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Annual Report 2005 and Programme for 2006



NRA Mission Statement

To contribute to sustainable transport by developing and maintaining a safe and efficient network of national roads, in partnership with local authorities and the private sector, having regard to national and EU programmes.

NRA History

Established under the Roads Act, 1993, the National Roads Authority is a non-commercial Semi-State agency with overall responsibility for the development and maintenance of the national road network.

The national roads network consists of 5,429km or 6%, of the public road network in Ireland and carries 43% of the country's traffic.

National roads are the major links between cities, large towns, ports and airports.



Carrickmacross Bypass, Completed, 2005

Contents

■ NRA History & Mission Statement _____	01
■ Chairman's Foreword - Mr. Peter Malone _____	02
■ Chief Executive's Statement - Mr. Fred Barry _____	03
1. TRANSPORT 21 _____	04
2. DELIVERY _____	05
Accomplishments 05 _____	06
Goals 06 _____	07
Cost Management _____	08
3. ROAD SAFETY _____	09
4. ENVIRONMENT/ARCHAEOLOGY _____	10
Environmental Strategy _____	11
Archaeological Programme _____	12
5. APPENDICES _____	
Appendix 1 - Authority's Board Members _____	14
Appendix 2 - Grant Payments 05/ Grant Allocations 06 _____	15
Appendix 3 - Road Programme Statue 2006 _____	16
Appendix 4 - Pull Out Map of 05 & 06 Schemes _____	17
6. CORPORATE SERVICE _____	18
Quality Assurance _____	19
Corporate Governance _____	20

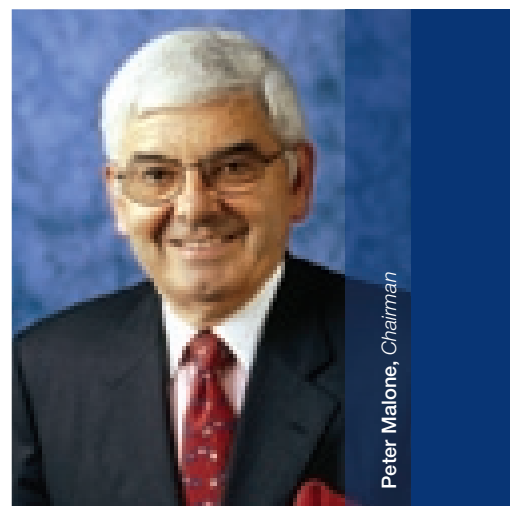
NRA - Driving Ahead with Confidence: Chairman's Foreword

I am delighted to report that 2005 was yet another highly successful and significant year for the Authority as we continued the task of delivering a modern, safe and efficient national road network to serve the needs of our ever-expanding economy and improve our living standards. Undoubtedly, two of the most important highlights of the year included the completions of the South Eastern Motorway (SEM), the final link of the M50 C-Ring Motorway around Dublin, and the M4 Kilcock to Kinnegad motorway scheme which were opened in time for the Christmas holiday season, almost one year ahead of the originally scheduled opening date.

The Authority warmly welcomes the Government's "Transport 21" plan, which was announced in November, 2005. The plan is a €34.4 billion blueprint for the continued development of Ireland's land, sea and air transport infrastructure over the next decade. This level of financial commitment by Government will enable the Authority to plan ahead with confidence for the accelerated development of the national road network. The Transport 21 plan will see €9.4 million invested every day for the next 10 years in Irish transport. The Authority looks forward to delivering the many ambitious targets for the development of national roads set out in the plan.

Safe motoring,

Peter Malone,
Chairman.



Remarkable Achievements: A Statement from our Chief Executive

Fred Barry, Chief Executive



We are fortunate to be involved with the delivery of the largest roads programme in our nation's history. Over the next twelve months we will commence work on 304km of new motorway/dual carriageway, and 30km of new single carriageway and 2+1 roads. This activity combined with 217km of new road currently under construction demonstrates the Authority's commitment to meeting the road transport needs of Ireland.

Most significantly, perhaps, our projects are now being completed ahead of schedule and within budget. These are remarkable achievements, given the number of projects involved, and would not be possible without the professionalism and dedicated commitment of all those involved in delivering this most ambitious national roads programme.

On behalf of the Board of the Authority and myself, I would like to congratulate all those involved in our development programme for all they have achieved in 2005 and I look forward to continued success in 2006.

Fred Barry,
Chief Executive.

01 Transport 21

November 2005 was an important date in setting the future direction of transport policy with the launch of an ambitious plan by the Government to deliver a 21st century infrastructure to meet the demands of a modern Ireland.

“Transport 21” sets the agenda for a comprehensive transport strategy to be implemented over the period 2006 to 2015. The Government pledged €34.4 billion to fund the integrated plan of which the national roads programme is a key element.

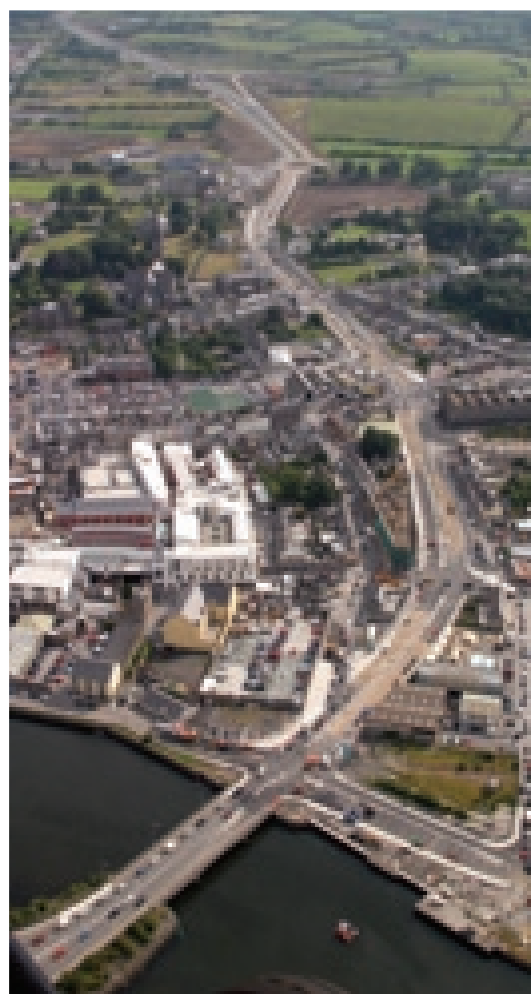
Summary of Main Features of the National Roads Programme under Transport 21:

- Completion of the five major inter-urban motorways linking Dublin with Belfast, Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford by the end of 2010.
- Completion of dual carriageways to Ashbourne on the N2, Kells on the N3 and Gorey on the N11.
- Improvement of strategic road links with Northern Ireland and to the west and northwest by upgrading the N2, N3, N4 and N5.
- Development of the Atlantic Road Corridor from Letterkenny to Waterford.
- Improvements to other key national primary routes, including the N21, N22, N24, N25 and the N30.

Improvements to a number of national secondary routes, which are important for regional development and as regards the National Spatial Strategy. These are:

- N52 from Dundalk to Nenagh and the N80 from Moate to Enniscorthy,

- N56 Donegal coastal route;
- N59 coastal route from Sligo via Westport to Galway;
- N67 and N68 along the Clare coast;
- N69 along the Shannon Estuary from Limerick to Tralee and the N70, N71 and N86 coastal and peninsular routes in Cork and Kerry, and
- N81 to Blessington.



Sligo Inner Relief, Opened in 2005

02 Delivery

NRA IRELAND - ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006:

- 10 national road projects opened to traffic with a combined length of 91km. These ten schemes represented a total Exchequer investment of over 1 billion. The Authority delivered these schemes for €10 million below their pre-construction budgets.
- M50 Dublin C-Ring was completed with the opening of the South Eastern Motorway in June.
- M1 Dublin-Belfast road completed to north of Dundalk with opening of the 11km Dundalk Western Bypass PPP motorway scheme 5 months ahead of schedule in September.
- Opening of the single biggest road scheme in the State's history – the 39km M4 Kilcock/Kinnegad PPP motorway scheme 10 months ahead of schedule.
- Construction started on 14 national road schemes totalling 108km in length.
- 24 schemes under construction at the end of 2005 with a combined length of 217km, including 10 in the BMW Region.
- Planning and design work funded on a further 52 major projects.
- The Authority funded a €165m programme of work on “non-major” projects. Over 550 projects were carried out under this programme in 2005 comprising pavement improvement works, traffic calming schemes, safety improvement schemes, bridge remedial works and safety barrier installations.
- €53m spent on road maintenance.
- Construction contract awarded for the M50 Upgrade Phase 1, which involves the upgrade of the M50/N4 Palmerstown and M50/N7 Red Cow interchanges and the provision of a third lane in each direction between the two interchanges.
- On the planning front a major achievement was publication of all Compulsory Purchase Orders and Environmental Impact Statements for the remaining sections of the 5 major inter-urban routes.
- An Bord Pleanala approval has been received on all links of the major inter-urban network apart from the N8 Mitchelstown/Fermoy which was under consideration by the Board at the end of 2005. These approvals will allow the Authority to move forward on the completion of the inter-city network by the end of 2010.
- Approvals were also obtained from An Bord Pleanala for the N4 Dromod/Roosky, N11 Rathnew/Arklow and the N52 Tullamore Bypass schemes.
- The Authority continued its special programme for national secondary roads aimed at ensuring a quality road pavement and protecting the structural integrity of the network.

- The Authority delivered on all yearly targets of the Government's Road Safety Strategy, 2004-2006 and is on schedule to deliver this year's programme.
- The Authority completed the first pilot 2+1 road type scheme by way of retrofit on the N20 Mallow-Rathduff road in County Cork. The first greenfield scheme, the N2 Castleblayney Bypass in County Monaghan, commenced in 2005.
- The crash barrier retrofit programme is nearing completion on all inter-urban motorway and dual carriageway sections and is being implemented on the M50.
- The Authority committed to a €60m 4-year signage and lining programme to improve directional and tourism signage and update existing signage.
- Upgrading road lining and reflective road studs commenced on 21 primary routes.
- Publication of a series of Environmental and Archaeological Guidelines as part of the ongoing commitment to integrate environmental considerations into road scheme planning and construction.
- Brought to the national stage "Best Practices for Archaeology" through an information seminar and published details of archaeological finds on 23 national road schemes throughout the country.



M4 Motorway, Completed, 2005

NRA IRELAND - GOALS 2006

- The Authority will ensure the public continues to receive value for money from the €1.5billion national road's budget for improvement and maintenance.
- 14 major projects, comprising 310km of new high quality national road are scheduled to start construction.
- 13 major projects, comprising 82km of new high quality national road are scheduled for completion.
- M50 Dublin Port Tunnel scheduled to open by mid-year, removing thousands of trucks from Dublin City centre streets.
- April 2006 - tender return date for N6 Ballinasloe/Galway PPP scheme.
- N7 Limerick Tunnel Southern Ring Road PPP Scheme (Phase 2-The Shannon Crossing) construction contract award expected mid 2006.
- M7/M8 Portlaoise Motorway PPP Scheme - the parties were selected for tendering in January 2006.
- N25 Waterford City Bypass construction contract award expected in April 2006.
- Award M3 Clonee/Kells contract subject to outcome of a judicial review.
- Service and rest areas will be included on new motorways and will be added as appropriate on existing routes.
- A four-year programme to improve directional and tourist signage will commence.
- The Dublin Outer Orbital Route Feasibility study will be completed.
- The Dublin Eastern Bypass feasibility study will be completed.
- Investment in road safety measures will continue with €20m allocated for this purpose in 2006.
- The special programme for National Secondary routes will continue.

M4 Motorway, Completed, 2005



03 Road Safety

ROAD SAFETY

The NRA achieved all of its goals for 2005 as included in the Government's "Road Safety Strategy 2004-2006", including:

- Accident remedial measures carried out at 119 high-risk accident locations.
- 22 Traffic calming schemes completed.
- The first 2 + 1 road scheme opened as a pilot project.
- Research included EuroRap accident risk mapping, speed and seatbelt use surveys, and a driver attitude survey.
- The 2004 traffic accident data was analysed and published as the Road Collision Facts.

Safety Practice, M4 Motorway, 2005



04 Environment/Archaeology

ENVIRONMENT

The Authority has developed a four-phase strategy to facilitate further the integration of environmental issues into road scheme planning, construction and operation so as to support the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legal framework and the procedures of the Authority’s National Roads Project Management Guidelines. This strategy encompasses measures to address the planning and construction of national road schemes and guidance on the management of the implementation of environmental mitigation measures.

To date, the Authority has adopted and published the following planning guidance documents:



Wildlife protection is incorporated into national road scheme development

- *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration on National Road Schemes;*
- *A Practical Guide to Environmental Impact Assessments for National Road Schemes;*
- *Assessment of the Ecological Impact of National Road Schemes;*
- *A Guide to Landscape Treatments for National Road Schemes;*
- *Best Practice Guidelines for the Conservation of Bats in the Planning of National Road Schemes, and*
- *Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological and Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes.*

Natural re-colonisation as a landscape treatment for national roads



In addition, as part of the Authority's Environmental Protection Strategy, best practice construction guidance documents have been published for the treatment of badgers, bats, watercourse crossings and wetland archaeology prior to and during the construction of national road schemes.

The Authority is also producing a guidance document on how to develop and implement an Environmental Operating Plan to track the implementation of the mitigating measures identified in approved Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The Plan will also address impacts that potentially may arise during the construction phase and mitigation measures will be devised to address issues such as construction noise, water runoff, dust and waste. Finally, post environmental impact assessment evaluation studies will assess the effectiveness of various mitigation measures adopted to minimize significant environmental impacts identified during the planning of national roads schemes.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

The NRA has carried out important work in relation to the archaeology uncovered on road schemes in 2005. This archaeological information generated to date by the national road-building programme has added immeasurably to our understanding of our nations past. A few of the key sites uncovered and excavated are:

- Early medieval enclosed settlement and cemetery at Faughart Lower on the A1/N1 Dundalk to Newry Link;
- An enclosure with Iron Age and Early Medieval artifacts at Belvedere on the N52 Mullingar to Belvedere Scheme;
- A Prehistoric settlement at Frankfort on the N11 Gorey to Arklow Scheme, and
- Early medieval settlement and cemetery at Parknahown on the M7 Portlaoise to Castle-town/M8 Portlaoise to Cullahill Motorway



Archaeological discoveries, M4 Motorway, 2005



Archaeological discoveries, M4 Motorway, 2005

Scheme.

- Early medieval enclosure with a church and cemetery at Ballykillmore on the N6 Kin-negad to Kilbeggan Dual Carriageway

The NRA continued its extensive Archaeological programme in 2005, including;

.....km of test trenching
sites investigated

This work resulted in key discoveries such as ????. (Awaiting info will take till end of wk)

Publications in 2005 include:

- Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes.
- Guidelines for the Testing and Mitigation of the Wetland Archaeological Heritage for National Road Schemes.
- Monograph No.2 – Recent Archaeological

Discoveries on NRA Road Schemes 2004.

- M3 Archaeological Information Series.
- M3 Clonee to Kells Research Framework.
- Dedicated M3 website www.m3motorway.com.
- Discoveries Seminar and brochures on archaeological discoveries on 23 schemes.

Research Activities include:

- Funding a post doctorate research fellowship on "Landscape Archaeology" with the school of Archaeology U.C.D.
- Funding a post excavation research project on the medieval skeletal assemblage from Ballyhanna, Ballyshannon, County Donegal currently being undertaken by Queens University Belfast, Institute of Technology Sligo and Donegal County Council.
- M3 Clonee to North of Kells Road Archaeology Research Framework looking at the archaeological, historical and palaeoenvironmental background to the M3.

05 Appendices

APPENDIX 1

The Minister for Transport under section 28 of the Roads Act may appoint between 10 and 14 members to the Board of the Authority. The Minister also appoints one member as Chairperson of the Authority.



P Malone



Fred Barry



Frances Boyle



Eddie Breen



Professor Frank Covery



Eric Flemming



David Holden



Jenny Kent



Eimear McAuliffe



Connie Ni Fhathárta



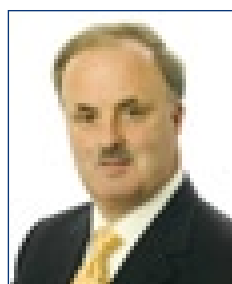
John Newell



Dr. Donnacha
O'Coinneide



Raymond Potterton



Brendan O'Mara
Former member 2005



John Murphy
Former member 2005



Bernard Mc Namara
Former member 2005

APPENDIX 2: 2005 Road Grant Payments

LOCAL AUTHORITY	€ IMPROVEMENT	€ MAINTENANCE	€ TOTAL
Carlow County Council	2,789,566	537,276	3,326,842
Cavan County Council	11,483,374	1,159,603	12,642,977
Clare County Council	66,469,191	1,875,361	68,344,552
Cork City Council	24,554,012	2,266,561	26,820,573
Cork County Council	52,144,004	4,132,153	56,276,157
Donegal County Council	53,351,488	2,519,508	55,870,996
Dublin City Council	125,645,762	1,145,000	126,790,762
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	70,735,145	736,761	71,471,906
Fingal County Council	6,223,966	1,636,738	7,860,704
Galway City Council	739,784	516,000	1,255,784
Galway County Council	36,326,239	3,622,923	39,949,162
Kerry County Council	42,953,981	3,052,474	46,006,455
Kildare County Council	121,021,043	2,237,632	123,258,675
Kilkenny County Council	16,369,732	1,837,142	18,206,874
Laois County Council	29,024,576	1,628,004	30,652,580
Leitrim County Council	3,597,800	499,232	4,097,032
Limerick City Council	596,650	468,006	1,064,656
Limerick County Council	44,549,448	1,965,418	46,514,866
Longford County Council	9,416,445	608,744	10,025,189
Louth County Council	16,994,998	717,634	17,712,632
Mayo County Council	14,573,593	3,127,743	17,701,336
Meath County Council	111,573,585	1,868,888	113,442,473
Monaghan County Council	17,714,320	1,030,367	18,744,687
North Tipperary County Council	6,141,229	1,413,897	7,555,126
Offaly County Council	3,544,451	1,011,969	4,556,420
Roscommon County Council	8,757,172	1,953,354	10,710,526
Sligo County Council	23,952,416	1,382,968	25,335,384
South Dublin County Council	19,294,983	949,809	20,244,792
South Tipperary County Council	31,013,315	1,426,721	32,440,036
Waterford City Council	11,758,163	364,291	12,122,454
Waterford County Council	4,287,022	568,918	4,855,940
Westmeath County Council	113,614,385	1,511,613	115,125,998
Wexford County Council	30,155,469	1,602,609	31,758,078
Wicklow County Council	21,677,016	1,102,150	22,779,166

2006 Road Allocations

LOCAL AUTHORITY	€ IMPROVEMENT	€ MAINTENANCE	€ TOTAL
Carlow County Council	2,475,000	630,900	3,105,900
Cavan County Council	8,889,000	1,087,436	9,976,436
Clare County Council	63,560,000	1,998,359	65,558,359
Cork City Council	19,897,000	2,490,000	22,387,000
Cork County Council	37,871,000	4,387,289	42,258,289
Donegal County Council	38,180,000	2,529,810	40,709,810
Dublin City Council	69,992,500	1,268,000	71,260,500
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1,310,000	924,295	2,234,295
Fingal County Council	360,000	1,513,263	1,873,263
Galway City Council	800,000	505,000	1,305,000
Galway County Council	61,355,000	3,338,438	64,693,438
Kerry County Council	25,564,500	3,090,904	28,655,404
Kildare County Council	132,205,000	2,192,429	134,397,429
Kilkenny County Council	84,640,000	1,841,916	86,481,916
Laois County Council	34,432,000	1,748,463	36,180,463
Leitrim County Council	20,776,000	512,120	21,288,120
Limerick City Council	450,000	330,000	780,000
Limerick County Council	78,287,500	1,915,267	80,202,767
Longford County Council	10,425,000	814,003	11,239,003
Louth County Council	40,470,000	747,606	41,217,606
Mayo County Council	28,857,400	3,087,258	31,944,658
Meath County Council	80,569,800	1,522,540	82,092,340
Monaghan County Council	50,803,000	895,007	51,698,007
North Tipperary County Council	4,758,000	1,365,655	6,123,655
Offaly County Council	11,170,500	1,040,090	12,210,590
Roscommon County Council	7,525,000	2,018,185	9,543,185
Sligo County Council	10,278,000	1,441,086	11,719,086
South Dublin County Council	60,889,100	1,297,583	62,186,683
South Tipperary County Council	41,812,700	1,377,490	43,190,190
Waterford City Council	8,375,000	410,000	8,785,000
Waterford County Council	9,080,000	798,146	9,878,146
Westmeath County Council	151,665,000	1,605,366	153,270,366
Wexford County Council	71,742,000	1,475,818	73,217,818
Wicklow County Council	24,624,000	1,184,278	25,808,278

Corporate Service

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The National Roads Authority is committed to providing a quality service to external and internal customers. We value our customers and local authority partners and we are committed to:

- Providing a service that is accessible, courteous, responsive, timely, and equitable and is given in the spirit of professionalism.
- Fostering an environment that is open, co-operative and supportive and encourages teamwork, innovation, recognition, mutual respect and values public participation.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

It is the policy of the National Roads Authority (NRA) to comply with best practice governance and accountability obligations appropriate to State agencies.

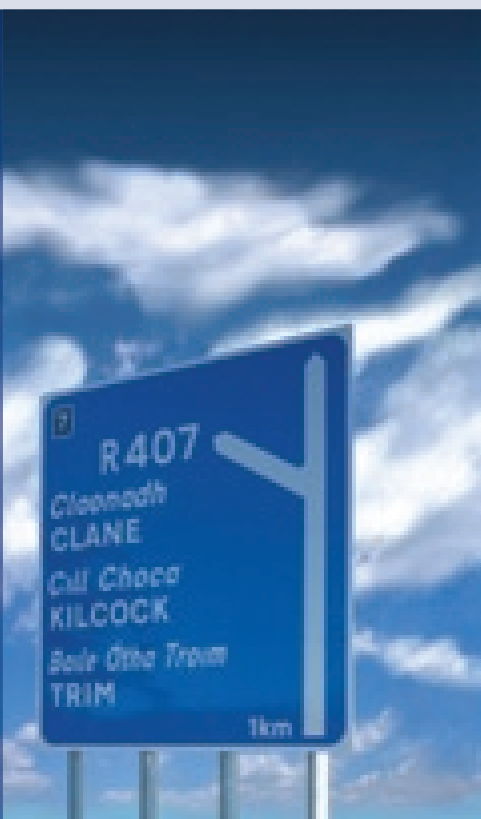
An NRA-wide risk analysis was undertaken in 2005 as part of a process of embedding risk management within the Authority. This risk management policy sets out how the NRA will ensure that its culture, processes and structures are directed towards the effective management of potential risks and opportunities.

Risk management is aligned with the mission, vision, objectives and priorities of the Authority and seeks to protect the standing and reputation of the NRA.

The risk management process will direct the work of each division and provide assurance on the reliability, robustness and appropriateness of NRA systems.

The risk management policies and plans of the NRA are continuously developed to provide risk assurance to management at all levels.

Road Signage, M4 Motorway, 2005



NRA

National Roads Authority
An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta

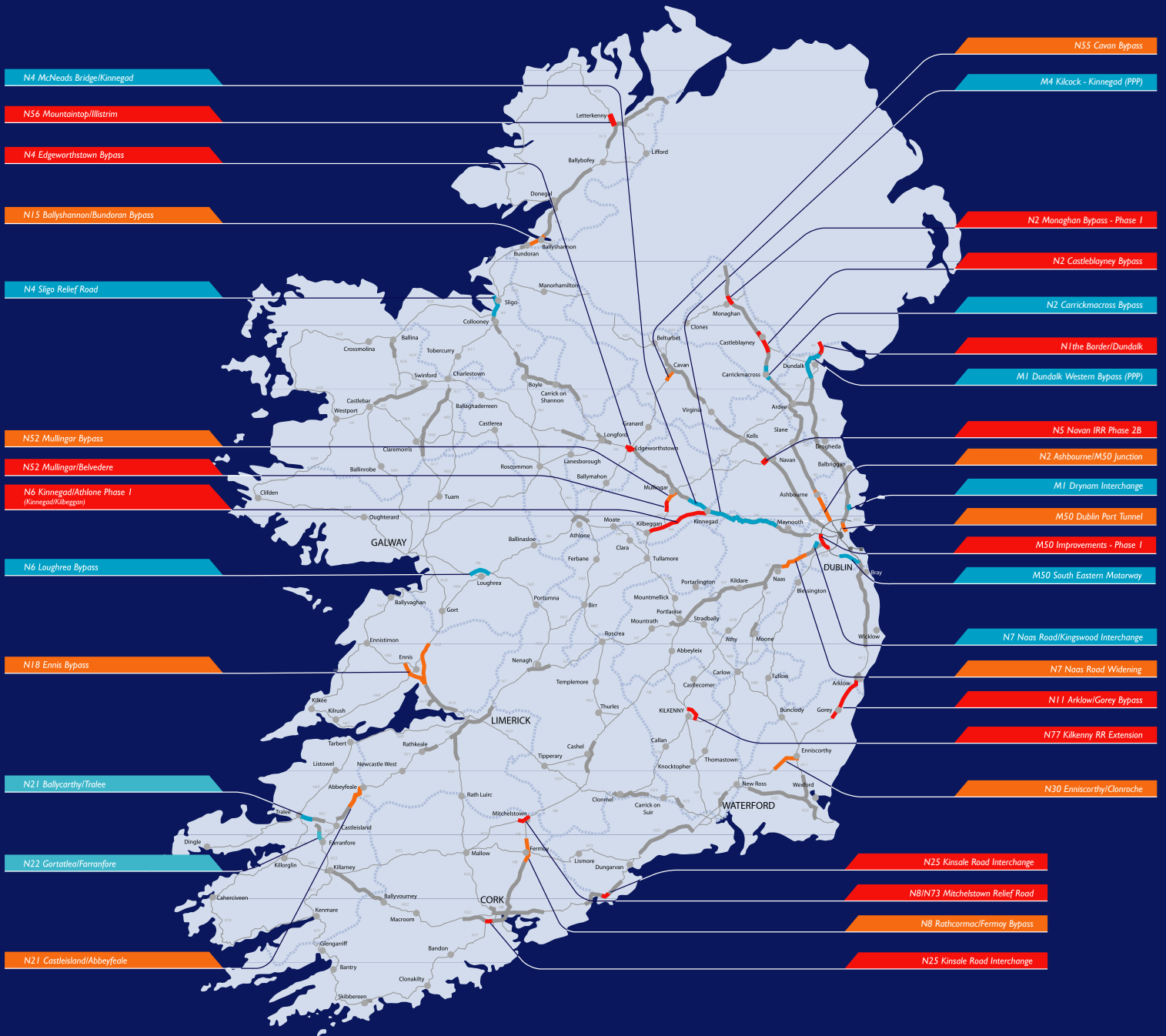
Head Office
The National Roads Authority,
St. Martin's House,
Waterloo Road,
Dublin 4,
Ireland.

Email: info@nra.ie
Web: www.nra.ie
Tel: +353 1 6602511
Fax: +353 1 668009



NRA ROAD SCHEMES 2005

- COMPLETED IN 2005
- UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2005
- CONSTRUCTION STARTED IN 2005



NRA ROAD SCHEMES 2006

TO BE COMPLETED IN 2006

TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION IN 2006

TO START CONSTRUCTION IN 2006

