



Engineers Ireland,
Thomond Region
C/O John T. Garrett & Associates,
Consulting Engineers,
Unit 2,
Ballyanrahan East,
Patrickswell,
Co. Limerick

NPF Submissions,
Forward Planning Section,
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin D01 W6X0

RE: Engineers Ireland, Thomond Region submission on the delivery of the M20 Limerick – Cork Motorway

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Thomond Region of Engineers Ireland, we ask you to consider the following in the context of the Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF) as it is our firm belief that the M20 Limerick- Cork Motorway project should be prioritised within the NPF for the following reasons:

Health & Safety

Upgrading the existing N20 route would undoubtedly significantly reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries due to road accidents, as demonstrated by all the inter-urban motorway projects delivered over the last 15 – 20 years.^{1,2,3}

Industry Capacity

There is a small number of major inter-urban motorway projects currently under construction or nearing completion. Consequently, there is significant capacity and expertise in the domestic design, construction, operation and maintenance industry to deliver large scale infrastructure projects such as the M20.

¹ <http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/home/232724/m20-would-save-countless-lives-says-limerick-garda-traffic-chief.html>

² <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/motorways-are-safest-roads-1.1153102>

³ <http://abstracts.aetransport.org/paper/download/id/2057>

Value for Money

Major benefits of national importance will result from the construction of the M20 motorway from a social, environmental and sustainability perspective. The project could be delivered at historically low costs - given the current material, labour and capital/financing (public or private) costs - thereby maximising the value to the citizens of the State.^{4 5}

Opportunities for Growth

The completion of the inter-urban motorway network in the Munster region will create opportunities for growth for all industries in the 'Atlantic Corridor' and will ease congestion pressures on the eastern side of the country. Without a satisfactory motorway link Cork, Limerick and indeed the entire South-West cannot realise their full potential. Investment in this vital piece of infrastructure will enable the region to grow, develop and create job opportunities. It will deliver on a better-balanced Ireland. It will improve the quality of life for our future generations. There is an enormous **national benefit** in consolidating the "Atlantic Corridor" as a hugely attractive option for FDI. Improving accessibility into the south-west region offers a wonderful opportunity for collaborative, cost effective possibilities between the cities along the Atlantic Corridor and between the eastern and western sides of the country.

There is huge optimism in Limerick at present.⁶

Limerick for Engineering, which is supported by Engineers Ireland is just one example where Industry and Education Providers have come together to provide opportunities where the careers of our graduates can be catered for in the region.^{7,8,9}

Summary

Improved inter urban connectivity along the Atlantic Corridor will lead to collaborative possibilities and improved quality of life for our future generations. Prosperity will follow.

We believe, for the reasons above, that the NPF should explicitly prioritise the early completion of the M20 Limerick – Cork Motorway and, by doing so act as a catalyst to get the project back on track. Delaying this project will undoubtedly cost lives and limit the enormous potential for growth in the West, Mid-West and South of Ireland.

Can we as a nation really afford not to prioritise its construction?

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours Sincerely,



John Garrett FIEI, Chartered Engineer
Chairman Thomond Region, Engineers Ireland

⁴ <http://www.irishexaminer.com/business/proposed-cork-limerick-m20-motorwaywould-pay-off-for-state-376560.html>

⁵ <http://www.irishexaminer.com/business/businesses-unite-to-push-case-for-cork-limerick-motorway-446558.html>

⁶ <https://www.limerick.ie/limerick-2030-economic-and-spatial-plan-limerick>

⁷ <http://www.limerickforengineering.ie/>

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/LimerickforEngineering/>

⁹ <https://vimeo.com/164248098>



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