

Minister Noel Dempsey T.D.
Minister for Transport and the Marine
The Department of Transport
Transport House
Kildare St
Dublin 2

10th July 2009

Re: Eastern Bypass

Dear Minister Dempsey T.D.,

Dublin Chamber of Commerce supports the Government's ongoing commitment to the Public Capital Programme, despite current economic and budgetary difficulties. Notwithstanding the considerable progress made over the past two decades, Government policy must continue to focus on investing in vital infrastructure that lays down the platform for future growth. The National Roads Authority's feasibility report on the Eastern Bypass clearly identifies this project as one which is compatible with Government's strategy to invest in major projects that yield long-term economic benefits. Dublin Chamber believes this project should now be categorised as a priority for Government investment.

There is no argument about the long term strategic value of the Eastern Bypass for the Greater Dublin Area. It has been identified as a key element in all major transport planning strategies since the 1970s, is included as a necessary investment in the DTO's 'A Platform for Change' strategy, and is fully co-ordinated with the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area.

The evidence as to the long-term value of the Eastern Bypass is overwhelming:

- ❖ Increased social and environmental benefits for the city centre, including the development of a comprehensive cycle network, as a result of the removal of through traffic;
- ❖ Motorway access to the South port and Poolbeg peninsula area, allowing for growth of commercial activity, utility management (including the proposed waste-to-energy plant) and employment in the area;
- ❖ Relief of congestion on the M50 and major environmental improvements along Rock Road and Sandymount;
- ❖ A dramatic reduction in fuel usage and a reduction in the carbon impact of traffic in the Greater Dublin Area. The EBP would reduce the distance travelled by trucks accessing the port from south of the N7 by 60 kilometres per trip, saving a potential thirty million litres of fuel per annum and about eighty thousand tonnes of CO₂;
- ❖ An economic rate of return in excess of 10% and a cost-benefit ratio in excess of 2.

Minister, implementation is now the only issue.

Whilst the current economic climate offers challenges to the immediate implementation of this key project, we urge you to move this project along through the planning pipeline so that it is ready for delivery once the economic situation improves. Specifically, we ask you to direct the National Roads Authority to initiate a public consultation on the project, and complete a full EIS report, technical report and economic report on this project.

Minster we are very interested in hearing your thoughts and position on the Eastern Bypass, and are available to discuss this letter at a time convenient to you.

Yours sincerely,

Gina Quin
Chief Executive