

Donegal County Council



Roads & Transportation Directorate

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)

Nature and Extent of proposed development in accordance with Part 8 requirements of the above Regulations.

Letterkenny Traffic Management Project

Prepared by : Donegal County Council
Road Design Office
County House
Lifford
Co.Donegal

Date : May 2020

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1.0 Introduction

In advance of the TEN-T scheme being completed and open by 2027, Donegal County Council has identified a need to provide immediate relief to traffic congestion currently experienced along the N56 corridor in Letterkenny.

The scheme aims to improve weekday AM and PM peak hour traffic conditions at and in the vicinity of the Polestar Roundabout at the following junctions:

- Polestar Roundabout
- Ballyraine Roundabout
- The N56/ R245 Mini Roundabout
- The R250 Neil T Blaney/Joe Bonner T junction

The works will be carried out in the townlands of Drumnahoagh, Gortlee & Ballyraine in the Letterkenny Municipal District of County Donegal.

The proposal at the Polestar Roundabout introduces a fully signalised roundabout (including the gyratory section). Localised widening on the eastern and southern arms along with pedestrian crossings added to the southern and western approaches. The western exit is also widened to provide 2 lanes.

Ballyraine Roundabout consists of converting the existing junction to a signalised crossroads. The existing pedestrian crossing on the southern arm would be subsumed within the signalised crossroads.

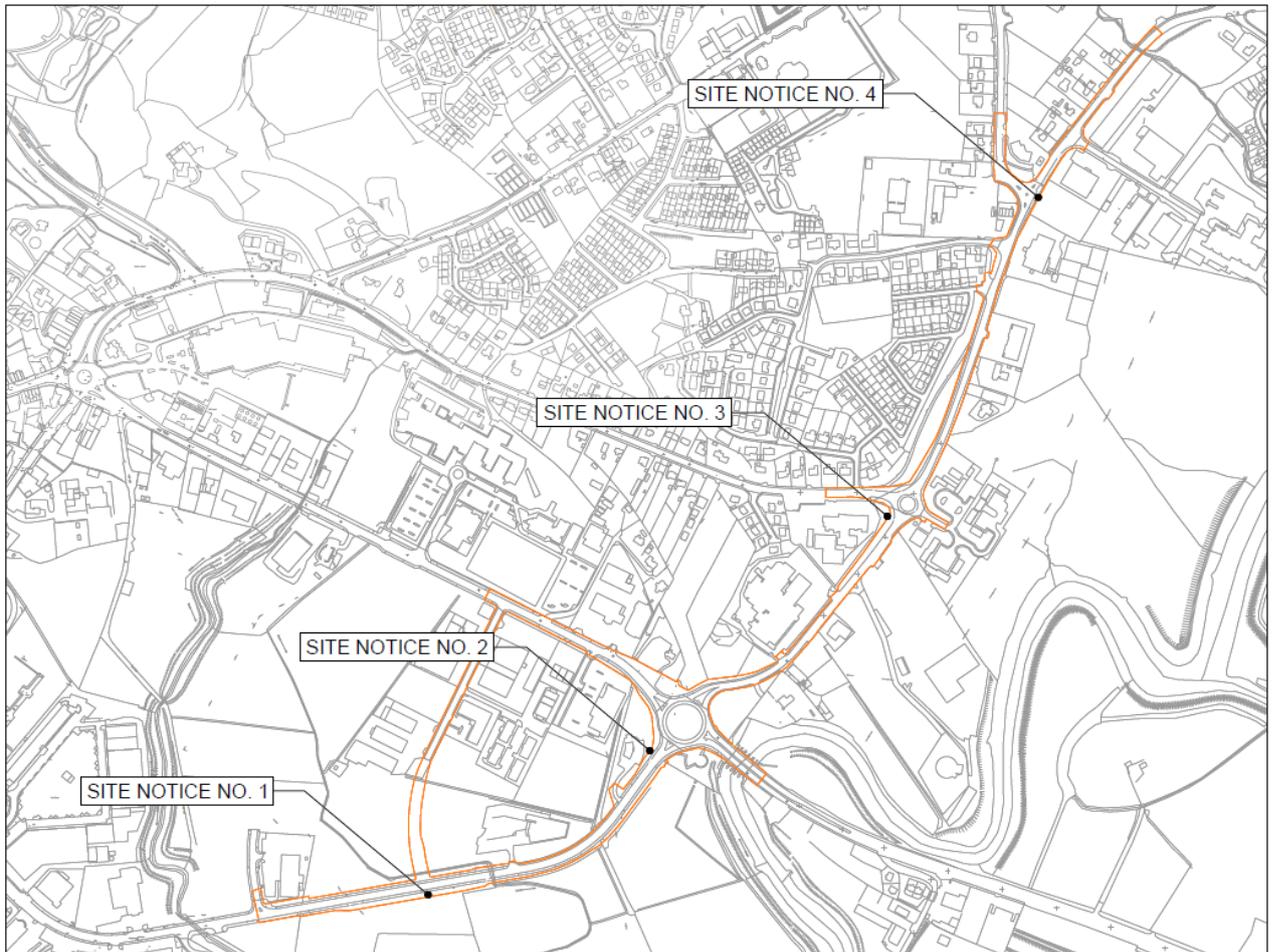
The N56/ R245 mini roundabout consists of converting the existing junction to a signalised three arm junction with, localised widening and pedestrian crossings on all arms.

The R250 Neil T Blaney/Joe Bonner T junction consists of signalising the existing three arm T junction with pedestrian crossings on all arms. Localised widening on the R250 junction, creating a right turn lane, and forming a new bus bay on the southern approach.

This report is prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). The report provides a background to the existing situation, describes the nature of the proposed traffic management improvements, design factors considered and the extent of the proposed works.

The site location, improvements to existing infrastructure, proposed new road lane widening, pedestrian footpath, junction signalisation, and associated road details are shown on Drawing Numbers 778-001 to 778-018. A copy of these drawings is included in Appendix B.

Map Showing Area of Proposed Works



2.0 BACKGROUND

Letterkenny has been identified as a Regional Growth Centre within the National Development Plan 2018-2027. To support this growth, it is recognized that strategic priorities are required with investment in the N56/ N13/ N14 Letterkenny Bypass (TEN-T Donegal) identified to provide strategic relief to the current peak hour traffic congestion issues experienced on the N56 through Letterkenny. In advance of the TEN-T scheme being completed and open in 2027, Donegal County Council has identified a need to provide immediate relief to traffic congestion currently experienced along the N56 corridor in Letterkenny.

Donegal County Council has identified the following key objectives associated with the Letterkenny traffic management proposal:

- Objective 1: Reduce traffic congestion along the N56 corridor
- Objective 2: Enhance safety for all modes of travel and reduce the number and severity of casualties along the N56 corridor
- Objective 3: Enhance accessibility by pedestrian /vulnerable road users to education centers at Rossan College/LYIT campus, Ballyraine National School as well as dormitory accommodation, the town centre and IDA business park destinations.

During 2019 Donegal County Council commissioned Traffic Engineering Consultants to assess the performance of the existing road network within the study area as outlined.

The results of the modelling forecast that:

Polestar is operating at capacity on all arms, Ballyraine Roundabout is operating at capacity on Ramelton Road southbound, and the N56/R245 Mini Roundabout is operating at capacity on the Ramelton Road southbound and the IDA Road.

These results were for the 2021 forecast year; with additional growth predicting the network performance is to deteriorate further by 2026 and 2036.

During the public consultation process the Part 8 report and drawings shall be circulated to the Donegal County Council Sanitary Services department, the Office of Public Works (OPW), the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG) formerly Dúchas (hereunder referred to as NPWS), Inland fisheries Ireland and various other Statutory Undertakers and service providers.

3.0 Nature of the Works

Donegal County Council to address the traffic operational issues looked at a series of traffic management scheme options with the aim to improve weekday AM and PM peak hour traffic conditions in this study area.

These traffic management options were reviewed in different traffic operating scenarios, with a gradual build-up of infrastructural intervention.

In addition the assessment includes the already committed road infrastructure associated with Joe Boner Link and Four Lane Road improvement schemes

The proposed project consists of “Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation” (MOVA) controlled traffic signal system to be installed at all 4 junctions (Polestar Roundabout, Ballyraine junction, N56/R245 Creamery Junction, and the R250\Joe Bonner link road, with road widening at various locations, new signing and lining.

The works improve and extend existing pedestrian walkways and provide for control crossing points at all 4no. junctions, the proposed works also propose a new pedestrian traffic light crossing in vicinity of Rossan College with footpath realignment to facilitate the new layouts.

The proposed works are mainly confined within the extents of the existing pavement with some offline carriageway widening.

Waste material, which may be generated as a result of constructing this scheme, will be disposed of in accordance with the relevant Waste Management Legislation.

Further to assessment and Screening of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article6(4) of the EU habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), determined that the proposed works as set out, is unlikely to have any significant effect on these sites. It is therefore concluded that an Appropriate Assessment is not required. (Refer to Appendix C Screening Assessment)

4.0 Principal Features

Road construction materials required for the construction of the pavement and all materials required for common fill up to formation level will be imported from a suitable approved source.

All existing utilities, i.e. water, sewerage, ESB & Eircom services, affected by the works will be relocated or replaced in consultation with the relevant authorities.

The Council will provide all warning signs and traffic control necessary for the safe execution of the works and will ensure that traffic disruption be kept to a minimum.

5.0 Design and General Factors

The Proposed Development has been designed based on standards set down in Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)'s suite of design standards and technical documentation, and the Design Manual for Urban Roads & Streets (DMURS).

The proposed works are within the urban area of Letterkenny, the road speed limit is 50kph, the carriageway width will be maintained at 3,25m where possible, and where new sections of footpath have been incorporated into the design a minimum footpath space width of 1.8m will be provided for small groups to pass comfortably, wider footpath sections will be constructed where space allows.

This section outlines the existing layout of each junction as well as the key proposed new scheme changes.

The full details of the proposed works are as outlined in the drawings made available with this report in Appendix B

The Existing Polestar Roundabout is four arm priority roundabout.

Proposed Works for the Polestar Roundabout introduces a fully signalised roundabout (including the gyratory section). Localised widening on the eastern and southern arms along with pedestrian crossings added to the southern and western approaches. The western exit is also widened to provide 2 lanes.

Existing Ballyraine Roundabout is a four arm priority roundabout.

Proposed Works for Ballyraine Roundabout consists of converting the existing junction to a signalised crossroads. The existing pedestrian crossing on the southern arm would be subsumed within the signalised crossroads.

Existing N56/ R245 Mini Roundabout is a three arm mini-roundabout.

Proposed Works for the N56/ R245 mini roundabout consists of converting the existing junction to a signalised three arm junction, localised widening, and pedestrian crossings on all arms.

Existing R250 Neil T Blaney/Joe Bonner is a T junction

Proposed Works consist of signalling the existing three arm T junction with pedestrian crossings on all arms. Localised widening on the R250 junction, creating a right turn lane, and forming a new bus bay on the southern approach.

Road Pavement: The works involve the overlay, widening of the existing road pavement of localised sections of the project as indicated on drawings in Appendix B. Typically the carriageway will comprise of an asphalt wearing course over an asphaltic concrete (macadam) pavement.

Footways: Footpaths will be increased in width, where possible and new footpath provided at locations as shown drawings 788-001 to 018, the new and improved footpath thereby providing for enhanced pedestrian amenity and safety.

Structures: There is no requirement for additional structures

Safety Barrier: There is no requirement for additional safety barriers

Road Markings: Road markings will comply with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport traffic signs manual for the extent of the works to clearly show the new carriageways, turning lanes, bifurcation arrows, directional arrows, lane extents and traffic flows.

Signage: Signage will comply with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport traffic signs manual and consist of both directional, informational and safety signage to give a clear understanding of the road layout and junction layouts.

Landscaping: Areas of road verge which may be impacted by works will be grass seeded. The materials and components proposed will be high-quality and contemporary in nature. Tree planters, bins, bollards and public lighting will be selected to complement each other and to provide a coherent feel to the proposed works

Temporary Road Diversions: Temporary road diversions may be required to facilitate the construction of this scheme. However, it is envisaged that in so far as possible online traffic management will be utilised to construct the scheme.

Site Compound: A site compound may be located within the confines of the Site Boundary identified (or in close proximity) during the construction stage of the works.

Surface Water Drainage: Existing surface water drainage will be assessed and improved as required. A new drainage system will be installed in the kerbed section comprising road gullies and carrier pipes discharging to a suitable outfall. Any existing culverts crossing the road within the scheme will be assessed and improved or replaced if required.

Services: The works are generally confined within the extents of the existing pavement. Where impact occurs to services, utility providers will be contacted to discuss impacts and requirements. Enet and eir services will be required with service ducts for the provision of signal head control equipment.

Junction Treatment:

A suitable corner radius will be maintained at all junctions for regular turning movements by articulated vehicles (DMURS, 4.3.3 p 94).

Public Lighting

Public Lighting will be provided in accordance with BS5489 Standard Code of Practice for the Design of Road Lighting and in accordance with ESB guidelines and Design Manual for Urban roads and Streets (DMURS, 4.2.5 p 79).

6.0 List of Consultation Drawings and Documents

Drawing No.	Title
	Cover Page
778-001	List Of Part 8 Drawings
778-002	Site Location Map
778-003 to 778-010	Proposed Works (General)
778-011 to 778-018	Proposed Works (Road Signage)

Document No.	Title
1	Habitats Directive Article 6 --Screening Assessment

Appendix A:
Newspaper Notice
&
Site Notice

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended)
ARTICLE 81

NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 81, PART 8 OF THE ABOVE REGULATIONS, RELATING TO A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

TAKE NOTICE that Donegal County Council propose to carry out the following developments consisting of the provision of a traffic management system on the Polestar roundabout and adjacent junctions on the road network comprising of section of: N56, R940, R229, R250 (Neil T Blaney Road) & N14 in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in the Townlands of Drumnahoagh, Gortlee & Ballyraine, located in the Letterkenny Municipal District as scheduled below.

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORK

No.	Title	Townlands	For Viewing Plans Online Only at
1	Letterkenny Traffic Management Project	Drumnahoagh, Gortlee & Ballyraine	www.donegalcoco.ie Services > Roads Service > Roads Service Public Consultation
Description and Extents			
Donegal County Council proposes to provide a traffic management system on the Polestar roundabout and adjacent junctions (Ballyraine roundabout, Creamery roundabout, LYIT Junction & Joe Bonnar Junctions) on the road network comprising of sections of: N56, R940, R229, R250 (Neil T Blaney Road) & N14 in accordance with the drawings associated with this application.			
The project will include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Partial road & footway construction. b) Provision of new signalised junctions in accordance with the drawings provided. c) New road markings, signage, drainage works, landscaping, and accommodation works. 			

NOTE: Due to Covid 19 restrictions currently in place, viewing of the plans and particulars for this proposed development will only be available for inspection or download at www.donegalcoco.ie under section "[Services > Roads Service > Roads Service Public Consultation](#)".

Alternatively you can contact our [Customer Service Centre](#) on (074)91 53900 to find out more about the Proposed Works.

The proposals will be available for inspection from 9am Monday 25th May 2020 to 5pm Tuesday 23rd June 2020.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing to The Co. Secretariat Office, Donegal County Council, Lifford, County Donegal, before 4.00pm on Wednesday 8th July 2020.

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the development, that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

Please mark the front of the envelope with the project name as per the above Schedule Title

Signed:

John G McLaughlin., Director of Service

Roads & Transportation., Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford.

Appendix B: Drawings

Appendix C: Screening Report