

# Construction Progress over the last three months

Despite this summer being the third very wet summer in a row, construction works have progressed at pace on site. From June to September our pavement crews have laid a total of 646,647 tonnes of pavement materials. Pavement works on the motorway are now 75% complete. The majority of the motorway is paved to top of binder-course layer. The only pavement layer which has yet to commence is the surface course (wearing course) and the laying of this surface course will commence in the coming weeks. Work on Structures is over 95% complete and more than 50% of these structures have been opened to public traffic in the last three months. The remainder of these bridges will be fully completed in the coming weeks. Drainage work from Galway to Kiltullagh [Sections 1 and 2: Ch. 0+000 to Ch. 26+000] is 100% completed and more than 90% of the drainage work is completed between Kiltullagh and Ballinasloe [Sections 3 and 4: Ch. 26+000 to Ch. 56+000]. Any outstanding motorway drainage works will also be completed in the coming weeks on site. Works on topsoiling and grass-seeding of verges and embankments have commenced but progress here in the last three months has been limited due to the very wet weather. The in-situ Concrete Median Barrier has also progressed well on site with over 15,000m of it constructed to date.

**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



*N6/18 Grade Separated Junction – Ch 3+600. Asphalt works taking place after Safety Concrete Barrier Installation.*

# Toll Plaza, Lanes and Administration Building

## Toll Plaza

The NRA has procured the Galway to Ballinasloe project as a Public Private Partnership which secures the injection of private finance in order to construct the road by combining the best of the public and private sectors with an emphasis on value for money and delivering quality public services. This injection of private finance will accelerate the delivery of the public capital programme.

The location of the Toll Plaza is at Cappataggle, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. This was chosen as the preferred option by the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Toll Plaza has 5 lanes in each direction; 1 extra-wide lane, 1 manual lane, 1 automatic lane, 1 manual-automatic lane and 1 express lane. The lanes will have varying ways of payment - manual, automatic coin machines, trip cards and electronic toll collection (ETC). There will also be a dedicated express lane in each direction for the ETC.

Electronic Tolling allows motorists to use electronic tolling lanes, thereby saving time and availing of user friendly payment methods. The motorist obtains a small electronic tag which is

then placed in the vehicle and detects each time the motorist goes through the toll plaza. The toll is then charged to the motorists account. The Galway to Ballinasloe Toll Plaza will have an interoperable tolling system which means that motorists will only have one electronic tag for the whole of Ireland. This will enable motorists who have obtained electronic tags from other schemes to drive through the Galway to Ballinasloe Toll Plaza and not have to worry about paying by cash as it is automatically debited to the motorists account.

A Trip Card is a card which has a specific amount of trips a motorist can use going through the Toll Plaza. In this case, the motorist can buy a card at the N6 Galway to Ballinasloe Toll Plaza for 20 uses. The trip card can be bought for each type of vehicle e.g. motor car, commercial, trucks, buses. When the motorist has passed through the toll plaza 20 times, he/she can easily top-up the trip card at one of the Toll Booths at the manual lanes.

## Explanation on Lanes

**The extra-wide lane** is designed to be used particularly by extra-wide vehicles passing through the Toll Plaza. Any other



*Picture shows the West bound Toll Collection Booths and Optical Barrier Classification poles which will be able to identify all vehicles.*



*Picture shows the Northern elevation of the Toll Plaza Administration Building. The site works (footpaths, sewage treatment plant) are due to be completed in the second week of October.*



*Picture shows an overview of the Toll Plaza. The Canopy is still under construction awaiting roofing material. Toll Plaza civil works are practically complete, with skid resistant surfacing the only outstanding works. Installation works for the Toll Collection System (Mechanical & Electrical) is ongoing.*

type of vehicle e.g. motorcycles, cars, buses, trucks, commercial vehicles can also use this lane. Payment is possible by cash, credit card, debit card, trip card and by ETC. The extra-wide lane will work in manual mode which means that a Toll Operator will be working at the Toll Booth.

**The manual lane** is designed to be used by any type of vehicle except for extra-wide vehicles. A Toll Operator will be working at the Toll Booth. Payment is possible by cash, credit card, debit card, trip card and by ETC.

**The automatic lane** is designed to be used only by cars and light good vehicles. An automatic coin machine will collect the payment by means of a basket which is installed at the side of a Toll Booth. This type of lane will also accept payment by credit card, debit card, trip card and ETC. The automatic lane will work in automatic mode, which means no Toll Operator will be present.

**The manual-automatic lane** will work either in manual or automatic mode depending on the traffic volume and the Toll Plaza traffic conditions.

**The express lane** is designed to allow only cars and light good vehicles to go through with a ETC tag. Any other type of vehicle or any vehicle without a valid tag will not be allowed to go

through this lane. This lane allows the passage through the toll plaza without stopping at a minimum speed of 50 kph. Tags bought in Ireland from other operators are also allowed.

All the lanes will be equipped with signing at their approach; variable message signage merging the traffic into the correct lane, as well as speed detection equipment.

## Administration Building

The Administration Building will be located adjacent to the Toll Plaza in Cappataggle. This building will facilitate the day to day running of the Toll Plaza and also the maintaining of the motorway. The Toll Plaza will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. It is N6 Concession Ltd's aim to employ and train local people to manage and operate the tolling facilities. In total, N6 Concession Ltd will create 45 new employments.

It is estimated that the journey times between Dublin to Galway will be reduced significantly. The days of traffic delays in each town or village on route will be gone. It will benefit road users through reduced mileage and wear and tear and also give the local towns back some quality of life by taking away the traffic congestion.



**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:

- Coolagh Junction
- Garraun North Site Access No.1
- Glenascaul (N18) Site Access No.2 (Overbridge is operational)
- Lisheenkyle Site Access No.3 (Overbridge is operational)
- Caherbriskaun Site Access No.4 (Overbridge is operational)
- R-348 Athenry Junction Site Access No.5
- R-347 Athenry Link Road (New roundabout is operational)
- R-347 Boyhill Site Access No.6
- R-348 Moyode Site Access No.7
- L-7156 Rathgorgin (Overbridge is operational)
- R-348 Curraghmore (Underbridge is operational)
- L-3114 Clogharevaun (Overbridge is operational)
- Carrowkeel Junction Site Access No.8
- Loughrea Link Road at Ballykeeran
- Loughrea Link Road at Cahernamuck
- Loughrea Link Road at Loughrea By-Pass Site Access No.9
- Caraun More Site access No. 11 – (Overbridge is Operational)
- Urraghry Site access No. 16
- Liscappul Site access No. 17 - (Underbridge is Operational )
- West Ballinasloe Site access No. 18
- Pollboy Site access No. 19
- R357 Site access (Roundabout is operational)
- Galboley Site access No. 24 (Overbridge is Operational )
- Barnacragh Cross Road No. 40 - (Overbridge is Operational )
- Coololla Overbridge Cross Road No.38
- Killescragh Underbridge Cross Road No.25 - (Underbridge is Operational )
- Newcastle Site access No.14 (Overbridge is Operational )
- Beagh Roundabout Site access No.22 (operational)
- Ballymabilla Cross Road - (Overbridge is Operational )
- Gortnaheen Overbridge – (Overbridge is Operational)
- Rahally Temporary Traffic Diversion
- Moher Footbridge Temporary Traffic Diversion

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

- Doughiska Dual Carriageway, East Galway - (Coollagh Junction – Section 1) – Night works will commence in July 2009.

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.





## Upcoming works

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

- To continue the opening of bridges and the corresponding closure of local roads to site traffic.
- To continue the effective maintenance of remaining access routes in use.
- To resolve any outstanding drainage issues which may be affecting drainage on lands adjacent to site.
- To progress with all Public Relation Issues
- To continue to consult and comply with relevant third parties and local authorities.
- To complete any outstanding minor works on Irish Rail Bridges
- To complete finishing works and fitting out on Administration Building
- To complete construction of the Toll Plaza and to fit out and commission all electrical and electronic equipment.
- To progress with the completion and opening of new overbridges and underbridges to public use.
- To progress at pace with pavement and surfacing works throughout the contract site.
- To continue completion of work on all drainage activities.
- To complete all ducting and telecommunication activities
- To progress with completion of works on the Loughrea Link Road.
- To complete any outstanding culverts in this years salmon open-season.
- To progress with the completion of all permanent project fencing
- To progress with the repair of all sections of existing landowners fencing at tie-in points to project fencing.
- To progress at pace with works on kerbs, concrete drainage channels and concrete barriers.

## Project and Contact details



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