

Dear Minister,

The Draft National Planning Framework (NPF) projects that 25% of the envisaged 1 million population increase will take place in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford allowing for increases in population and jobs by 50-60%. This growth will require many infrastructural improvements in particular to reduce average journey times per km which currently stand at 30-40% slower in Cork than in Dublin. To this end, I have outlined what I believe to be the priorities for regional transport and infrastructure in my constituency of Cork East.

1. Road Infrastructure

M8/N25/N40 Dunkettle Junction upgrade (approved): It is envisaged that the Ports of Cork and Rosslare will experience increased volumes after Brexit, so sufficient infrastructure is required to accommodate the increased traffic on this important transport route which links the two ports.

Improvements to N25 Cork to Rosslare

- Upgrade of the N25 Carrigtwohill to Midleton would facilitate economic development in these towns and assist in securing a buyer for the former Amgen site at Ballyadam, Carrigtwohill
- The Lakeview Roundabout on the N25 outside Midleton continues to remain problematic with major congestion occurring on the R630/R629 (Whitegate Road) during the morning
- The N25 between Midleton and Youghal could be greatly enhanced by bypassing the villages of Castlemartyr and Killeagh, two major congestion hotspots along the route.

M20 Cork to Limerick

The M20 project to replace the current N20 from Cork to Limerick will serve to greatly reduce journey times and accidents and will enhance connectivity in the South West region and should be prioritised.

Mitchelstown to Mallow & Fermoy to Mallow Routes

Upgrading of both these regional routes would greatly reduce commute times, improve road safety and stimulate the local economy.

2. Railway Infrastructure

Improvements in commuter routes from Cobh, Midleton and Mallow, improved regional interconnectivity and journey times to Dublin should all be explored.

3. Midleton Area/East Cork Municipal District

The Cork County Development Plan 2014 projected growth of 11,397 persons in the East Cork Municipal District by 2022, resulting in a net requirement of 7,790 new houses. Increases in Midleton specifically will require an additional 5,243 housing units. I believe that it is imperative to ensure sufficient infrastructure is put in place to support the increase in population. In addition, to road and public transport infrastructure, large scale housing developments should have proper public realm and civic amenities, including recreational and green areas, shops, pre-schools, playgrounds, playing fields and sports halls

4. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Although there has been largescale welcome investment in water and wastewater treatment facilities in Cork East Constituency in particular in Youghal and Carrigtwohill, continued investment in treatment facilities and supply are essential to create sufficient capacity allow for enterprise and housing development and population expansion into the future. 7

5. National Broadband Plan & Mobile Phone Coverage

Many issues still remain as regards poor broadband and mobile coverage and poor connectivity, low speeds and high cost in many more rural areas of Cork East. Access to high quality broadband services through the roll-out of the state intervention segment of the National Broadband Plan, will ensure that coverage extends to remoter areas, I would urge continued commitment in this area.

6. Sustainability & Conservation of energy, water and environment, education and employment

Kind regards,

David Stanton TD
Minister of State at Department of Justice & Equality