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**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** Ireland 2040 Plan

From Gerry McCormack, ordinary retired citizen  
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Submission:

In formulating the plan I believe it is vital that the overdevelopment of Dublin and environs should be counter-balanced by major investment in the development of the Western corridor of Galway/Shannon/Limerick/Cork.

The over-expansion of the Eastern region has led to traffic chaos, lack of and cost of affordable housing and unacceptable commuting distances for many workers. The mantra that "people will follow the jobs" can be countered by the fact that people prefer to stay where they are and the jobs will follow them if the infrastructure is there.

I set out a proposal how major investment along the West coast, linking the three major cities there, would create the perfect counterpoint to the overdevelopment in the East.

GALWAY has third level colleges, a cluster of IT companies and major tourist facilities and will soon be linked by the M18 to Shannon and Limerick.

SHANNON, with a major transatlantic airport and a cluster of manufacturing, services and aircraft maintenance companies.

LIMERICK, With third level colleges has a cluster of IT, services and pharmaceutical companies. In addition, 40k away is FOYNES, the second biggest port by weight in the State, and having the second deepest harbour in Europe, capable of handling the largest cargo vessels. It is planned to reopen the existing rail line link to Limerick.

CORK has third level colleges and a large cluster of IT, pharmaceutical and services companies, together with an international airport.

\* All of these areas have large amounts of much cheaper development land for industrial, commercial and home building land. There are large numbers of highly skilled and educated workers ready and willing to work and live at home, rather than have to emigrate to Dublin!

To link these major areas, ripe for expansion, connectivity is vital and it is strategically important that the Cork/Limerick Road is upgraded to Motorway status, and urgently.

Finally, this is a very important opportunity to correct the East-West imbalance in the ongoing development of the country.

It can only be achieved by imagination, good planning and , above all, with the Political Will.

We cannot afford to miss this opportunity before it's too late.

Thank you

Gerry McCormack