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COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER PUBLISHED FOR NEW N9 / N10 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

The aim of improving the road link from Waterford to Dublin has moved a step closer today with the publication of Compulsory Purchase Orders for the southern section of the new N9 / N10 High Quality Dual Carriageway by Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.

According to Joe Gannon, Kilkenny County Council Project Co-ordination Office (Roads) the construction of the new N9 / N10 will support employment in the region by providing safer and faster access to national and international markets.

“Traffic congestion will be eased and road safety improved in towns and villages along the existing N9 and N10. In particular, Thomastown, Gowran, Paulstown, Stoneyford, Knocktopher, Ballyhale, and Mullinavat will see a dramatic decrease in non-local through traffic when the road is completed.”

Mr Gannon said that the estimated construction cost, including land acquisition is €630 million and with the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Orders, the two local authorities would now enter into negotiations with affected landowners and / or their representatives along the proposed route to deal with access and accommodation issues.

It is an objective of the NRA to facilitate the completion of this route in total by the end of 2010.

The order, details of which are published today in local and national newspapers, relates to approximately 630 hectares of land between Powerstown, Co. Carlow and the tie-in to the Waterford City By-pass in south Kilkenny.

The new inter-urban route, a key element in the National Roads Authority’s transport network, will be a high-quality dual carriageway. It will carry much of the long distance traffic and heavy goods vehicles using the existing Dublin-Waterford route. This will substantially reduce congestion, noise and traffic pollution and will improve road safety, travel times and air quality. The road will also accommodate future growth in traffic volumes, and the region’s economic competitiveness will be increased with the reduction in travel time and transport costs.

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The 64km route will have six new grade separated junctions and a total 87 bridges. The County Council have also published an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project, which identifies a number of measures to minimise disruption during the construction stage and mitigate any adverse effects of the scheme on the environment.

Mr Gannon concluded by saying that those wishing further information on the CPOs should contact the Kilkenny County Council Project Co-ordination Office at 1 Dean Street, Kilkenny or local Free phone 1 800 488 884 or 056 77 94300.

The Environmental Impact Statement will be on display from Wednesday, 23rd February next for inspection/purchase at Kilkenny County Council Project Co-ordination Office (Roads), 1 Dean Street, Kilkenny and Carlow County Council, County Hall, Athy Road, Carlow.

Additional Venues

- Muine Bheag (Bagenalstown) Branch Library, County Carlow
- Loughboy Branch Library, Kilkenny
- Thomastown Branch Library, County Kilkenny
- Newrath Area Office, Kilkenny County Council, Newrath, Co Kilkenny

The N9/N10 Inter-urban Route is being funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000 - 2006 and part funded by the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union.

**For further media information, contact:
Joe Gannon, Kilkenny County Council Project Co-ordination Office (Roads) at 056
77 94300**