

Roads and Transportation

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1. Workmen involved in completion of work at Ivy Bridge
2. New Dreenan Bridge, Stranorlar
3. Constructing Industry Park Access Road, Letterkenny
4. Work in progress on the new Erne Crossing – part of Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass
5. Excavation of Ballyhannon Burial Ground during construction of Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass in November 2003

NATIONAL ROADS

The County continued to attract substantial National Road Funding. Construction commenced on the €70m N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass along with significant advances in the design of other National Road projects in the County. Three projects have been lined up for imminent construction. These are N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass, N56 Mountaintop to Illistrin and N13/N14 Manor Cunningham-Strabane.

Opening of Donegal National Road Design Offices

The Donegal National Road Design Office was officially opened at the Public Services Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town in June 2004. Six years of work on the part of Donegal County Council officials came to fruition with the signing of a 20 year lease with the NRA for the new offices. This establishes a total of 30 full time jobs for the County, is in line with the Task Force objectives for the county and anticipates the recent Decentralisation Programme of the Government.

N15 Bundoran/ Ballyshannon Bypass

The contractor SIAC/Wills JV was appointed for this Design and Build project and work commenced on site at the end of July 2004. Site Staff were appointed and are based at the site office at Finner Road, Bundoran. Land negotiations are well advanced. Stage 2 (Phase 1) archaeological resolution works were completed in advance of construction. Phase 2 archaeological monitoring and post excavation work is ongoing. It is hoped that the road will be open to traffic in 2006.

N15 Ballybofey/ Stranorlar Bypass

This 16km scheme is a proposed Design and Build Project. The Preliminary Design Report and Environmental Impact Assessment were completed in 2004. Work is currently progressing towards publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order and Environmental Impact Statement. It is expected that An Bord Pleanála will convene an Oral Hearing as part of the CPO/EIS procedures in 2005. Construction is estimated to commence in late 2006 with the road opening to traffic in 2009.

N13/N14 Manor Cunningham Strabane

Significant advances were made on this important cross-border route. A successful INTERREG application has secured funding for start of Phase 4 Preliminary Design and Environmental Impact Statement/Compulsory Purchase Order. The works are co-financed by the NRA

N15 Lifford to Stranorlar/ Ballybofey

This scheme was still active but progress was limited due to funding difficulties. Route Selection Report was adopted by Donegal County Council and issued to the NRA for approval. The Council will continue to press the NRA for substantial funding and for approval of the project in the coming year.

N15 Tullyearl Roundabout

Funding was approved by the NRA in 2004. The tender process was completed and work is expected to commence early 2005. The Contractor is Noel Regan & Sons, Roscommon.

National Primary Pavement Strengthening

Substantial funding was made available over the last number of years to allow pavement strengthening to be carried out.

NATIONAL SECONDARY PROJECTS

N56 Mountaintop to Illistrin

Design on this 5km standard two lane and reduced two lane road started in 1999. Land acquisition is ongoing. Pre contract geotechnical works commenced at Coolboy (Hoggs Bridge). Currently the tender documents are being prepared. Construction is expected to commence mid 2005.

N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs Junction

Work is ongoing on the Route Selection Report for this project. Funding is expected in 2005 to allow Preliminary Design to be started.

N56 National Secondary Pavement Strengthening

A Five Year Plan was drawn up at the end of 2003 identifying the most urgent of the pavement improvement and minor re-alignment needs of the N56. The quality of the works carried out to date has met with approval from the NRA and further funding is expected to be available in 2005.

Work in Other Counties

The Donegal NRDO was involved in various projects in other counties, in addition to ongoing projects in County Donegal in 2003 and 2004. This work involved, Road Design, Road Safety, Safety Audits, COBA, Archaeology, Bridge Management and Signing and Lining.

NON-NATIONAL ROADS

Investment in Non-National Roads continued under the National Development Plan 2000-2006. As normal, the main funding source for our Non National Roads was the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and this was complemented with allocations from the following sources:

- Roinn Na Gaeltachta
- An Roinn Gnothar Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta – Clar.
- ICBAN/Peace II
- Clar/Coillte
- Own Resources

The two main blocks of funding for Non National Roads were the EU Co-Financed Scheme and the Restoration Improvement Grants both of which were funded by the DOEHLG as follows:

Grant Type	2003	2004
EU Co-Financed	€6.830m	€7.124m
Restoration Improvement Fund	€9.857m	€9.827m

The most notable achievements were:

Termon/Dunlewey (Back of Errigal) Road

The final section of this road was surfaced in 2004 marking another milestone in this project which began in 1994. Whereas all earthworks, road realignment and major regulation is now complete final surfacing with Bitmac and Grid remains to be done over a significant length of the scheme.

Buncrana Inner Relief Road

Work continued on Buncrana Inner Relief Road and, with the aid of a €500,000 grant in 2003, Phase 3 of the scheme from Mill Bridge to Maginn Avenue was opened to traffic.

Dreenan Bridge/Waterstreet Bridge

Both the above bridges had been on the priority list for some considerable time. With the aid of the EU Co-financed scheme, major works were carried out on Waterstreet Bridge in 2003 whereas the old single lane Dreenan Bridge was demolished in 2004 and a new two lane Bridge constructed.

2003

Location	Total Cost €	Grant €	Donegal County Council €
Ceann Caslach Mullach Dubh	15,000	11,250	3,750
Gort Lios Saighead	26,000	19,500	6,500
Nead na gCe	31,000	23,250	7,750
Fal Chorb	22,000	16,500	5,500
Lag na Druan	7,500	5,625	1,875
Malainn Bheag	65,000	48,750	16,250
Lag an tSeantai	10,000	7,500	2,500
Ce Christy, Carraig Fhinne	45,000	33,750	11,250
Ce an Phoirt	35,000	26,250	8,750
Ce na Binne Bui	22,500	16,875	5,625
Ce Mhucrois	16,500	12,375	4,125
Dobhar	45,000	33,750	11,250
Cladach na gCaorach	£6,000	£3,000	£3,000
	405,500	304,125	101,375

Letterkenny Industry Park Access Road

The land acquisition for Letterkenny Industry Park Access road was finalised and a significant section of the new road from Pacificare to the N56 at Pramerica was completed leaving the final junctions to be completed in 2005.

Frosses/Glenties

Work began on the upgrading of the Frosses/Glenties road in 2003 starting at Kilrairie junction on the N56. This road was closed to traffic from the 15th April 2004 due to the collapse of Ivy Bridge. The road was re-opened to traffic two and a half weeks later on the 30th April after the construction of a new culvert.

Crolly/Annagry

Work commenced in 2004 on widening the R259 from Crolly to Annagry which serves as access to Donegal Airport at Carrickfin. With an allocation of funding of €375,000 from Roinn Na Gaeltachta the first kilometre of works were undertaken during the year.

MARITIME DEVELOPMENTS

There are 150 piers and slipway structures in Donegal. The Council secured funding from both the Departments of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and An Roinn Gnothai, Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta to continue the development and repair of piers.

Details of projects grant aided by An Roinn Gnothai, Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta are set out hereunder:

2004

Location	Total Cost €	Grant €	Donegal County Council €
Cladnageeragh, Kilcar	180,000	135,000	45,000
Cruit Pier	10,000	7500	2500
Annagry Slipway	30,000	22,500	7,500
Lettermacaward Sluice Gates	15,000	11,250	3,750
Burtonport Navigation Lights	60,000	45,000	15,000
Nead na gCe	100,000	75,000	25,000
Totals	395,000	296,250	98,750

Major Gaeltacht Grants 2003 & 2004

Location	Works in Progress	Total Cost €	Grant €	Donegal County Council €
Ballywhoriskey	New pier construction and dredging (completed in 2002)	1,269,700	1,079,700	190,000
Teelin	Pier extension and repairs to storm wall (completed in 2003)	993,300	803,300	190,000
Magheroarty	80M. Pier extension and dredging(completed 2003)	2,603,000	2,413,000	190,000
Bunbeg Pier and Slipway	New pier extension and dredging and Slipway (ongoing)	1,685,000	1,495,000	190,000
	TOTAL	6,551,000	5,791,000	760,000

Projects grant aided by An Roinn Gnothai, Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta under island based projects 2004:

Location	Total Cost €	Grant €	Donegal County Council €
Inishboffin Slipway and pier proposals	37,697	18,848.50	18,848.50
Gola Wall	6,348	3,174	3,174
Inishfree Coastal Protection	30,000	15,000	15,000
Inishfree shelter on pier	7,000	3,500	3,500
Inishfree Life Belts	3,000	1,500	1,500
Island Roy Handrail	5,000	2,500	2,500
Island Roy Slipway	10,000	5,000	5,000
Helipad Aranmore	125,000	125,000	
Kincasslagh Drainage	60,000	60,000	
Totals	284,045	234,522.50	49,522.50

Projects grant aided by ICBAN 2004:

Location	Total Cost €	Grant €	Donegal County Council €
Burtonport Crane	118,832	89,124	29,708
Aphort Strengthen Pier	78,532	58,899	19,633
Inishfree Coastal Protection	126,170	94,627.50	31,542.50
Totals	323,534	242,650.50	80,883.50

Dept. of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources 2004

Location	Works in Progress	Total Cost €	Grant €	Donegal County Council €
Ballyederlan	Repairs and renovations to existing pier – work is ongoing and expected completion in 2005 – the works are being undertaken directly by DCMNR	133,000	99,750	33,250

Capital spending grant aided by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in 2004:

- Buncrana Dredging
- Mulroy navigation lights
- Ballshannon navigation lights
- Continuation of the design of Greencastle Harbour project

An independent survey of the present condition of all the piers and harbours was completed. This survey independently examined all pier and harbour sites throughout the county with a view to maximizing their potential on a value for money basis. These reports have produced an overall summary on an electoral area basis and give a priority rating in the order that repairs and/or developments should be carried out. The overall final county wide report will be presented to the Elected Council in 2005 for consideration

Coastal Erosion

In 2003, coastal protection works at Muckross, Donegal Town and at Meenacross, Dungloe were completed. In addition, €40,000 was provided by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources for coastal protection works at Drung, Quigleys Point.

A study of Lagg Beach, Malin was completed and presented to the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

Navigational Lights

Donegal County Council is the local lighthouse authority and as such is responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of navigational aids along our coast. A Navigational Lights Caretaker is employed on a part time basis to maintain the aids under our control and to upgrade, as necessary. We also report faulty navigational aids to the Coastguard, who then broadcasts a radio navigation warning (RNW) to shipping.

A technical survey of the older navigational lights was carried out to assess future needs. It is intended to work towards a fully automated system of remote monitoring of the lights, which will automatically alert the caretaker. This will greatly enhance efficiency, improve safety and will provide a constant record of operations and malfunctions of the aids. To this end, all our recent upgrades are capable of adapting to the remote monitoring system.

Winter Maintenance

A complete review of winter maintenance practices and routes was undertaken in 2004. This has resulted in the construction of a number of purpose built salt barns throughout the county and the replacement of salters.

Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

The Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee, under the Chairmanship of the late Councillor Peter Kennedy in 2003 and under the Chairmanship of Councillor John Boyle in 2004, held a total of five meetings.

During these two years the Strategic Policy Committee recommended the following four new policies to the full Council for approval:

1. Policy on Hedgecutting;
2. Policy on Unauthorised Advertising Signs along Public Roads;
3. Policy on Members Public Lighting; and,
4. Policy on Sponsorship of Open Spaces and Roundabouts.

These four policies were adopted as policy by the Council during 2003 and 2004.

Position Papers were presented on the following topics and the Strategic Policy Committee gave them careful consideration and provided feedback:

1. Road Drainage
2. Pothole Repair Methods
3. Speed Limit locations
4. Speed Ramp Installations
5. Road Openings
6. Accident Remedial Measures
7. Housing Estate Take-Overs

These topics remain on the agenda with a view to developing new policies where appropriate.

Strategic Policy Committee Membership

Councillor

Cllr Peter Kennedy
 Cllr John Boyle
 Cllr Bernard McGlinchey
 Cllr J J Reid
 Cllr Cecilia Keaveney
 Cllr Niall Blaney
 Cllr Terence Slowey
 Cllr Alice Bonner
 Cllr Jimmy Harte
 Cllr Dessie Larkin
 Cllr Ternan Brady
 Cllr Liam Blaney

Sectoral

Mr Michael Chance
 Mr Seamus Rodgers
 Mr Conor McBride
 Mr Oliver Duffy
 Mr Seamus Grant