at 720m
(Aughrim)*





Traffic Management

Due to construction activities there will be a need for temporary alterations to the existing road network. The following traffic management is in place or planned for the following quarter:

- Glennascaul (N18) Site access No. 2
- Caherbriskaun Site access No. 3
- R348 Athenry Junction Site access No. 4
- R347 Boyhill Site access No. 5
- R348 Moyode Site access No. 6
- Rathgorgin Site access No. 7
- R348 Curraghmore Site access No. 8
- Clogharevaun Site access No. 9
- Carrowkeel Junction Site access No. 10
- Caraun More Site access No. 11
- Urraghry Site access No. 16
- Liscappul Site access No. 17
- West Ballinasloe Site access No. 18
- Pollboy Site access No. 19
- R357 Site access 21
- Galboley Site access No. 24
- Loughrea Link Road Site access No. 25
- Garraun North Cross Road No. 3
- Lisheenkyle Cross Road No. 7
- Barnacragh Cross Road No. 40
- Coololla Overbridge Cross Road No.38
- Killescragh Overbridge Cross Road No. 25

Temporary Traffic Diversions are expected in the following locations on the existing N6 road within next three months:

- Doughiska Dual Carriageway, East Galway - (Coololla Junction – Section 1)
- Urraghry/Barnacragh, East Aughrim – (ST33 Bridge Construction – Section 4)

Labour and plant is employed for the daily maintenance of all approved public roads which are in use, primarily as haul routes, for construction traffic. Access points to the works are manned with the use of Stop / Go signs to ensure the safe access and exit of construction traffic.

Maintenance of Roads

The upkeep and maintenance of the roads is ongoing. There is a team of 12 people dedicated to working on the maintenance of the roads. 4 are assigned in Sections 1 and 2 and 8 are assigned in sections 3 and 4. In addition to the road repairs, the maintenance crews are responsible for some of the following:

- Checking and repairing VMS signs
- Erection of signs, in particular speed limit signs.
- Power washing and cleaning of walls and driveways at the front of private residents.
- Cleaning of traffic Management, in particular washing of TM signs which need to be cleaned to retain their full reflective quality.
- Repairing of walls, installation of water barriers and cones in front of private houses.
- Fencing repairs including erecting of temporary fencing.





Upcoming works

Upcoming works on site for the coming three months are as follows:

- To continue with all necessary consultations with Landowners and Third Parties.
- To connect culverts to water streams to improve local drainage
- To keep repairing damages to local roads
- To complete blasting and bulk earthworks activities on site.
- To progress with Pavements
- To complete post earthworks drainage in Section 1 and progress at pace with post earthworks drainage in Sections 2, 3 & 4.
- To complete bulk earthworks on the Loughrea link road.
- To commence construction over the Irish Rail Bridges.
- To complete construction of any remaining culverts on non-fish passable waters.
- To progress with all remaining fencing works.
- To progress with the design of the Toll Plaza.



ST11 Graigabbey Overbridge with ST47 Graigabbey River Bridge 3 in the background.

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