

## Westmeath County Council National Roads Design Office

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# MINISTER MARTIN CULLEN T.D. TO OPEN THE N6 KINNEGAD TO TYRRELLPASS HIGH QUALITY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

The National Roads Authority (NRA), in conjunction with Westmeath County Council, are pleased to announce the opening to traffic of 19 kilometres of Phase 1 of the N6 Kinnegad to Athlone High Quality Dual Carriageway in County Westmeath. The new dual carriageway extends from the end of the M4 Motorway at Kinnegad, to Tyrrellspass in south Westmeath, and also includes a new 4.5 kilometre stretch of the N52 national secondary road. The Minister for Transport, Mr. Martin Cullen T.D., will today officially open the first section of the N6 Kinnegad to Athlone High Quality Dual Carriageway project to be completed, with a ribbon cutting ceremony in Tyrrellspass. The remaining section of Phase 1, between Tyrrellspass and Kilbeggan, is scheduled for opening by summer of next year, and construction is on going on phase 2, between Kilbeggan and Athlone, with a projected completion date in late 2008.

Westmeath County Council entered into a contract with Ascon Ltd. for the design and construction of both phases of the new N6 and, as the opening of Phase 1 was originally scheduled for November 2007, this section is opening almost 11 months ahead of schedule.

This section of road is part of the Dublin to Galway inter-urban route and forms part of the development strategy for national primary roads, as outlined in the National Development Plan 2000-2006. The route not only forms part of the strategic east-west link across the country, but also serves to link national north-south routes through Ireland. The towns and villages bypassed by this section of new dual carriageway are Kinnegad, Milltownpass, and Rochfortbridge, with a temporary link back into Tyrrellspass on the N52 until the remainder of Phase 1 is completed.

The works involved the construction of: 19 kilometres of high quality dual carriageway national primary road, from Kinnegad Interchange to Tyrrellspass

Interchange; two grade-separated junctions, together with all associated slip roads at Tyrrellspass and Rochfortbridge; half of the grade-separated junction at Kinnegad; 4.5 kilometres of single carriageway national secondary road, from the Tyrrellspass Interchange across the former N6 to a tie-in with the existing N52 to the north of Tyrrellspass; and 16 significant structures.

Councillor Joe Flanagan, Chairman of Westmeath County Council said:

“Westmeath County Council, in conjunction with the NRA, has worked hard on bringing this project to fruition since first putting it before the public in January 2000. What we will witness here today is 19km of high-quality dual carriageway being opened to public traffic almost a year ahead of schedule. Not only is it another step in bringing the Midlands & the West closer to the Capital, but with 4½ km of the N52 also upgraded north of Tyrrellspass, the whole of the Midlands stands to gain from this project.

In terms of road safety, today’s road opening will greatly improve the potential to save more lives by replacing a poor stretch of road with 19km of high-quality dual carriageway.

In terms of traffic, this new road will remove up to 10,000 vehicles per day, or 80%, from the existing Dublin to Galway Road, with immediate effect. The by-passed towns of Kinnegad, Milltownpass and Rochfortbridge will experience better living environments, enhanced streetscapes, traffic calming and a better sense of community to the benefit of residents currently living there.

In relation to environmental effects, extensive landscape planting and other measures will be completed to offset the effects of the scheme and to integrate the road into the surrounding landscape.

In accordance with NRA policy, extensive archaeological works were undertaken in advance of the main construction works. A number of key sites were excavated including the previously unknown burial ground at Ballykilmore, where over 900 burials were identified, providing an insight into the lives of generations long since past. These archaeological works will make a positive and significant contribution to our understanding of County Westmeath's rich archaeological heritage.

I could not let this occasion pass without saying a big thank you to the general public and in particular to the many landowners whose patience and co-operation during the last few years were greatly appreciated.”

This project is funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 by the Irish Government and also part funded by European Regional Development Fund.

For Further Information Please Contact

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(Map Attached)

# N6 KINNEGAD TO TYRRELLSPASS HIGH QUALITY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY OPENING THE 5TH OF DECEMBER



# N6 KINNEGAD TO ATHLONE HIGH QUALITY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY SCHEME - OVERVIEW

