

## Why Slane Needs a Bypass

The N2 is an important National Primary Route connecting our capital city to the border with Northern Ireland, passing through counties Dublin, Meath, Louth and Monaghan, before continuing on as the A5 to Derry and onto Donegal.

Every day this route carries significant volumes of local and long-distance traffic causing congestion and delays. This is an ongoing safety concern and has a negative impact on Slane village. The road has a history of traffic accidents in Slane, resulting in injury, and even a number of road deaths.



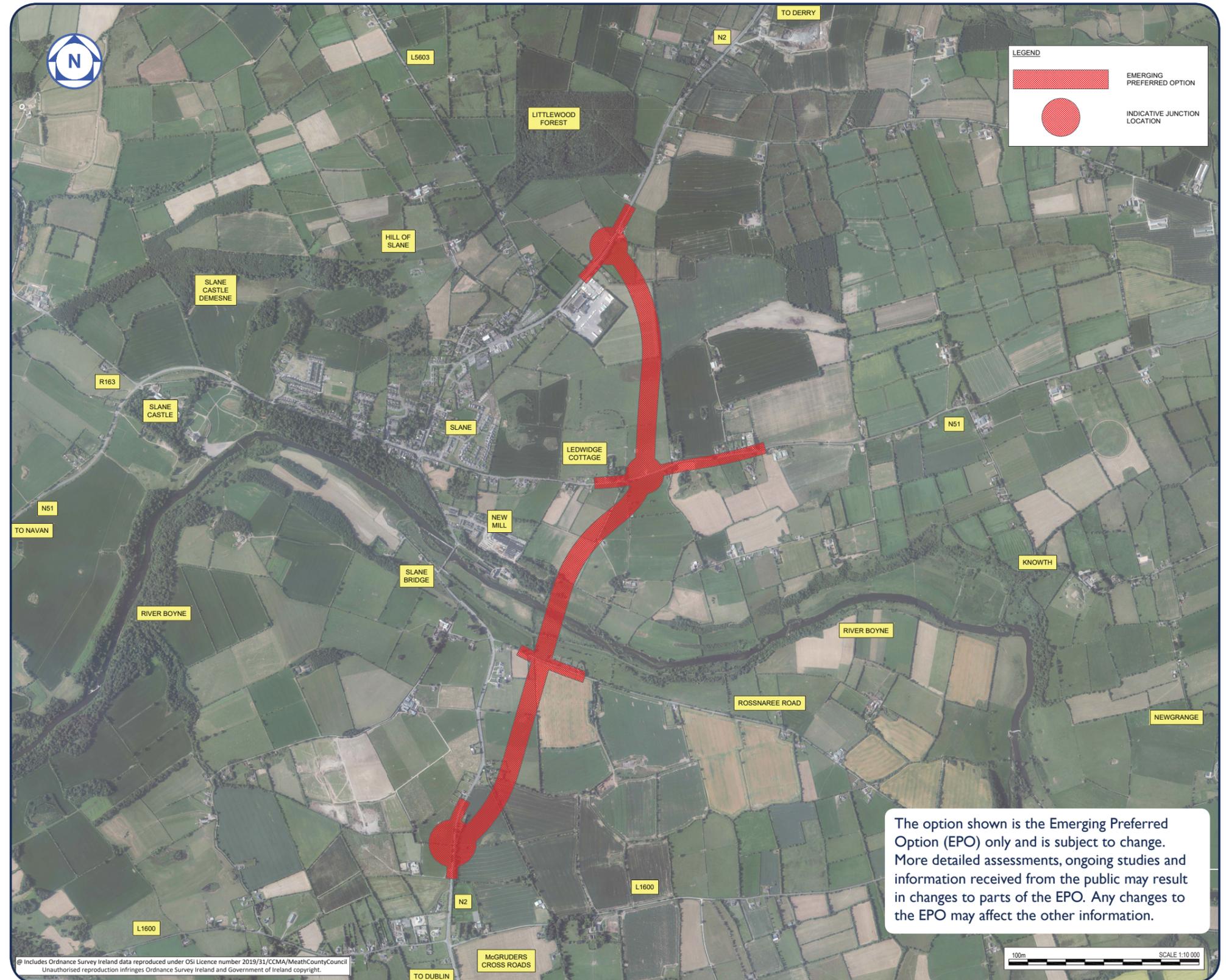
The N2 Slane Bypass is underpinned by national, local and regional policy, including Project Ireland 2040 – the National Planning Framework; Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan, 2018-2027, Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035; and Meath's County Development Plan 2013 – 2019.

## Scheme Development

Following consultation on Scheme Options in November 2017, the project team has carried out extensive additional technical analysis and environmental studies, informed by consultation feedback and engagement with stakeholders. The project team includes specialists on the environment, traffic, community impacts, archaeology and a World Heritage Site expert.

In total, eight bypass options and four traffic management alternatives have been assessed in detail under the criteria of Environment, Economy, Safety, Integration, Accessibility and Social Inclusion and Physical Activity. The project team have also assessed the feasibility of east-west bypass options in conjunction with a north-south bypass.

Based on these assessments and a review of consultation feedback an emerging preferred option has been identified.



The option shown is the Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) only and is subject to change. More detailed assessments, ongoing studies and information received from the public may result in changes to parts of the EPO. Any changes to the EPO may affect the other information.

## EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

## Emerging Preferred Option Identified

The project team has identified a modification of Option EG as the Emerging Preferred Option. This option is a bypass option, which combines options E and G, as displayed in November 2017 plus some modifications which emerged from the environmental assessments.

This option has been identified as offering the best balance across all the criteria considered. This includes reducing the impacts of the existing N2 route on the community and human environment in Slane, whilst minimising impacts on the wider natural and cultural environment.

## Overview

The Emerging Preferred Option is a route corridor that runs to the east of Slane village and is circa 3.4km in length. It combines part of the section of Option E, south of the existing N51, with the section of Option G, north of the existing N51. The combining section moves this option further east, away from Ledwidge Cottage and passing the eastern side of Norris Hill.

The proposed route diverts from the existing N2, in a north easterly direction, from a location approximately 500m north of McGruder's crossroads in the townland of Johnstown. It continues in a north-north easterly direction, through Fennor and Crewbane townlands. This route crosses the River Boyne approximately 630m east of the existing Slane bridge. It traverses the existing N51 approximately 1,100m east of the N2/N51 junction in the centre of Slane village. It proceeds in a north westerly direction, through the townlands of Cashel and Mooretown, before tying in with the existing N2, approximately 415m north of the entrance to the Grassland Agro plant.

The emerging preferred option:

Will remove north-south through traffic from Slane village, improving the local environment.

- ▶ Will have a significant road safety benefit in Slane.
- ▶ Will significantly improve the performance of the N2 national primary route.
- ▶ On balance performs best overall across the environmental appraisals.
- ▶ Has strong economic performance.

## What Happens Next?

Following Public Consultation on the emerging preferred option and the feedback and information gathered, the Options Selection process will be finalised. Subject to funding and approvals, designs will be developed involving further environmental surveys and investigations, as well as consultations with Landowners and other stakeholders. This will enable finalisation of the route, associated junctions, side roads and the extent of the land required for the scheme to be determined.



## Statutory Process

The design will be developed and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will form part of Meath County Council's application for planning consent that it will submit to An Bord Pleanála. The statutory processes includes Planning Permission and Compulsory Purchase Order consents.

## Your Involvement

Feedback received at consultation, including discussions with landowners and stakeholders, will inform the project team progressing the project through design development.

Meath County Council and its project team, will continue to consider all information provided, along with the technical and other studies. Please examine the Emerging Preferred Option and tell us your views. Completed questionnaires may be handed in at the consultation or mailed/mailed to the address below by 29th November 2019.

## Further Information

The N2 Slane Bypass is being developed by Meath County Council in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland. For further information please visit: [www.n2slanebypass.ie](http://www.n2slanebypass.ie)

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# N2 Slane Bypass Meath County Council



## Third Public Consultation: Emerging Preferred Option

November 2019

