

Our Ref: 10.HA0014

Your Ref:

John Mulholland,  
Kilkenny County Council,  
County Hall,  
John Street,  
Kilkenny.

7th July 2009

Re: The Central Access Scheme for the City of Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

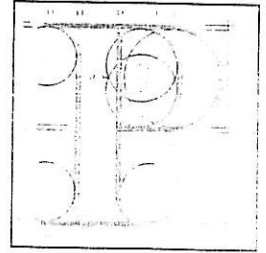
Dear Sir,

I refer to the above mentioned proposed road development which is before the Board for approval. Please be advised that the Board has decided to invoke its powers under section 217 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended by section 217(B) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006.

In this regard, the Board considers the following:

- (1) Having regard to the need to increase permeability within the city and to ease traffic congestion arising from the currently inadequate capacity of the two bridges over the River Nore and in the interests of traffic safety and convenience generally, including convenience of pedestrians and the potential for the promotion of cycling and public transport within the city, the Board considers that, subject to significant modifications, the route of that part of the proposed road scheme identified as Phase 1- St. Canice's Place to Castlecomer Road incorporating a new River Nore bridge crossing is generally appropriate as an east-west link within the city.
- (2) The primary purpose of those parts of the proposed road scheme identified as Phases 2 and 3, viz, the link to the Western Environs and Loughmacask is to facilitate large scale future development in those areas. It is considered that the route of Phase 1 of the proposed scheme is not appropriate as a major traffic artery or inner relief road because of the physical structures proposed and the additional traffic that would be attracted to traverse the city centre would have an unduly negative effect on the city centre environment and would lead to increased north-south severance and be detrimental to the integrity and character of the historic city centre. Accordingly, the Board considers that those parts of the scheme identified as Phases 2 and 3, - the link to the Western Environs and the Loughmacask Road are premature pending progress on that part of the ring road between the Castlecomer Road and the Freshford Road (including a new river Nore bridge crossing) which would obviate the need for traffic arising from the development of these areas to traverse the city centre.

An Bord Pleanála



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Accordingly, the Board is provisionally of the view that it would be appropriate to approve that part of the proposed road development identified as Phase 1 (St. Canice's Place to Castlecomer Road incorporating a new river Nore bridge crossing) subject to certain alterations and, pursuant to Section 217(B)(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, hereby requests the Road Authority to make to Phase 1 of the scheme the following alterations:

- (a) Phase 1 of the route shall be redesigned as an urban street and shall generally be at grade (allowing for necessary clearance over the river) from St. Canice's Place to the River and across to Nore View Terrace and Michael Street and Wolf Tone Street.
- (b) The street shall make provision for future public transport, cyclists and pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic.
- (c) The new street shall integrate with the existing network of streets including Wolf Tone Street and shall have regard to good urban design principles.
- (d) The proposed elevated treatment, including extensive retaining walls and underpass on the Diagio site and the proposed cable stay bridge design are considered inappropriate for this sensitive and prominent location within the historic core of Kilkenny. The new bridge should be appropriately designed in terms of its vertical alignment, visual impact and structural design to integrate into and enhance its riverside context to take account of its sensitive location in the vista between Green's Bridge and Kilkenny Castle.
- (e) The revised design should ensure that the integration of the Cathedral precinct with the adjoining commercial historic core is maximized.

Having regard to the alterations referred to above, you are also requested under section 217(4)(b) to submit a revised Environmental Impact Statement with your response.

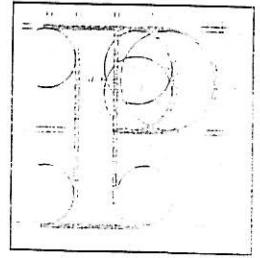
If the alterations are made to the proposed road development as specified above, the terms of the road development shall be deemed to be the proposed road development for the purposes of section 51 of the Roads Act 1993, as amended.

Please note that upon receipt and examination of any response to its request, the Board can at that stage invoke its powers pursuant to subsection (6) and (7) of Section 217B of the said Act which require the Road Authority to publish a newspaper notice of the furnishing of the further information and to make same available for inspection or purchase. Any such newspaper notice would provide that written submissions or observations in relation to the further information may be made to the Board. The Road Authority would also be required to send to each prescribed body to which notice was given of the application, a copy of the further information and E.I.S. indicating that submissions/ observations may be made to the Board.

Following receipt of any altered proposal and having regard to the provisions of subsections (6) and (7), in making its decision the Board shall under subsection (8), have regard to any information submitted on foot of this notice, including any revised E.I.S. and any submissions received on foot of the newspaper notice.

Consideration should be given to whether the Compulsory Purchase Order application submitted in conjunction with the application would require amendment.

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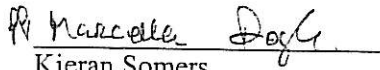
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Dublin 1

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

The Board would appreciate a response giving your general approach to the timescales involved in these matters.

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

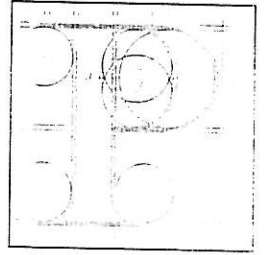
Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737107

Registered Post

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