

South-East Regional Authority

PRESS RELEASE

TWO REGIONAL AUTHORITIES DEMAND PRIORITY UPGRADING OF N24 LIMERICK-WATERFORD NATIONAL PRIMARY ROUTE

“There is an undeniable case for the priority upgrading of the N24 National Primary Route in the NRA’s post-2010 Roads Programme”. So stated Cllr. Paddy O’Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of the South-East Regional Authority, following a meeting of a delegation representing the South-East and Mid-West Regional Authorities with Mr. Fred Barry, Chief Executive of the National Roads Authority on 10th July.

“Our meeting with Mr. Barry was very positive and we presented to him the issues and recommendations made in the South-East Regional Authority’s recently completed N24 Prioritisation Study Report”, said Cllr. O’Callaghan. “I made it clear at the meeting that the N24 is considered by my Regional Authority as one of the key economic infrastructural drivers of the regional economies of the South-East and Mid-West Regions and that it is critically important for the economic well-being of both regions that the Route be prioritised now by the National Roads Authority and Minister for Transport for immediate upgrading in the post-2010 Roads Programme”, continued Cllr. O’Callaghan.

The Regional Authority has long been concerned at the relatively weak economic performance of the South-East. It is performing poorly when compared to other Irish regions under a range of socio-economic headings. The Regional Authority has consistently identified and articulated the region’s overall development needs and investment priorities.

“In our discussions, I told Mr. Barry that we should pay special heed to the expressed concerns of the major employers in the two regions, particularly now as we enter an era of difficult economic conditions for business. According to them, the N24 in its current state presents a major obstacle to commercial operations and does not present a progressive image to potential investors coming to Ireland or to the South-East and Mid-West regions” stated Cllr. O’Callaghan.

“Our meeting with the National Roads Authority is but an initial step to ensure that priority upgrading is given to the N24. My Regional Authority will continue to work with our colleagues in the Mid-West and with the six local authorities whose functional areas the route passes through to ensure that this issue receives the proper focus and attention it deserves”, stated Cllr. O’Callaghan.

ENDS.

11/07/2008

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Further information from:

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Note to Editors

1. The N24 Prioritisation Study Report was commissioned by the South-East Regional Authority in association with the Mid-West Regional Authority, Limerick City Council, Limerick County Council, Waterford City Council, Waterford County Council, Kilkenny County Council and South Tipperary County Council.
2. The N24 route is 115 kms in length, links the two ‘Gateway’ cities of Waterford and Limerick and runs through 4 major towns (Tipperary, Cahir, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir) as well as eight villages (Boher, Pallasgreen, Oola, Monard, Limerick Junction, Bansha, Kilsheelan, Mooncoin).
3. There are 8 improvement schemes along the route at various stages of planning :
 - 1) N7/N24 Junction Upgrade at Ballysimon;
 - 2) Limerick N7 Ballysimon to Pallasgreen;
 - 3) Pallasgreen to Bansha (Tipperary Bypass);
 - 4) Bansha/Cahir;
 - 5) Cahir/Rathkeevin;
 - 6) Clonmel Bypass;
 - 7) Carrick-on-Suir Bypass;
 - 8) Fiddown to Waterford N9.
4. The Cathaoirleach’s Address at the meeting with the National Roads Authority is attached which provides further information.