



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 22.6.2009
C(2009)5092

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22.6.2009

concerning the major project "N52 Tullamore Bypass Design and Build", forming part of the operational programme for Community structural assistance from the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the Border, Midland and Western region in Ireland

CCI: 2008IE162PO001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹, and in particular Article 41(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Decision C(2007) 5162 of 16 October 2007, the Commission adopted an operational programme for Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the Border, Midland and Western region of Ireland.
- (2) On 5 November 2008, the managing authority submitted to the Commission a major project "N52 Tullamore Bypass Design and Build" in which it envisages a contribution from the ERDF under the priority axis 3 'Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks' of the operational programme. At the request of the Commission, the managing authority submitted additional information on 13 January 2009. Details on the major project were transmitted following the form provided for in Annex XXI to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund².

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25.

² OJ L 371, 27.12.2006, p. 1.

- (3) The managing authority has provided the Commission with all the necessary information on the major project in accordance with Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (4) The Commission has appraised the major project in the light of the factors set out in Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and considers that it is consistent with the priorities of the operational programme, that it contributes to achieving the goals of those priorities and that it is consistent with other Community policies.
- (5) The financial contribution from the ERDF to the major project should therefore be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The financial contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the major project " N52 Tullamore Bypass Design and Build ", forming part of the operational programme for Community assistance from the ERDF under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in the Border, Midland and Western region of Ireland, is hereby approved.
2. The physical object of the major project is defined in Annex I.
3. The amount to which the co-financing rate for the priority axis "Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks" of the operational programme applies for the major project is set at EUR 53.160 million.
4. The annual plan of financial contribution from the ERDF to the major project is set out in Annex II.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 22.6.2009.

*For the Commission
Danuta Hübner
Member of the Commission*

ANNEX I

Physical object of the major project

[A.] Infrastructure investment

1. **Title of project:** N52 Tullamore Bypass Design and Build
2. **Body responsible for the implementation**
 - 2.1. Name: National Roads Authority
 - 2.2. Address: St Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4, Ireland
3. **Project description**
 - 3.1. General description of the physical object of the project

- (a) The N52 Tullamore Bypass will form a 14 km section of the National Secondary Route (N52) Dundalk to Nenagh. The route commences 6 km southwest of Tullamore in the townland of Heeath and rejoins the existing N52 approximately 3 km north of the town in the townland of Gormagh. The scheme will provide a bypass of Tullamore town for N52 and N80 traffic. The contract provides for the construction of 11.5 km of standard single carriageway; 2.5 km of wide single carriageway; 1.5 km of link road; 18 at-grade junctions including 9 roundabouts; 12 principal structures including bridges over 3 rivers, the Grand Canal and the Dublin-Galway railway line.

The N52 Tullamore By-Pass will achieve a level of service objective of an average speed of at least 80 km per hour, which is equivalent to Level of Service (LOS) D. The current level of service of the existing road is LOS E which represents a road which is over capacity. The development of the national secondary network in the midlands is of strategic importance in terms of enhancing the connectivity of the gateway towns of Tullamore, Athlone and Mullingar and will revitalise, strengthen and consolidate the competitiveness of the region. The quality of national road infrastructure also reduces delivery times for goods, cuts costs across the enterprise sector and will have a positive impact on the multi-national companies located in the Tullamore Technology & Business Park. The N52 Tullamore By-Pass will provide improved facilities for strategic national through traffic, provide appropriate local access to the National Secondary Network, remove traffic congestion in Tullamore (population circa 11,000), improve safety for local residents providing Annual Average Daily Traffic of between 7,000 and 16,000 by year 2020 and limit environmental impacts.

- (b) The scheme is currently in Phase 6 (Construction Phase) of the NRA Project Management Guidelines. The design and execution of the works commenced on 22 February 2008.

3.2. Technical description of the infrastructure investment

- (a) The Design, execution and completion of the N52 Tullamore Bypass Design and Build Contract includes the following infrastructure:
 - i. Approximately 11.5 km of standard single carriageway National Secondary road from the southern tie to the existing N52 to the Tullamore north roundabout at Ardan, north of the town;
 - ii. Approximately 2.5 km of non standard wide single carriageway National Secondary road from the Tullamore north Roundabout to the northern tie in with the existing N52;
 - iii. Approximately 1.5 km of Link Roads;
 - iv. Realignment of approximately 2.1 km of single carriageway National Secondary Roads, Regional Roads and Local Roads;
 - v. Approximately 3 km of accommodation works access tracks;
 - vi. 18 at-grade junctions, including 9 roundabouts, 4 ghost island priority junctions and 5 priority junctions;
 - vii. 12 number principal structures, including one overbridge, 3 river crossings, 1 canal crossing, 1 railway crossing and 1 road underbridge, together with all other structures necessary as part of the design, execution and completion of the works;
 - viii. Various chambers and ducting works to be undertaken at various locations within the site including those suitable for use by the Authorities, Utilities, Service Providers and Private Utility Services and the like otherwise;
 - ix. Various landscape environmental and mitigation Works;
 - x. Various re-alignment of rivers and streams and the provision of culverts and drainage outfalls.
- (b) The key output indicators for this scheme are that in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Documents that the Works are completed within the period for substantial completion of the Works, namely 626 working days from the contract date.
- (c) Once completed this infrastructure will form part of the National Secondary Road network and will therefore fall under the remit of the National Roads Authority and the Local Authority, Offaly County Council, to maintain. The cost of maintenance will be met from state grants provided by the National Roads Authority.

ANNEX II

Annual plan of financial contribution from the ERDF to the major project

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ERDF –	EUR 0	EUR 12,000,000	EUR 8,000,000	EUR 1,264,00 0	EUR 0	EUR 0	EUR 0