

**Question 8. What infrastructure is required - what are the national priorities?**

- A. Surely, the priorities for national infrastructure should be developments that link the various parts of the nation and make it work as one whole, rather than a collection of individual regions.

I don't think anyone in Ireland needs to belabour the difficulty of driving from Cork-to-Limerick or from Cork-to-Galway and I don't think there's anyone who needs to be convinced of how ridiculous it is that national traffic is sent through the dangerous bends near Buttevant (or that lorries have to pass through the main street of Charleville).

Of the 10 "Key Questions" on the *Ireland 2040* plan, 6 or 7 of them would be impacted by having three of Ireland's four largest cities linked to each other with a proper road, and that's in addition to the obvious economic sense it would make.

Last June, Minister Simon Coveney said: "I can't speak for Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, obviously. But it would certainly be my hope and my instinct. Look, you need to be able to connect Ireland's second and third biggest cities in a better way than we have."

It's "my hope and my instinct" too,  
Kevin Buckley.